



Lighthouse Missionary Outreach

Nineteen years serving the Caribbean & Central America

David & Debbie Goodrum - Directors



Our sailboat, Faith

Winter 2009 Newsletter

'A Good Year'

Many will remember 2009 as a year of unusual challenge and disappointment. With natural disasters, calamities of all kinds, financial failures, changes in public policy, housing foreclosures, and terrorist events it was a year that most would prefer to forget. We, too, had some 'rough going' at times and now, as we start off another new year, it feels we are no 'further ahead' ourselves than where we were this time last year. But is that what makes a year "good", the measure of our gains vs. our losses? Or is it "good", rather, by the "gains" we give to others, through faithfulness to God's calling?



David teaching . We did many seminars through the islands.



A dozen youth responded to a call into full-time ministry after this special service on South Caicos.

During our six month mission trip into the Caribbean we led 49 souls to Christ; trained many dozens of ministers and church workers through seminars and conference preaching; delivered Bibles, Christian literature, and relief supplies; encouraged a number of boaters met along the way; and even helped to save the life of a shark attack victim [see article in our last newsletter on our website] Really...I would have to say that it was a very good year!!



Some of the boatload of cargo we distributed throughout our trip.



Sharing Jesus and a new Bible with a fisherman

Sometimes we just have to measure our successes in the ways that the Lord does, somewhere just beyond our natural vision where faith sees what eyes don't. ["For we walk by faith, not by sight"- 2Cor 5:7] One thing I have to remind myself [often!] is that the promise of "...all things work together for good..." Rom 8:28 does not necessarily mean that I will "see" the "good" at first or readily know the "benefit" gained by whatever it is I'm going through. It is like the uncomfortable calms that left us adrift at sea during our last two trips to Central America but which resulted in us saving 20 Cubans who would have perished. And like the setbacks, delays, and hardship that ensured we would be in exactly the right place at exactly the right time to prevent a man from bleeding to death after a 9ft bull shark tried to have his arm for lunch.



Preaching during one of four island wide conventions

So, no matter what may seem a setback will look very "good" when this life is over and we joyfully stand before the judgment seat of Christ, where crowns are passed out and rewards are given. Yeah, I'd have to say it was a pretty "good" year after all!



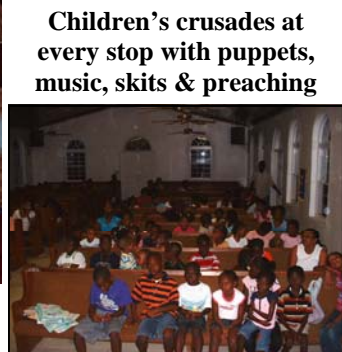
Children as Noah's 'animals'



Bishop John Humes with Haitian ministers in the Turks & Caicos



Debbie "stuck on sin" during one of our skits



Children's crusades at every stop with puppets, music, skits & preaching



Debbie in the bear suit

Children of all ages enjoyed the "crusades"



This small island school, which serves K-12, has asked for our help



Certainly difficult work but always rewarding!

Too Much Freedom?

As in every natural disaster, such as the recent earthquake in Haiti, the skeptics crawl out from beneath their rocks to assail the Christian faith with questions like, "If there is a God then why would he let something like this happen?" My answer to them, "What do you want God to do about it?"

The fact is that most of our hardships are 'man made'! The world is full of misery from famine but yet there are farmers in this country paid not to grow crops to keep food prices in check and plenty of good, fertile land is being used for parks and golf courses. Wars and acts of terrorism cause death and suffering in every corner of the globe but they are the acts of man, not God. And even the recent tragedy in Haiti was greatly amplified by poor building construction and a lack of essential infrastructure [maybe even an early warning system?] all of which can be attributed to generations of corrupt, dictatorial government and the exploitation of a people who have always deserved better.

Man-made. But one would argue, 'How did man cause an earthquake?' Well, not by driving SUV's, or anything like the claims about so-called global warming, but man is ultimately at the heart of the matter when it is remembered that a man's sin, the original man and his original sin, brought a curse upon this world that will only worsen until the Lord himself returns to remedy it ["...the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain...until now." Rom 8:22] So, if we get rid of sin we get rid of all of man's troubles!

Seems simple enough. All God has to do, then, is take away from all of us the 'freedom' to choose right or wrong. But then, isn't that the other thing the skeptics don't like either - a God who would be telling them all the time what to do? Oh well, guess we'll just have to stay with His original plan of "whosoever will" and keep on telling as many as we can that when the Son sets us "free" we will be "free indeed" (Jn 8:36), even if that does mean playing by His rules!!

- David Goodrum



Photos of Haiti courtesy of CNN



Excerpt from my new book in progress, 'Do I Love God Enough?'

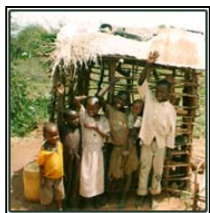
(from our visit to Gonaive, Haiti, during disaster relief mission trip in the aftermath of severe flooding and mudslides)

While sitting on the breakwall at the water's edge awaiting Justin's return, I am impressed by the bustle of activity in this heavily damaged seaport. Men everywhere scurry about in hopes of finding any kind of work for a dollar or two, just enough to feed their families one more meal. Then I notice the tiniest of men, elderly, bent and frail, pulling by hand a large wooden cart intended for the strength of an ox or horse.

Piled high upon it are no less than ten or more mattresses just off-loaded from the nearby freighter. Don't know where he is going to take them. Nearly every shop in town seemed devastated by the recent flood. His pace was slow, deliberate, a few steps at a time, so that he might rest and regain his balance. He looked like a man who had not eaten in a week, probably doing this day's labor on a little rice and a few fragments of fish. I thought, 'How hard is this man's life compared to mine? Despite the rigors of sailing, storms at sea, and our shipwreck years ago, who am I to complain about anything?' Paul told the Philippians "Do all things without murmurings..." and to the Thessalonians he admonished "In everything give thanks..." This he wrote from within a dungeon's darkness where he proved that even a prison could not prevent his praise. Truly, then, I should rejoice in my "little" when I know of those who have so much "less"!

Want to help Haiti? Then 'Bless An Orphan'!

There are so many ways to support relief efforts in Haiti, and sadly many scams are popping up as well. Use caution in your giving!! Debbie and I encourage you to consider a very special ministry we have



Some African children they have helped

partnered with who are working hard to assist the many thousands of new orphans left by the recent earthquake. Marshall & Karissa (seen above with Rick Wiles of TruNews.com and cargo for Haiti) have proven themselves faithful after many years of providing aid to orphans in Africa and elsewhere. Now they are reaching out with loving hands to Haiti. They need your help! Contact them at their website:

www.blessanorphan.com 1-877-290-2508



David on the island of LeTortue off the north coast of Haiti.

David gives a Bible to a young Haitian boy he ministered to in Port de Peaux.



Lend A Hand?

We have been serving the Caribbean and Central America as full-time missionaries for the past nineteen years, training pastors and teachers, reaching young people through Children's Crusades, ministering to boating families from around the world, and using our sailboat to carry Bibles, literature, and medical /relief supplies to needy nations. We rely on offerings and personal gifts to support our work. Thank you for any help you can give us and, most of all, thank you for your prayers!! - David & Debbie Goodrum

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