

# NEWS

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## FEEL LOVE, PEACE, ANGER, JOY, AND SADNESS FOR HAITI

Recently, on March 6th through the 14<sup>th</sup>, Mike and Terry Temple led a Volunteers In Missions (VIM) trip to Haiti, which I, my wife Kelly, and Kate Grodesky volunteered to represent HPUMC along with five others on the team who were from Connecticut. We did not do a lot of construction-type work but none the less, we were busy the entire time.

Friday, we arrived and spent our first night at the Methodist Guest House in Petionville. Early the next morning, we drove to the city of Caye, which took about five hours allowing us to see the beautiful Haitian countryside. In Caye we spent time at an orphanage painting two bedrooms and the living room but most of our time was spent with the children reading, making crafts, playing ball, and giving horsey-back rides. It was enlightening just to hear the children's laughter.

On Sunday, we went to the Bethesda Evangelical Mission Church and attended both the Creole and English services. We were welcomed with lots of hugs by all, especially Pastor Jean Phares Beaucejour. After the church services, we took the children of the orphanage to the beach for the day. Everyone had a great time. This was the highlight for many of us. We returned to Petionville on Monday with much sadness, as it was hard to leave the children.

Early Tuesday morning we headed up to the village of Furcy. We then painted the interior of the church. We taught at the school for two days, teaching the concept of a library and also taught geography lessons focusing on other countries that spoke Creole. After the lessons we held an Olympic competition with games and prizes. Each of these kids deserves a gold medal! We also had activities for the children after school. One day, we had a birthday celebration for everyone, which included more games and treats. On another day, we held a soccer clinic. The whole community came to watch and cheered for the kids as they joyfully ran after the ball.

On Friday our last day there, the Farmers of the region met with us and showed us the fruits of their labor, some of which we had sampled during the week. Then we had to come down off of the mountain to prepare for our journey home.



Left to right: VIM team mates Kate Grodesky, Bob and Kelly Dandar, Terry and Mike Temple in Haiti.

Thanks goes to our church members for the ongoing support of the Haiti mission, including prayer, school supplies and all of the soccer balls that were donated for the community. Without our congregation's support it would not be possible to assist and to develop the relationships we have there. You may not be the ones traveling, but you are an important part of this mission.

I cannot adequately describe the Haiti experience in so few words. The people are in desperate need, yet they are loving and have great faith. Haiti gives you an overload of emotions. You feel love, peace, anger, joy, sadness and it seems all at the same time. It opens your eyes to the imbalance of wealth through out the world and helps you to recognize how blessed we truly are. Praise God always.

*Your Brother in Christ, Bob Dandar*

