

ECF Missions Newsletter



April 2015

*"...even there your hand
shall lead me, and your
right hand shall hold me."
- Psalm 139:10*



HAITI

by Ryan Evans

There are some exciting developments happening in Haiti as a result of God's faithfulness in using ECF missions to further His kingdom. Many of you know that over the past few years Edgewater has partnered with six small churches in a rural village outside the town of Leogane. These seven churches (including ECF) represent a wide variety of denominations, but have formed this group with the desire to have a greater impact on their community in the forms of evangelism and discipleship.

When asked what could be done within the village to have the greatest impact, the group of churches determined a community center for social gatherings, Bible study, counseling etc. would be best. In mid-March Glen Litwiller and Ryan Evans traveled down to meet as the seven churches. We finalized the purchase of 1/4 acre of land near the village center and started planning how this community center will begin to take shape. It was a blessing to see a diverse group of Christians come together as one mind in making decisions.

There is much work to be done as this project unfolds. Please pray for continued cohesiveness by the seven churches, wisdom in designing the property plans and financial support for the development of this community center. Most of all, pray that God will be glorified in this partnership. If God is for us, who can be against us? Romans 8:31



UGANDA – The Allemand's

by the Allemands

It's hard to believe that our time here in Uganda is already coming to an end. It is overwhelming to reflect on the faithfulness and goodness of our Lord in our time here. We have made many dear friends and have seen God do many mighty works in the hearts of His precious people. He continues to encourage, correct, heal, strengthen, and empower all who will come to Him by His unfailing love.

From the time we arrived we have had the privilege to partner with an outreach that ministers to the remote islands of Lake Victoria. While they call it a lake, it looks more like an ocean. Lake Victoria is vast, thus many of the people living on its islands do not have the ability to obtain resources that are not readily available on the island where they dwell. Very few venture out to these places either, so things such as medical care, spiritual care and evangelistic outreach are sparse, if available at all. Every Friday we have gone with a team to one of four islands bringing these vital resources with us. Residents at each island have doctor visits as well as free medicine provided for them. Children are looked after with a VBS type activity while parents are being cared for. Everyone is offered biblical counsel and given the good news of Jesus Christ as well. Many have come to know Him as their Savior while also being encouraged and equipped to walk the victorious life He has for them.



Several islands now have a consistent church presence with devoted pastors to minister to them as a result of this outreach as well.

Natalie and Ryan Evans coming during the Thanksgiving season was a great gift both to us and the community we live in. Ryan arrived feeling under the weather, and we had endless rain for their entire visit. Even so they worked fervently to install a water tank with showers for community use in our local village. Many illnesses can be greatly reduced by regular washing, which is a luxury for most in this region. The Evans' time here provided a residual blessing to these precious people for many years to come.



Hosting a Christmas celebration in the center of our little village was definitely a highlight. God was glorified, and people were shown how much He loves them. We were blown away by His miraculous provisions at this event. We planned and prepared food for 100 people yet ended up with over 200 attending. It was truly a "fishes and loaves" miracle as we watched the Lord multiply what was available to feed EVERY SINGLE PERSON!!! This event afforded us the opportunity to meet many of our neighbors and get to know them in a more personal way as we celebrated Jesus together. It was truly an unforgettable day.

We have loved our time spent with the youth here. They are vibrant, spirited, zealous and

TONS OF FUN! As we were all hanging out, the idea to put together an outreach performance came about. They spent hours practicing fun skits, songs, and dance routines that could be presented in a way that shares Jesus with their peers. They were able to perform a couple of their dance routines in city wide competitions as well. Some of our fondest memories are the dinner gatherings and movie nights with them, as well as the beach outing and pizza parties (much like we do with our US youth too). Getting to know them and hearing their stories was a privilege we will never forget.

Juggling and soccer proved to be very handy skills for Israel and Ben to have. Through these venues they were able to easily connect with others anywhere we went. Friends were made, and hours of fun were had whether we were at an orphanage, a school, or visiting a nearby village. A spontaneous soccer game could form out of nowhere just by kicking a ball around. Before you knew it an eager group emerged to join them for a friendly “fútbol” competition. Juggling became a great teaching tool with younger kiddos as well. They were completely mesmerized as they watched the balls circle through the air. This led into a message of perseverance and the reward that is obtained by not giving up in times of difficulty. Truly nothing is wasted, and everything is profitable for God’s kingdom when we place it in His hands.

Our time here has reminded us that Christ lives through His people and that we are all on a mission in this life to experience and share the grace of God. Whether we are caring for children, working a job, attending school, shopping for groceries, playing at the park, or filling the car with gas, we are conduits of God’s love displayed through Christ Jesus in us. We are to be willing laborers for the harvest in every moment of everyday, always ready

with an answer for the hope we have within us. Blessings to you all as you continue to go into the realm God has placed you in and bring the good news. We will be touching down in Grants Pass for a few weeks, beginning on April 12th, as we seek the Lord’s direction for our next mission field. We look forward to seeing you all soon!

UGANDA – The Folkestad’s

Back to the field – by the Folkestads



A lot has happened in the past five months. We’re so thankful to be a part of the ECF body. We’ve gone through a lot of sharpening and shaping, which is exactly what we were hoping for as we came back to Oregon. The work in Africa was so thick and deep that coming back to family meant a lot to us. Thank you all for pouring into us. Pray that the Spirit runneth over and Christ would shine as we enter a season of perseverance.

We’ve enjoyed our time in the states, but now we’re anxious to return home. We will be joining the Allemand Family in Uganda on April 4th, as they get ready for their return to the U.S. As a family we are preparing for what the future holds for us in Africa.

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Our focus will continue to be the people and discipleship. In the midst of ministry we'll be studying the local language (Luganda) and locating a larger property to call home. Michelle will continue to homeschool our children and reach out to the local women in the community. Jason will reconnect with those who had ears to hear and continue the relationship-building that pointed them to Christ. He will also be reaching out to the aviation community in hopes to gain vision for his future in aviation. We hope that you can partner with us as we dive back into ministry. You can stay connected with us through the ECF Missions Facebook page and inquiring about us through ECF staff. Thank you for your support. We love you and hope to see you in Africa! Lord Bless!

MATTHEW'S CREW

by JP Comyford

I want to thank you for your support through giving and prayer these past three years. This has been an amazing season of God's faithfulness. He has provided for all the needs of both the men and the ministry. ECF has been a major part of that provision.

Through prayer and counsel we believed that God had put a period at the end of our journey with Matthew's Crew. Over the course of the last two years the number of applicants began to decrease and then stopped altogether. At the same time there was an increased need for the administration of the

ministry as well as a desire in my heart to make family more of a priority. All these things together have confirmed God's punctuation of Matthew's Crew.

The ministry closed on a very high note on January 27, 2015. Michael Rogers finished his one year commitment. He has begun the next phase of transitioning back into the community but is now free from the past, without anything holding him back and with faith in Christ that burns strong. Please continue to pray for him.

The need still exists to disciple men. I believe I will continue to do that as part of the ministry I get to do, but not how I have done so in the past. I believe that a calling from God is not an occupation but a lifelong commission (Matthew 28:19-20).

In closing, I will continue to covet your prayers for the discipling of men in our fellowship at Edgewater.

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We are a body of believers in Grants Pass, desiring to know the Lord Jesus Christ, and to make Him known.

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