

POINTS *of* HOPE

The Newsletter of Building Together Ministries

March - April 2003

Why Haiti?

Building Together Ministries is most often described as an inner city Christian ministry of Raleigh, NC with outreach programs for ages 3 through 98 (the age of our oldest neighbor!) These programs are Playing Together, Women's Outreach, Racial Reconciliation Supper Clubs, After-School Enrichment, NeighborStore, Pride-for-Parents Christmas Store, Tuned In Youth, Transportation for Elderly, Adopt-a-Grandparent and Haiti Outreach.

"What does Haiti Outreach have to do with the inner-city?" we are frequently asked. "Why Haiti?!" Perhaps the following will help clarify.

Shediah Ector has been a part of BTM since childhood. She became involved as she volunteered with her mom and sister in the after school program Gifted Hearts. As a teenager, Shediah was part of the Youth Leadership Academy. Today, she is a sophomore at UNC with a

major in political science. Shediah is one of BTM's college scholarship recipients.

Dawnn Breynae, Shediah's mentor at BTM, wanted Haiti for her friend and mentee. Dawnn reports, "Shediah has a passion for justice for the class of our society that is 'under-represented'. She has a dream of becoming a lawyer representing minorities. I knew her eyes needed to see what God had already begun in her heart. I hoped Haiti would simply enlarge her heart of compassion for God's people with limited resources."

Helen Johnson adds, "What a blessing upon our return home to Raleigh to hear Shediah express 'I learned a lot about prayer in Haiti. At home, we pray blessings over dinner. In Haiti, they pray for everything ... everything! And God answers.' What a special lesson to learn as she finishes her courses at UNC and begins God's course using her gifts for him for justice."

The Haiti Corner, a program of BTM, partners with indigenous missions in Haiti for the purpose of providing opportunities to support and learn from each other as we seek to love God, love our neighbor and encourage discipleship.

Our partnership includes support for several churches and schools, a children's home, a small craft industry in the Gonaives area of Haiti and several mission trips each year.

Please join us in praying for:

- Speaking opportunities to share the stories of our Haitian partners - stories of faith and trust despite physical hardships
- Funds for construction needs (church buildings, computer lab, woodworking shop)
- Student sponsorships at \$15/month
- Pastor sponsorships at \$50/month

Additional Haiti news is available through the The Haiti Corner's newsletter. If you have any questions or suggestions or to be added to the Haiti mailing list, contact Stan Wiebe at (919) 834-7626, ext. 16 or swiebe@btministries.com.

*"What the eye has not seen
does not touch the heart."*

Haitian Proverb

Other Praise, Prayers & Updates

- Playing Together is thankful to have two great groups of preschoolers this year, along with really great parent support. As well, the consistency of staff and reading volunteers is a real blessing! (One additional reading volunteer is needed for each Wednesday 10-11am.)
- Current needs of Playing Together include field trip funds to enable the children to visit the local Hid-Well Farm and scholarships and other financial support for next year's preschoolers.



- Praise the Lord for the new 'Can We Talk' sessions started by BTM's Racial Reconciliation Outreach. Especially exciting is the participation and people's willingness to go a step further in the area of racial reconciliation. Consider being a part of the next session on April 25 at 6:30pm in the BTM Auditorium.



- The NeighborStore continues to need volunteers, shoppers and donations, especially furniture, computers and appliances.

You can help us reduce costs

If you would rather receive this newsletter via e-mail, please notify us as swiebe@btministries.com. The BTM Newsletter can also be found online at www.btministries.com.

Others Impacted By Haiti

"When I saw the children with so little and their zeal for learning, I came back motivated to help my students at Hope Elementary see what they have — so many resources and then to help them take advantage of those resources."

*Arlene Griffis
Fifth Grade Teacher at
Hope Elementary Charter School*

"Scripture cries out about God's concern for and presence with 'the Poor.' Going to Haiti showed us we are all poor, and all gifted, in God's eyes. Following Jesus means the struggles of others become our own — abroad and at home."

Scott Bass & Roberta Mothershead

"In Isaiah 6:7,8, Isaiah's sin is purged then God lets him know that there is a need. God has let those at Building Together know that there is a need in Haiti, and like Isaiah they made themselves available."

Claude Hargrove

"I've been to Haiti twice. It is in Haiti, with its unique relationship and history with the U.S., that I am challenged to be an agent of reconciliation and justice, and to grow as a Christian."

Linda Hargrove

"Having the privilege to introduce my BTM Raleigh friends to my friends in Haiti is always a delight. As we journey to Haiti and share with our Haitian friends, we experience their joy, faith, dedication and contentment despite physical poverty. Our Haitian friends are also blessed and encouraged as they see us travel together in a racially and economically diverse group willing to share of ourselves and resources."

*Stan Wiebe
Coordinator of BTM's Haiti Outreach*

"Mother Teresa said her ministry was 'for Jesus, to Jesus and with Jesus'. In Haiti, I become reconnected with Jesus, recommitted for Jesus and renewed in Jesus that fills me for urban Raleigh, NC. If God said, 'You can give your children and grandchildren one gift. What will it be?' It would be a trip to Haiti!"

*Helen Johnson
Co-Founder of BTM*

