

Restoration: Global

Call to Haiti Missions

By Lynn Duquette

Mission E4, a partner organization of NEC, has been involved in Haiti for more than 10 years.

What does the work in Haiti look like? Teams traveling to Haiti serve alongside Haitians and Mission E4 staff. While learning about and experiencing Haitian culture, various work projects, suitable for all ages and abilities include: interacting with the school children, attending worship services, building projects, and caring for those in prison.

Informational meetings will be held at NEC on Sunday, December 15th after each service. The meetings will focus specifically on the April trip. If you're interested in participating in future 2014 trips (July or October), you could also benefit from this meeting. These hour long meetings will be held in the conference room.

Former NEC trip participants had this to say about their experience:

"Life-changing is a difficult phrase to live up to, but my trip to Haiti was life-changing. Not a day goes by without me thinking of and praying for the wonderful people I met in Haiti. The Mission E4 staff did a terrific job to ensure a great trip!" ~Mark Lin

"If you have the desire to be both challenged and blessed in ways you cannot imagine, go to Haiti with Mission E4." ~Dave Sullivan

"What truly amazed me was the desire of the children to go to school and get an education. Children came to school prepared to learn, getting there by walking or riding a scooter or taking a tap-tap (taxi.) At a meeting we had with the high school students and their teachers, the students asked if we would be willing to continue their sponsorships should they continue to the university level. The teachers told us, time after time, that we were their voice – to go back home and tell others about the children in Haiti – because education is the hope of Haiti." ~Andrea Crabtree

Are you ready for your life to be changed? Do you want to be both challenged and blessed? Perhaps God is calling you to be part of a trip to Haiti! For more information, contact NEC Restoration Global team member Lynn Duquette at lynnd51@aol.com or 508-254-1182.

Live it out...

PRAY: For those who are coping with pain and loss this holiday season.

GIVE: Give to one of the four Christmas giving opportunities. (see pg 3)

ACT: Deepen your giving by answering the questions from the article on the first page!

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NEW ENGLAND CHAPEL: RESTORATION

SHOWING COMPASSION, MENDING INJUSTICE

DECEMBER 2013

DEEPER GIVING

GIVE... You will probably see this word hundreds of times this holiday season....GIVE!

In the next month you will probably receive about 20 or more annual drive and Christmas giving requests. You will be confronted with excess and "too much". You will be asked to give to on average 15 causes and you will hear bells ringing asking for a donation. Probably like me, you will feel the pull to give and at the same time wonder if you'll be able to afford that gift for your kid. It can seem overwhelming.

Although it should be simple, admit it, giving can be complicated. Giving...is it more than dropping a little extra in the bucket or buying that toy or clothes for a needy kid? Giving...is it simply checking that "giving" box off the Christmas to do list? Giving...is it just writing a check to the first organization that asks? There is the surface level of giving but there is giving that goes deeper. Deeper Giving...is about seeing this world and your life in a different way. Deeper Giving...is about seeing and filling the needs, as well as understanding and changing the long history of systemic injustice behind those needs. Deeper Giving...it is more than just giving good things, it's about helping people to thrive.

This Christmas I challenge you to go deeper with your giving. As you decide what projects and organizations you would like

to support, here are a couple things to consider:

Am I giving to something that will create permanent, lasting change in the lives of people?

Am I giving to a cause or an organization that merely gives TO people or one that works WITH people?

Am I giving to an organization that works to change unjust systems?

Am I giving to make myself feel better or to share what God has given me?

Do I need to change things in my own life - my spending habits, time, attitude - so that I can give more freely?

Am I contributing to the system of injustice? What can I change about my lifestyle?

NEC has provided you different opportunities to give. This Christmas we urge you to give to places and causes, but give to ones that don't just fill a gap, cover a wound or act as a bandage. Give to places that are changing people, transforming neighborhoods and restoring this world. When you're giving to systemic change, you're not just giving, you're restoring!

This Christmas, become a deeper giver....like God, the good and gracious giver. He is a giver who brings lasting change to our lives, overcomes injustice, changes hearts and minds, and gives us life. He's the Giver who wants us to thrive.

~ Jodi Koeman, Pastor of Community Restoration

"Equipping the people of NEC to show compassion, mend injustice and deepen partnerships as God guides our part in restoring his world." - Restoration Mission

Faith in Action: NEC Returns to Papua, New Guinea

In October, NEC member Karen Low traveled back to Papua New Guinea where she and her family were missionaries for 21 years. It had been 17 years since she was there, and she described her experience.

"I was taken by the hand and led from village to village reconnecting with dear old friends and being introduced to the children. Old familiar faces emerged from the crowd and names started coming back. I was delighted when even the tokples (Iwam language) began to flow from places in my mind's back burner that I had long forgotten! It was fun to see the growth in the villages, how they have spread out and stretched to both sides of the river in places. Most of our "kids" from Bible study have become area leaders and we were so proud of them. A few of the 'elder' believers were also there, beaming, standing strong in faith after all these years. The best part was to hear that upwards of 300 meet together and Nasak, once my prize pupil in literacy, is now one of the pastors.

In the end, I think it was Tomas Wili who made me cry the most. At one point he had been my husband's shadow. They ate and swam and taught and translated—even wore the same clothes. So when a friend pointed and said, "there's Tomas", and I saw him facing away from us and hunched forward, I knew he was feeling heavy. We reminisced and after awhile he said he isn't a Christian anymore. But I challenged him, "Oh no, you are still his child. God doesn't forget you. He forgives you." That really moved him, and he wept the kind of tears that come from a deep place. It made me think that a prodigal was coming home.

I've often wondered about the state of things at May River and whether the people had either built on the foundation of teaching and followed the Lord, or had returned to old ways and 'spirits of the ground.' This trip, these face to face reunions, left us so encouraged. The Lord Jesus is building His church. He is using his body everywhere, employing every gift. As I embraced these people, I was reminded that love paves the way for God to move.



Mend, Repair, Restore

In This Issue

@NEC & Local ~ pg 2
Stephen Ministry, Kids Zone Serving

Regional ~ pg 3
Franklin Food Pantry, Giving in Christmas (Places to Give), Giving in Thanksgiving

Global ~ pg 4

Haiti, (Mission E4), Faith in Action: Papua, New Guinea

Restoration: @NEC & Local



Stephen Ministry: Making a Difference through Care By Amy Cornwell

Stephen Ministry is a one-to-one caring relationship in which a person with a need (divorce, illness, job loss, grief, etc.) is matched with a specially trained lay-person who can care for them. Trust, confidentiality and accountability are key components in the 50 hours of training that a Stephen Minister receives before being commissioned.

In the two years Stephen Ministry has been active at NEC, the team has grown from two to fifteen people and that team has cared for more than twenty individuals within NEC or in groups within our community. In receiving care, it is not just hurting people who benefit from the comfort of their Stephen Minister, however! I have watched the spiritual and emotional lives of our Stephen Ministers deepen and grow even as their natural caring skills have sharpened and they have become more sensitive to the hurts and needs of others. I have seen the joy and satisfaction of Stephen Ministers as they focus on needs outside of themselves and become "Christ's hands" to others who need to know that God is present and caring. For example, one of the Stephen Ministers discovered that a church member was exhausted trying to care for a parent in an elderly dementia care facility. The Stephen Minister reached out, offering to sit for a couple of hours a week and provide a physical presence for the parent – which also provided much needed rest for the church member! A few months later the Stephen Minister, a little surprised, told me how rich *their* life felt as they were able to care for this family.

Our New England Chapel pastors would love to provide care for the many in need in our congregation, but they can't do it alone – and this is where Stephen Ministers are equipped to provide the "after care" following a crisis. Our next training class is scheduled to begin in January 2014. If you would like to find out more about being a part of this team, or if you would like a Stephen Minister, contact Amy Cornwell at amy@newenglandchapel.org.

Kids Zone Kids Serve Those Who Serve Them!

By Heather Kempskie

Each morning when one of Kids Zone's most reliable and lovely volunteers would look out her window, she felt overwhelmed by the leaves that covered her massive yard. This single mom had no idea how she would ever have the time or energy to clear it all away. She never shared that anxiety with anyone.

As the director for Kids Zone, I was looking for an opportunity for kids to partake in community service. I asked her one day, "Do you have any leaves in your yard?"

The volunteer froze and nodded her head. A week later on a Sunday in early November, dozens of NEC kids with their parents headed to her Bellingham yard with rakes, bags and leaf blowers in tow. The job was done in two hours. The lessons in practicing faith has just begun!



NEC Kids Zone volunteers help with leaf clean up at an NEC volunteer's home.



Restoration: Regional



At the Franklin Food Pantry

Franklin Food Pantry wish list for December: dry mashed potato mix, cookie and brownie mixes, canned pie fillings, dry pie crust mix, shampoo, body wash, deodorant, hand soap, multivitamins, dog & cat food.

Please be sure to check expiration dates!

Giving in Christmas:

Global: Give it Forward—World Renew

Make this year different: give it forward. Give a gift of love and help a family or community around the globe. Give a water filter, goat, clean water, literacy textbook, beehive, savings and loan kit or more. Pick up a World Renew: Give it Forward Catalog and a tag from the tree or go to worldrenewgifts.net and order online.

Regional: Christmas Hope: Christmas gifts for kids in lock up

We are hoping to provide 80 kids in lock up with a bag filled with the following items: Sweatshirt, t-shirt, hat, socks, deodorant, toothbrush/paste, body wash. This giving is done in partnership with Straight Ahead ministries. Pick up a list of items and return by Dec. 15 back to NEC.

Regional: GBV Walking in Light Christmas

Thank you for your gift card donations! If you would like to volunteer at the M2M Christmas store on Dec. 12 or take parents Christmas shopping please contact Dawn Foley, dawnfoley@comcast.net.

Local and @NEC: Christmas Giving Tree

NEC is caring for neighbors in our church and local community through a Christmas Giving Tree. Visit the cafe to pick up a star listing an item of needed winter clothing or a gift/toy wish (\$60 or less) for a child to help a family provide for their child! If you have any questions, or know of a family or child who would like to participate in this program, please contact Amy Cornwell at amy@newenglandchapel.org



Thanksgiving Box assembly at NEC, November 24th

Giving in Thanksgiving

By Glen Focht

This year's Giving in Thanksgiving food drive was able to meet the needs of many families as well as several area food banks because of the generosity and willingness of NEC families to respond to the need for food that exists at the holiday season.

This year the efforts were supported by more than eighty volunteers including a large contingency from the Epic and Ignite programs. Our youth and other volunteers worked early Saturday morning 11/23 to set up Big Kids Zone to be ready to receive thousands of pounds of food. Still more volunteers on Sunday 11/24 carried filled food boxes, set up the drivers who would distribute them, and involved their families in making food donations.

Many families sacrificed to be able to make donations and we were all touched by stories shared with us as families brought in their food. Two young members of our Church family made toys by hand to be included in the box of a family with young children. One young member made a cake to be shared by the hard-working volunteers. These gifts of self touched each of the volunteers who worked to support our 2013 food drive. In total more than 145 families received a complete meal and significant donations were made to food banks who requested support in Franklin, Sutton, and Plainville. We praise God for his goodness to us and for His gifts that allow us to give freely. Truly, we as a community, lived our values and worked to provide food to the hungry.

Don't forget! The Safe Families for Children Forum is December 10th!

Safe Families: The movement connects faith communities to local vulnerable families in need of an extended network of support to carry them through a crisis. - LEARN MORE at the upcoming Safe Families for Children Forum:

December 10, 7-9pm, New England Chapel, Franklin
Registration: www.newenglandchapel.org/safefamilies For more information: Julie Paine at jpaine@bethany.org, 978-794-9800