



THE VALCINS



Dear Ministry Partners –

The fourth team to come to Jacob's Well in July was an incredible experience! Ministry projects undertaken touched our village of Ti Guinea and beyond in so many diverse and profound ways.

Read now the stories of those who came, what was accomplished and also how their lives were changed!

Gersan and Betty

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LIGHTING UP HOMES IN TI GUINEA

An amazing project that has now begun to bless the people of Ti Guinea and beyond is a system of lighting up a home with a small roof mounted solar panel attached to LED lights and battery power installed inside the home. Valcin's were first introduced to this unique lighting system through Norton Hindley and his work with Lighting for Literacy in Durango, Colorado last February. Norton trained the team from Foundry United Methodist Church where they first built 5 lighting systems in Houston. They took these 5 lights and parts for 5 more lights and trained Haitians at Jacob's Well. Then, as a team, they installed these lights in 10 homes in Ti Guinea! You can imagine the transformation of lives in a home that has only had kerosene lanterns before. The first families to be selected for these lights were the families of the 4 girls who are being sponsored for college this year. As you can imagine if you were one of these girls, to have light in your home where you can study with real lights and not just a kerosene lantern after the sun goes down is an amazing blessing and a gift that would encourage you in your studies all the more!



Emily Fredrickson from the Foundry Team shared these thoughts about the lighting project:

This year we were able to bless certain homes with Lighting for Literacy lights! There was a little boy in one of the houses and every time they flipped the switch to turn on the light he would start jumping up and down. I think his actions are a perfect example of the hope that teams like our team from Foundry are giving to those in Ti Guinea, Haiti.

Tema Pazirandeh from the Foundry Team writes this:

The joy on the faces of young students to see light was priceless. You could see their desire to study, and learn skills to be productive citizens for their community.



VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Gersan and Betty have long had a desire to have a vocational training center at Jacob's Well. They call this ministry affectionately the "Dittrich Learning Center" named after Gary and Debbie Dittrich, a brother and sister in the Lord from the beginnings of Valcin's ministry. The Dittrich's have a heart for this vocational ministry. The Foundry Team saw the immense value of this type of training as well, so they organized three incredible training sessions - Computer Training, Sewing and Jewelry Making! Along with the lighting project and these 3 training sessions, while they were there they also held Vacation Bible School at two different locations! It was truly an incredible week of spiritual training, community service and job development skills!

Computer Training

The Foundry Team took with them several donated laptops. These were set up in a classroom type setting. Since many Haitians who want to learn about computer skills do not know how to type yet, a typing program was installed on each computer. Students with some basic knowledge had the opportunity to practice skills in word processing and internet searches. This was a fun workshop that even one of the youngest members of the team – Josh Underwood, age 11 – enjoyed helping out with! Josh shared with us:

I enjoyed the trip - you can feel God working there! I tried something new everyday...teaching computer skills, playing with the children in the village, installing solar lights, helping with music and helping with crafts for VBS.



Sewing Class

Some of the ladies (and men) on the Foundry Team put their sewing skills to good use. Their team donated additional sewing machines to the one that Jacob's Well had, so that all who were interested in learning to sew had the opportunity to learn more about this skill. They also donated a serger and spent time training on the unique features this machine offers. Each of the ladies picked out some fabric that she liked and everyone was able to make a purse! Some even got very ambitious and created a new dress for themselves. One of the guys made a tie. On the day the team went to the beach with the Haitian leaders, it was so rewarding to see them all carrying their new bags!



Jewelry Making Class

The "long term vision" behind the jewelry making was to teach Haitians a skill that perhaps with more training could be reproduced into products they could continue making for sale! They had lots of choices and colors of beads and jewelry making attire, so each person made a unique item for themselves or to give someone as a gift! Though the women in the village enjoyed their time making jewelry, the true blessing of this experience happened quite accidentally. The team "discovered" a group of boys (young teens) in the village who were making bracelets from the materials they had received and deconstructed from VBS earlier in the week. These boys didn't need training—they needed resources and to be empowered! The team brought them to camp, gave them better quality materials, and let them do what they were naturally gifted to do—make jewelry! The team nicknamed them The Bracelet Boys and hopes to support them in the future.



MORE PICTURES



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL X2

The key to raising up a generation that loves the Lord is to start with young children. Valcin's have been doing VBS with small children since they began purchasing the land for Jacob's Well. They raised up a generation of leaders that now oversee the VBS events held at JW. So now, Valcin's are reaching out to a second city to give other children the opportunity to experience the wonders and fun of Vacation Bible School! Foundry supplied resources and committed time for 2 VBS sessions and everyone involved was blessed!

Thoughts and Reflections from Foundry Team Trip Members:

Jeanne Underwood - *The practicality of the Gospel really hit me...the Light of the World chases away all kinds of darkness...the Living Water is needed and refreshing every day. In Haiti, both light and water are precious...this is true both physically and spiritually. Jesus changing the hearts of a whole village means eternal salvation, but it also means hearts ready to learn, to teach, to serve and to soak up what other practical applications the Gospel has to offer...hope, both eternal and temporal, to a country that needs Jesus.*

Sam Underwood - *I enjoyed the trip overall. You can feel God working there.*

Emily Fredrickson - *I have been to Haiti for three years and on each trip I learned something new. Many people come to Haiti thinking they will change the hearts of others and that's true, but you will be changed forever. I have made life long relationships and have had the opportunity to see young people grow into leaders of the church at Jacob's Well.*

Tema Pazirandeh - *It became obvious how God turns Haitian weakness (money and possessions) into their greatest strength; love (giving and receiving). The Haitian community had the spirit of joy, gratitude, sharing, and caring. Their love seeped into the inner recesses of our beings, especially mine!*



STILL MORE PICTURES



Closing

There is a "movement" going on in Ti Guinea. It's a move of the Spirit and a move of hope. In September, there was a community meeting in Ti Guinea and testimonies abounded from the villagers about how grateful they were for the ministry in their village. They defined it well - villagers said "It all started with the beginning of the church!" Many more young teenage mothers now are wanting to return to school.

Want to be a part of this movement? To support the Education Scholarship Fund, ask CTEN at 830-896-8326 to use the code VALCLG with your donation!



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