



SON-BEAM INTERNATIONAL

Serving Our Neighbors—Building for Evangelism And Ministry

P. O. Box 127, Jamestown, MI 49427

CHURCH CONSTRUCTION

For many in North America, especially in west Michigan, Hurricanes Isaac and Sandy are a distant memory. Unless we have family or friends in the Gulf, we would be hard pressed to remember that Isaac occurred in August of 2012. Hurricane Sandy received more publicity in the United States, but again unless we were actually on the east coast or had family there, we might struggle to remember that the damage occurred in October of 2012.

However, our Christian brothers and sisters in Haiti live every day with the effects of both of those storms. Several congregations lost their buildings. The construction division of SON-BEAM International now has the opportunity to assist four of these churches in building new facilities.



Pastor Mercurieu Aladin and the La Montange congregation in the mountains above Jacmel have very little to protect them from the elements.

Things are not much better for the

Grand Bois church, just north and east of Port au Prince, led by Pastor Jean Pierre. The one advantage these congregations have is that they do own the land on which their churches are located.



The Chalier congregation led by Pastor Dieusibon Romeuls is located west of Miragoane on the north shore of the southern peninsula of Haiti.

Pastor Asselhomme Ladouceur leads the Cannan Church located on the slopes of the mountains northeast of Port au Prince.



They are currently meeting in a temporary facility.

Both the Chalier and Canaan Churches need to purchase property. The plan for all of the churches is a concrete beam and column frame with metal trusses and a metal roof. We estimate the total cost for all four churches, including the land purchases to be \$55,000. To be part of this important work, please designate "Construction Division—Haiti Hurricane" on the memo line of your check.

Another exciting development is the start up of a manufacturing plant in Haiti which produces galvanized, cold-formed metal studs which will be able to be used in our church buildings. In the end of September, our executive director (Ray Van Drie) traveled to Haiti to see this process first hand and was able to provide some instruction to the local people on using these metal studs to make the trusses for their churches. He also found that there is a roof deck manufacturer who can supply roofs for the churches. As our churches are being built using these products, other Haitians are able to have employment producing the studs and deck!

SON-BEAM INTERNATIONAL—COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

The Syonga Christian School and Church is located in a rural setting in eastern Uganda. The 400+ children who attend the school come primarily from area families involved in subsistence farming. Most of the children and their families live in poverty and often lack an adequate supply of food. As a result, the children depend on the school for a daily meal. The most common meal served them is called “porridge,” a heated mixture of flour and water.

Until recently, the children at Syonga attended classes in 5 small classrooms made of sticks and mud. A new school/church building was donated in the summer of 2012 and will provide greater capacity for church services and also much needed classroom space for the children. Pastor Joseph and his wife serve both the church and the school, and are blessed to have 5 additional teachers with them at the school, all committed to sharing the love of Christ.



The school/church also lacked a local water source and/or water storage facility, so in April of 2013, SON-BEAM, in

partnership with Cold Water International and Aqua Clara International, sponsored a water project there. A rainwater collection and storage unit was installed on the tin roof of the new building. The collection system will take advantage of the abundance of rainwater available in eastern Uganda during the rainy season, and the gutter system will feed rain water into two large storage tanks (see picture above). Additionally, a simple, low-cost filter system was installed to treat the water so it is safe for the children to drink. We are praying that this system will bless the entire surrounding area for years to come, and also provide good opportunities for sharing the message of salvation in the Living Water, Jesus Christ.

A change in climate has contributed to increased periods of drought in parts of East Africa. Subsistence farmers rely on the start of the rainy season to begin planting crops. Crops are grown primarily to feed individual families, but surpluses can be sold at markets to supply families with clothing or other household needs. However, recent crop yields have been reduced due to drought conditions and shortened growing seasons.



Jason Brink, of Cold Water Int'l, pictured with one of the Ugandan field workers at the Village of Eden test plot

In April of 2013, a Cold Water International team comprised of Jason and David Brink, and Tom and Jessie Timmermans traveled to eastern Uganda. Through the help of SON-BEAM, International they installed six different low-cost, gravity fed, drip irrigation systems in garden plots at the Village of Eden property in Eastern Uganda. Each of these cost-efficient and effective units be evaluated to determine the best method for local farmers. When a method is selected, relief workers will collaborate with local farmers to develop an irrigation distribution program of the irrigation units. This program may include sales or trade with local farmers or possibly a micro-lending program.

PRAYER CORNER

- Praise God for the work He is doing in Haiti and Uganda, as well as in other countries, and allowing us to be a part of it.
- Pray that the relationships established and renewed during the recent trip to Haiti will be used to further God's kingdom.
- Pray for both the construction and the community connections divisions as we each consider future projects in Ecuador.