

## God Stuff Happenings in Our Churches – April 2016

### MISSIONS

At the beginning of January, Pastor Dean Stiles and 6 other members of First Baptist Church of Berlin traveled to Port au Prince, Haiti for a mission trip. Here is an abridged version of Dean's account of the trip.

While [the other members of the team] were flying (to Haiti), Kim P. and I went to the Loving Hands Kindergarten to look at the site and see what work there was for the team to do. Rachele (the owner of the kindergarten) told us that she needed more chairs and desks for the children. She brought us to the roof of the building where a small addition had been added. There she showed us two new classrooms that each had a window and a door opening but no door or window. It was the direction that the sun would shine in all day and was blinding the teachers and children. She asked if we could build two doors and two sets of shutters to keep the sun out. We took measurements and made a materials list and then went to the lumber yard/hardware store. The afternoon was spent getting organized and ready for the team.

Over the next 5 days of work we built 41 chairs, 21 desks, 3 bookshelves and completed the doors and windows. The team did an awesome job, but there was so much more that happened. There was a lot of ministry that happened with the children, staff, and our neighbor at My Father's Guest House. Two team members spent time in the classrooms and developed relationships with the children and teachers. They loved the attention that was given them and the cookies that we brought to them.

The neighbor Michael wanted to know if he could join us Sunday and go to church with us. We brought him to the Valley of Hope and Cha Cha Mountain. He really appreciated our team.

As for me, one of the highlights was attending the service at the Valley of Hope Church. At the end of the service the pastor invited me to be a part of dedicating two children. Also, seeing the joy in Rachele's face when she returned to see all that work that was completed (at the kindergarten) spoke volumes. There was also the friendship that I made with Ranell, the man who does maintenance for the school. We became buddies in those few short days.

We could have sent \$10,000 down to them, but we would not have had the personal contact and ministry that we experienced. Many lives were touched and a small part of each of us stayed in Haiti and a big part of Haiti came home with us.

- **Middle Street Baptist Church, Portsmouth** is excited to be partnering with other area churches in the "End 68 Hours of Hunger" program. This program provides school children in need with a bag of food to take home each weekend. Middle Street will be helping to provide the food that is needed each week.

### CHURCH NEWS

- **Newton Junction Baptist Church** has called **T. Scott Griffin** to be their new pastor. Scott begins his ministry on May 15.
- **First Baptist Church, Berlin, NH**, welcomed Jessica Boucher as a member on January 24.
- Congratulations to **Tyler & Meg Smith** (Georgia Plain Baptist Church) on the birth of their son Ewan Lucas on February 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Congratulations to **Estella Gross**, daughter of Rev. Abraham & Amanda Gross (Cavendish Baptist Church), who won first prize in the 4th grade category at a Lego contest held in Chester, VT, at the beginning of March, for her creation of a church (see pictures below). One of the judges said it had all the important elements of a church! Two of Estella's brothers, **Ephraim & Judah**, won 2<sup>nd</sup> place in their age categories for their creations. Brothers **Jacob & Matthew Thayer**, who attend First Baptist Church, Chester, VT, won 1<sup>st</sup> place in their age categories.

