



## Coming to the End of Ourselves

~ Ray Jackson

“Be prepared” is the motto Boy Scouts learn at an early age to avoid surprises.

Adults surround themselves and their loved ones with - Life Insurance, Health Insurance, Auto Insurance, Homeowner’s Insurance, Renter’s Insurance, Long-term Care Insurance, Traveler’s Insurance, Flood Insurance, ....

The American Way is based on rugged individualism and the determination to pull our self up by our bootstraps...

One of the “gifts” or “challenges” or “opportunities for growth” while ministering in the developing world is .....coming to the end of ourselves. We leave hearth and home, law and order, safety and security ... to go where Jesus wants us to go and do what Jesus wants us do.

Sooner or later when we partake on such a journey, we reach the end of our own abilities. Sooner or later we will have to change course. Sooner or later we will get in deeper than we can swim, tread water, or float contentedly.

And then, great things happen in the Kingdom. We cry out to God, “Help me!” “Show me!” “Teach me!” “Lead me out of this abyss!” “Why did you take me somewhere just to watch me fail?”

We need partners, we need divine assistance, we need a plan bigger than our brains can conjure.

People stateside sometimes get the same education when their health runs out, their money runs out, they lose their job, they lose a loved one, or they lose their sanity.

Ministry outside our comfort zone allows the Spirit of Christ to dwell in us richly. When we are weak, He is strong. We understand what it means when He says, “All authority in Heaven and Earth has been given to me.” We rejoice when such a one says, “And Lo, I will be with you always.”

It is good to have the King of Kings by our side when we are out in the hinterlands for Kingdom growth and development. Sometimes, missions is not about what we do, but what we learn about ourselves, our need for Jesus, and our need for other companions with whom to share the challenging adventure.

Thanks be to God for a Lord who allows us to grow in unexpected ways.



Record of Giving	<u>Month</u>	<u>General Fund Contributions</u>	<u>Ministry Expenses</u>
	August 2011	\$42,463	\$21,086
	September 2011	\$15,060	\$29,161
	October 2011	\$ 9,956	\$21,753



## From Leslie's Desk ...

I pray this newsletter finds you and yours well and preparing for Christmastide.

CFI has experienced an amazing 2011 and we look forward to what God has in store for us in 2012. I pray it is the year of perfection for our ministry.

Thank you for your generosity over the past year. Through your gifts many young lives have been changed through the power of Christ and the message we are able to deliver through schooling, medical care, clean water, reforestation and homes for the most impoverished people in the world.

We will be seeking God's perfect direction for each of the core programs. Additionally, we believe God has many new projects on the horizon.

We ask that you pray that we continually seek His perfect will in every decision that is made on behalf of CFI by the Board of Directors, including filling open seats on the board.

Your participation in this mission is paramount to its success. The problems that the Haitian community in Ranquitte face are larger than a 9 person board can effectively manage. We covet your prayers, ideas, gifts of time and service both here and on the ground in Haiti.

Please stay plugged in to what is happening in between newsletters by visiting our website at [www.christianflights.org](http://www.christianflights.org), Facebook and Youtube.

When you see a project or trip that interests you, join in! You don't have to wait for an invitation to be a part of what God is doing. You only have to make yourself available.

**Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.**

~Phillipians 3:12-14

I look forward to hearing more from each of you in the coming months as God gives you His divine and perfect direction for your roll in the ministry of CFI.

In His Service,

*Leslie*

## Smiling Spiritually



On Wednesday, Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>, Dr. Ray Jackson led yet another Haiti mission team to the doorstep of Ivy Salomon. While the rich tradition of mission work through CFI stretches back decades, this was a first trip for many of us, including me. And the wide-eyed wonder was evident on our faces. We were stunned by the harsh, challenging conditions of life we witnessed from the

planes and trucks in which we traveled. We were silent in the wondrous awe of the mountainscapes. We were captivated by the bright smiles and warm receptivity of almost every Haitian we encountered. We were anxious and curious about what the coming week would hold.

Among all the memories, there are two images burned into my heart and soul: the landscape and the people. The Haitian philosophy of life "Dye mon, gen mon" is clear to me: "after mountains, more mountains". The mountains are, at one and the same time, majestic in their heights and inspiring in the views they offer; troubled and now starkly barren by the decimation of trees; a metaphor for the endless challenges that nearly every Haitian experiences, spiritually, economically, and politically.

And yet the people, oh the people, are resilient, energetic, and vibrant, each in their own way. Our mission team climbed a mountain near Ranquitte, accompanied by rugged, luminescent children. At the summit, looking over the valleys bordered by still more mountains, we smiled. And the children, who encouraged us along the hike and who looked out over God's creation with us, smiled. When we worshipped at various locations on the weekend—an Adventist church, a student fellowship, a Baptist church—we encountered joyful smiles. Not just smiles at the presence of "blancs", but smiles because of the presence of God in their midst and because of a spiritual hope that lives deep within them.

On home prayer visits, amid pain and disease, worry over education and nourishment, we still witnessed smiles. Smiles of gratitude and joy; and smiles of hope. At the school where children lined up to study and learn, we saw smiles.

When we first graced the doorstep of Ivy Salomon, we witnessed a welcoming smile. We smiled back, not realizing then that such an exchange was a foretaste for the rest of our mission experience. When we departed, we hugged our new friends and smiled wide smiles. When we reminisced on the road, we laughed and smiled as a mission team. Even now, in writing this, I am smiling. My heart is alive and awake. Yes, there is more work to be done. More good work for CFI and its future missionaries. Still, smiles endure. They signal a greater power at work in Haiti, the power of God to renew, transform, connect, and inspire hope. In God's Spirit, I smile still with my mission team friends, Haitian friends, and the whole people of God.

~Mike Swartzentruber



### It's Late, but Not Too Late.....



The Angels have received their beautiful one of a kind artwork from the students at Calhoun-Spady School. They are ready to take flight and land on a tree in your Sunday school class, church foyer, civic meeting or family and friends holiday get together.

It doesn't require a lot of planning. We have taken care of everything you need. You supply the folks and the venue, we ship the rest to you. Honestly, if you already have a get together planned, you can add this to your agenda in under an hour of planning.

We will provide you the angels with ribbon hangers, pre-printed invitations and digital forms to keep track of donations, info sheets to hand out to your guests, gift tags to place on the angels and finally, videos to share with your guest about how the proceeds will be used to support the mission of CFI.

The angels will be available for purchase/adoption through gatherings at hosts homes and churches. You can learn more at this link: [http://christianflights.org/cfihome\\_025.htm](http://christianflights.org/cfihome_025.htm)

If you would like to be a part of this awesome project contact Leslie Smart at 859.262.9200 or [Leslie@christianflights.org](mailto:Leslie@christianflights.org) to get the particulars and have the angels shipped to you pronto!

If you would like to adopt some angels and skip the hosting, just let us know how many, we can ship them right away, most likely in time for Christmas gifts. A great gift for the person who has everything is to place the angel in a simple black 4x6 frame with a card attached explaining that a donation was made in their honor to CFI to bring hope and a future to the children in Ranquitte, Haiti. Now that is the perfect gift, one size fits all and you both will feel great about the difference this sweet little angel has made.

Our goal this year for the 1,500 angels is \$30,000. We ask that you pray about how God wishes for you to join CFI in reaching this important financial goal.



10<sup>th</sup> Annual

H<sub>2</sub>O Concert 2012

Hosted by:

Gethsemane Baptist Church

You are invited to attend this fundraising event for the Wells Program of Christian Flights International.



February 3, 2012 @ 7:00 p.m.

123 Quisenberry Avenue  
Danville, KY 40422  
859.236-2581

### Please send donations to:

Christian Flights International  
Susan Arnold, Treasurer  
580 Roy Arnold Blvd.  
Danville, KY 40422



**(If you are restricting your gift to a particular project such as Teacher Sponsor, Ag. Program, Wells, etc., please be sure and note that on the memo line on your check. Otherwise, it will be used where it is most needed.)**

All gifts to CFI are tax-deductible. We will send you a receipt for each donation and we'll work hard to make the best use of each and every dollar we receive. Thanks for helping us help Haiti's children.