TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Haiti Reconstruction Efforts Continue Two Years After Earthquake
- Bringing Change to Chinandega
- Brazilian Volunteers Build a Church in Mozambique

Haiti Reconstruction Efforts Continue Two Years After Earthquake

Two years after a devastating earthquake caused massive destruction in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Maranatha continues to have an active presence in the country.

On February 1, 2012 an inauguration ceremony took place at the Adventist University in Haiti where a new primary school campus is about to be constructed using 27 One-Day School buildings. Elder Ted Wilson, president of the Seventh-day Adventist world church, cut the ribbon on the first classroom.

The project is part of a collaborative initiative to build 100 classrooms in Haiti between Maranatha, ADRA and ASI.

Immediately after the earthquake in January, 2010 Maranatha responded to a request for One-Day structures to be used as shelters, churches and schools. Maranatha built 143 structures across Port-au-Prince and all of those buildings are still in use. More than 15,000 people worship in the structures each week and 5,000 students utilize the buildings as classrooms.

The Christ Roi congregation continues to meet each week in a One-
Day structure with canvas sides that can roll up when the weather is hot. The group had met in their brand new sanctuary one time prior to the earthquake. Unfortunately, the earthquake reduced the new church to a pile of rubble.

The One-Day Church was instrumental in motivating the congregation to stay together after the earthquake. Today, the group is growing. They hope to build a permanent church some day, but until that happens the One-Day Church is working well.

Since the earthquake Maranatha has been rebuilding large portions of the security wall that surrounds the Adventist University. The wall is integral in ensuring a safe campus. More than 4,227 feet of wall has been completed. The campus is now fully enclosed.

Bringing Change to Chinandega

Seventy-six volunteers arrived in Chinandega, Nicaragua this week to build classrooms and help with various projects at the Adventist Education Center.

For the volunteers, the project turned into an adventure before they even arrived. Their original assignment to build a school in another part of Nicaragua had to be changed because of incessant rains that prevented the project from being prepared.

With typical flexibility, the volunteer leadership quickly found new housing in Chinandega and by the time volunteers arrived the project was ready to go.

The Chinandega Open Team will construct five One-Day classrooms on the campus of an Education and Evangelism Center that Maranatha built twelve years ago. The volunteers also plan to put a new coat of paint on the existing school and help build a property wall.

Brazilian Volunteers Build a Church in Mozambique
In January the Brasilia Youth Choir visited Maputo, Mozambique to complete the walls of one of the first One-Day Churches that was built in the country. Fifty-seven volunteers poured a concrete floor and installed block walls, windows and doors.

The volunteers are part of a choral group that is based in Brasilia, Brazil. The group wanted to participate in an international mission trip and blend construction with their typical method of outreach—music.

The project was facilitated by Maranatha employee Elmer Barbosa, who currently works in Brazil but spent several years in Mozambique. “The group connected in an amazing way with the local congregation because of the shared language of Portuguese,” says Elmer. “The impact of the project was deeply felt by the choir, and the local congregation.”

The group worked hard on the project each day and then sang at evangelistic meetings in the evening. On the final weekend, they presented a concert at the Liberdade Adventist School, which was built by Maranatha in 2008. More than 1,000 people came to watch them perform a special concert based on the life of Christ.

The project marked the first time a group of volunteers from Brazil went on a Maranatha project to another country.
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