

Making a Difference, at Many Levels

Amongst the many questions often put to HOM include those of, “Why are your teams usually so large in number”, “What do you do when you go”, and “What if I don’t have any special training, such as medical...how can I be used?”

Answers to each of these questions were provided, in practical form, with the March 2011 HOM trip to Haiti. This large team, 34 individuals in number, went to Haiti with a five-fold mission: Construction, Dental, Evangelism, Medical, and Sustained Living. Having a large number of persons, highly flexible in their willingness to help those in need, allows a team the ability to provide services across a number of areas. We see this as a highly valuable benefit for many settings; but, such a notion is variable as some trips are, by their nature, much more focused due to a variety of reasons. HOM is different than many like agencies attempting to provide aid to those in need in that while delivery of supplies to impoverished areas is clearly needed, it is often short lived. This, as there are MANY large agencies that specialize in such efforts. In contrast, HOM seeks to “leave a lasting benefit” by working with local (i.e., indigenous) populations, training leaders and individuals to help themselves. Our hope is that such a design will lead to differences that operate 24/7/365...and not just at the time of our trip.

As noted, this March trip was designed to fulfill this philosophy on many levels. First, this team worked to complete a much-needed medical clinic that will serve, year round, those in Haiti (please see our photos section for examples of this effort). In addition, members of our Sustained Living sub-team provided much in the way of nutritional help by providing both education and a means for improved nutrition, through its Moringa and Medica Mamba programs. These are but two examples of where people, with willing hearts and perhaps little to no background in medicine/dentistry, were able to provide a lasting and meaningful difference for those in Haiti.

Team members (pictured below) include: Gbola Adesogan, Carol Atkinson, Heather Atkinson, Mark Atkinson, Melanie Atkinson, Julie Bishop, Caitlyn Canby, Fletcher Canby, Alan Cook, Carl Dragstedt, Sandy Frost, Kristin Giannas, Sue Greishaw, Lauren Hrcirik, Arlene Ingram, Rod Ingram, Sally Jones, Boyd Kellett, Robert Mixon, Jeff Mobley, Philippe Olivier, Andrew Quintana, Nancy Rook, Darlene Schmeckpeper, Scott Schmeckpeper, David Sollenberger, Tim TenBroeck, Rhonda Thomas, Laura Ulibarri, Dick Wilcox, Steven Wilcox, and Kirk Young.

