

Below is a brief summary of the work the January team did at the children's home. Helen, Valerie and I are working mostly with the Mission To Haiti team did medical clinics from January 11 - 18. The Wanchese team is from Bethany UMC and will (Horne Memorial UMC) be in Haiti until Jan. 22.

On January 13, a team of eight from Wanchese, North Carolina, traveled to Haiti to assist with construction of a permanent building for The Ryan Epps Home for Children. Team members worked with Haitians to complete pouring the slab for the foundation and begin construction of the cement block walls for the first floor. The team stayed at the current rental site (now destroyed by the earthquake) of the children's home in the village of Bon Repos. Director and Pastor, Yvon Pierre, his family and staff cooked for the team and transported them to and from the Michot work site.

In 2008, a wall was built around the REHC property, a gate was installed, and a well, equipped to be used with either a manual or electric pump, was dug. Throughout 2009, funds were raised to begin digging the foundation, and in early December, 2009, Haitian workers began digging footings. Digging has been difficult and slow as the ground is hard and contains rocks of many sizes. Iron bar, rock, cement and block, have been used to make the foundation as strong as possible.

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. About 80% of the population lives in extreme poverty with a literacy rate of 53%. Less than 2% of the children finish secondary school. When the Ryan Epps Home is completed, it will not only provide a home for 32 children but will include a school where 180 children can receive an education and a church where 170 people can worship.

Director Yvon in his recent email to the Wanchese team stated, "When you all come, I know for sure you all will be satisfied with what has been done. I praise the name of our Savior for all he has done in this project so far. I truly appreciate your dedication toward this work. May the name of our Lord receive the glory."