



ALLEN TEMPLE

# Global Ministries Newsletter



A group of 10 people, five youth and five adults, went to South Africa as missionaries in June 2019. During this 2019 sojourn, from June 13 through June 26, the youth and young adult missionaries participated in youth/young adult workshops in Soweto, a township in Johannesburg, and Crossroads, a township in Cape Town. The workshop participants engaged in discussions about social justice and community service. The workshop facilitators discussed ways to identify community challenges. They also began teaching youth how to design community service projects during an initial workshop.

The facilitators designed workshops to encourage the

The Global Ministries Team preparing to build a house in a township outside of Johannesburg. From left to right--(back row) Rev. Theophous Reagans, Claude Robins, (second row) Lareto Teresemo (from Soweto) Deaconess Rene Mastin, Dr. Alvan Quamina, Trustee Sherrell Sneed, Deaconess Shauna Gillespie-Ford, Rev. Armae Johnson, (front row) Clayton Crowell, Madison Harvey, Prince Teresemo (from Soweto), and Robert Buckner III.

development of new community service projects by youth participants in both South Africa and the U.S. The workshop participants proposed the following community service projects during a follow-up session:

- 1) Tutoring Program (Soweto)
- 2) Youth Development Program (including alcohol and drug abuse prevention) (Soweto)
- 3) Hygiene Program for Girls (including providing sanitary napkins) (Soweto)
- 4) Church Community Clean-up Project (Oakland)
- 5) Community Garden & Soup Kitchen (Soweto)
- 6) Healthy Food Farmers' Market (Oakland)
- 7) Community Choir & Dance Group (Soweto)
- 8) Fitness Project for Youth & Seniors (Soweto)
- 9) Reading Program at Nursery (Soweto)
- 10) School Uniform/Mentoring Program (Soweto)

The Ministry will continue to work with each team in the development of these proposed community service projects in South Africa and the U.S. Global Ministries is prepared to continue consulting with each team until they fully develop their idea. The Ministry will also help each team identify funding sources in addition to any financial assistance the Ministry provides.

The mission team (youth and chaperones) also helped build a house with Habitat for Humanity in a township outside Johannesburg. The team assisted with the construction of a house that will be home for a family of five people. The family currently lives in an adjacent community where the homes are made primarily of tin or scrap wood. The homes have no running water, no electricity, and no indoor bathrooms. Their new home is made of brick, has an indoor bathroom, a separate bedroom for the children, heat, and electricity. This home is one of a community of 5,000 new homes being built in collaboration with Habitat for Humanity. Every child has a right to a place to live, study, and play. The Global Ministries team helped to provide this for one



Charity feels warm and fuzzy—little boy happy getting new shoes, coat and cap.

**“When visiting the two orphanages I felt connected to God and his call to serve and give to those who need it. I’ve done a lot of service trips and service in the community but giving the clothes to those kids has to have had the greatest impact on me. The joy and gratitude that they had towards us was the greatest feeling and one that I will never forget. During the visits I was reaffirmed of what I want to do with the rest of my life which is helping people in need with whatever resources I possess.**

- CLAUDE ROBINS, JR.





family of children during their mission trip. The team also donated clothing, provided by a local partner to children at a nursery and orphanage. When asked about the impact of the trip, Claude Robins, one of the youth missionaries responded: “When

“As we were assisting in the building of the house, I thought of us contributing to Hope! Hope that will potentially breed opportunity and a better future for those who will reside in those houses and make them a “home”. I thought that the security of a sturdy and stable structure might be the impetus needed to inspire the future dwellers to create and build something tangible for their future community. I also thought how the God we serve can take something little in our eyes and do so much with it if we allow ourselves to be directed and molded by Him. It is and was so rewarding to have done something for others and not even know who would ultimately dwell there. Living and doing God’s work without regard for acknowledgement was and is a beautiful gift.”

~ RENE MASTIN



visiting the two orphanages I felt connected to God and his call to serve and give to those who need it. I have done many service trips and provided service in the community but giving the clothes to the kids in the orphanage had the greatest impact on me. The joy and gratitude that they had towards us was the greatest feeling and one that I will never forget. These experiences reaffirmed what I want to do with the rest of my life which is to help people in need with whatever resources I possess.” Only time will tell us how this young man will choose to help others in his lifetime but immediately upon his return he began visiting and helping to feed homeless people encamped near the church.

Another youth, Robert Buckner, III, talked about the impact of visiting a museum in Soweto. He said, “The Hector Pieterse Museum gave me a lot of perspective into how black power movements are fundamentally the same in both America and Africa. We used the same raised fist symbol, same phrases, and even fought for the same idea - fair treatment for people of color. The Museum is just blocks away from where Hector was shot and killed during the Soweto uprising. He was a student shot by police when students protested being forced to use Afrikaans as a language. This is similar to the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s where schoolchildren were hosed, maimed, and arrested for



our rights. It is also similar to the Black Lives Movement of today where we are still fighting for our rights as citizens.”

Experiencing these trips provides a unique crucible within which the youth, both in South Africa and the U.S., can internalize the Global Missions call “to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God” and put it into operation.



The Hector Pieterse Museum: “To Honor The Youth Who Gave Their Lives In The Struggle For Freedom And Democracy.”

As noted above, during the sojourn to South Africa, the team facilitated and participated in three workshops. Thirty youth and young adults, ages 14-35, attended the first workshop. Forty youth, young adults, and adults attended the second workshop in Johannesburg, ages 14-55. Forty youth and young adults attended the workshop in Cape Town, ages 12-45. All of the youth and young adult participants were residents of townships (Soweto and Cross Roads) in Johannesburg and Cape Town. These townships are very poor communities where the unemployment rate is over 50%. The problems associated with poverty, homelessness, and drug and alcohol abuse, teen pregnancy, limited access to





Global Ministries' participants from the U.S. and South Africa during a workshop in Johannesburg.

education and high school dropout rates, are present in both of these communities. The youth participants pointed out these problems themselves and they continued to develop community service projects intended to address them.

As noted, the youth in Soweto and from the U.S. presented the following preliminary proposals.

- 1) Tutoring Program (Soweto).
- 2) Youth Development Program (including alcohol and drug abuse prevention) (Soweto).
- 3) Hygiene Program for Girls (Soweto).
- 4) Church Community Clean-up Project (Oakland)
- 5) Community Garden & Soup Kitchen (Soweto).
- 6) Healthy Food Farmers' Market (Oakland).
- 7) Community Choir & Dance Group (Soweto).



- 8) Fitness Project for Youth & Seniors (Soweto)
- 9) Reading Program at Nursery (Soweto)
- 10) Writers' Workshop (Oakland)

#### Previously Created Youth & Young Adult Projects

- 1) Homeless Assistance Project (Nashville)
- 2) Girls & Women Support Project (Soweto).
- 3) Bathroom Construction Project for Nursery (Soweto).
- 4) Computer Literacy Program for Youth & Seniors (Soweto).
- 5) Children's Bible Study Project (Oakland).
- 6) School Uniform Project/Mentoring (Oakland).



## REFLECTIONS

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#### How has this experience been meaningful to you?

**“Having three years in between my first and second travel left me time to come to more concrete conclusions about what is actually happening inside of the country. I saw again firsthand how political, social, economic, and other factors play a key role in keeping certain communities at one level and others at another. Being on this trip again inspired me to never settle in my education and studies and to never stop seeking new and bountiful relations with people with whom you can build meaningful bridges.”**

*~ CLAYTON CROWELL*

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#### What impact did working with Habitat for Humanity have on you?

**“Habitat for Humanity says that every child deserves to have a home to sleep in, study, play, and live in; this statement could not be more accurate. While working with Habitat for Humanity, I was forced to notice that we take housing for granted. I had to truly address the large percentage of people who do not have a home to live in. I saw this clearly when looking around the site we worked on, looking at all the houses that they had left to build, and the number of houses that they already built. Furthermore, a home is not just a house. A home is a place where many families hold their memories and a place of comfort for each family. By not having a roof over their head, a family is at risk of not having those simple moments which is something that should never be jeopardized. Overall, Habitat for Humanity caused me to reflect on what my home means to me and ponder the fact that everyone should have the same opportunity as me and some of my peers.”**

*~ MADISON HARVEY*



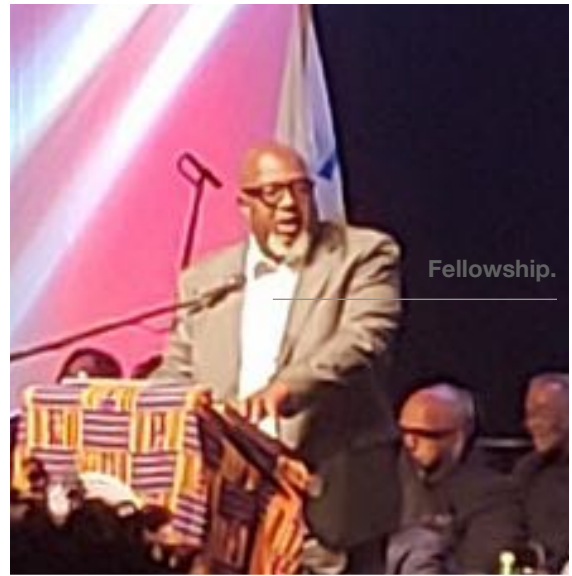
Children in the nursery received new clothes

Visits to South Africa are always so meaningful and this is one of the reasons I always want to go back.

“Having visited shanty towns on several occasions, to help build the house with Habitat for Humanity made it clear to me that the family who would inhabit the house would benefit. At the shanty, the family typically would have no toilet, bathtub/shower, electricity, heating/air conditioning or the privacy that comes with a home. To know that the family would have each of these things made me feel grateful. And although we just worked on one house, we could see the others that had either been completed or were being worked on and the entire community of new homes was apparent. Then to drive to the shanty town where the people would leave to move into the new community was a true blessing. It left me with a happy feeling to know that a family would be moving up. The people of Soweto are so wonderful and treat us with the upmost love and respect. They are extremely friendly, always ready to interact, quick to participate and are willing to share their ideas, thoughts, and feelings. If they treat people differently because of their financial background or class distinction, it is not apparent. The feelings that they show to one another and to us as visitors seems the same- warm, kind and loving.”

~ SHAUNA GILLESPIE-FORD





**Progressive National Baptist Convention**

Following our sojourn to South Africa in 2019, the Progressive National Baptist Convention invited Global Ministries to attend the Convention and to present on our bilateral approach to mission in South Africa. The 1500 or so persons attending the forum viewed a video filmed by Michael Sneed, Jr. and featuring our youth missionaries from Mission Trip 2016. Harrison Harvey gave an impassioned talk on the impact of Global Ministries' work and his personal growth after experiencing a sojourn to the Motherland. The PNBC is interested in adopting Global Ministries' bilateral mission approach and to join the team on a sojourn to South Africa.



Fellowship

