



REPAIRING A RUINED CITY

BY JIM HAID, PROJECT COORDINATOR AT ISAIAH 61 PROJECT

“They shall rebuild the old ruins, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the ruined cities, the desolations of many generations.” —Isaiah 61:4



As an extension of Isaiah 61 Project’s job training program, abandoned homes are being rehabilitated by the students and turned into good low/moderate income housing. (Jim Haid, Project Coordinator is on the right.)

Niagara Falls, that majestic waterfall known worldwide for its mighty waters and natural beauty...a true wonder of the world created by none other than our God who defines beauty and majesty. And yet these words are not the same words used to describe the City of Niagara Falls, New York. One only needs to walk a few blocks from the falls or drive the city streets to know that this is a city that has seen better days. Statistics tell the story:

- The city has the highest rate of unemployment in New York State
- It heads New York State in population loss over the past five decades (approximately 110,000 in 1960; 50,000 in 2010)
- More than one-fifth of its housing stock is vacant
- About 60% of its residents receive some sort of public assistance

The Isaiah 61 Project is designed to combat some of these struggles. The Project’s primary focus is on providing job training in living wage fields, particularly in the construction trades. This is being done through collaborative efforts with such entities as Orleans/Niagara BOCES, the City of Niagara Falls, churches, businesses, foundations, contractors, and human services providers. As an extension of the job training program, abandoned homes are being rehabilitated by the students and turned into good low/moderate income housing.

Through the efforts of the Project, blight is being eliminated. Homes and neighborhoods are being restored. These are very tangible, positive outcomes, but the Project is much more than that. It is also about those who reside in the community, in particular the thousands

of unemployed, under-employed and low income workers. One such individual is Jason Seaberry, who joined the program this past winter and just recently graduated after completing the free 400-hour program.

Jason, a father of three, was not ready for college when he graduated from LaSalle High School roughly twenty years ago. Instead he took a long string of minimum wage jobs. When he heard about the Isaiah 61 Project, he immediately enrolled in its first class because, “I wanted something better.” After high school, Jason admitted he hung with the wrong crowd and lost out on opportunities he could have had. He knows now that God looked after him, because some in his crowd ended up in jail and/or prison. He is grateful that he did not end up in either or both places. If it were not for the program, he would

have continued to find himself in places that he should not be.

In his words, “The program gave me the opportunity to look at myself and my situation. God has redirected my path. I thank God that He has kept me off the wrong path and got me on the right path.” Jason feels that he now has been placed in a position to have a “real career,” one that will provide for him and his family. Recently Jason acquired his apprenticeship papers for plumbing and has signed up for the apprenticeship class in electrical, through one of the local unions. “Being in this program is one of the best things you can do,” he reports.

Although the Isaiah 61 Project is relatively new (less than one year), we are encouraged by the number of partners who have joined with us through prayer, financial support, in-kind donations, and offers of volunteer time and services. But most of all we are encouraged by those whom God has directed to enroll in the program to create a better life for themselves and their families... financially, emotionally and spiritually.

The Project now has its sights fixed on recruiting more students, rehabilitating more homes and providing greater exposure to the gospel. We are reclaiming the City of Niagara Falls one home, one family, and one person at a time.

The Isaiah 61 Project is incredibly grateful to The Chapel family for their generous, ongoing support of the Project, in particular through this year’s Easter offering. You have been with us from the beginning, and we look forward to continuing the journey together with you. It is only through the prayers and financial support of others that the Project will have the wherewithal to reclaim this city, where one day we will witness our risen Lord walking in His garden, known as Niagara Falls, once again.

For more information on the Project, visit our website at: isaiah61niagarafalls.org.

The Mission of Kingdom Come is specifically focused on helping to ensure that every man, woman and child has repeated opportunities to hear, see and respond to the gospel of Jesus Christ locally, regionally, nationally and globally where The Chapel has influence.

– NEWS BRIEF –
HAITI TEAM FIELD UPDATE
APRIL 28, 2013



BY LEROY WIGGINS,
MEN'S AND SMALL GROUPS
PASTOR AT THE CHAPEL

Editor's note: The Chapel's Iron Men ministry was serving in Haiti at the time of this report. The ministry team traveled to Haiti April 24, through May 1.

This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it! (Psalm 118:24)

It is a beautiful day here as we gather at the Mission of Hope main campus for Sunday service at The Church of Hope. We are all very excited to worship our Savior with our brothers and sisters in Christ. We all have varying expectations on what service will be like, yet I am certain that for each of us God will speak to our hearts in His love language to each of us.

I must say that for many people here their faith is so simple and sincere. For example when my Haitian buddy, Fabie, was asked where he lives he said, “In a tent.” When asked how he felt about that he said, “God is good. If He wanted me to be in a house, He would have supplied it to me.”

Well we just returned from a wonderful service—very crowded and very passionate worship! You could get a glimpse of a familiar song and sense oneness. Then an unfamiliar song would be sung, you could just close your eyes and enjoy the praise rising up. Heaven is going to be one awesome place!

God is working on quite a few of the folks and not a team-time goes by without high emotion. Praise God the emotion is followed by spirited worship. I'm certain that lives are being changed and He will get the glory.

As our host stated, “Haiti is your mission trip but Buffalo is your mission field.”

Watch out Buffalo...we'll be back SOON!

– LOCAL CONNECTION –

Interested in getting involved with one of our local ministry partners? Here are some places for you to start serving!

DESTINATION LIFE FELLOWSHIP

22nd Street & Linwood Ave
Niagara Falls, NY 14305
716.297.7799

LOCKPORT CARENET

229 East Avenue
Lockport, NY 14094
716.434.1771
lockportcarenet.com

SAVING GRACE MINISTRIES

PO Box 1013
Williamsville, NY 14231
716.893.1840
sgmworld.org

XCEL LEADERSHIP CENTER

567 Hertel Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14207
716.819.4100 x295
xcelleadershipcenter.com

Are you a professional photographer or writer? XCEL's Kids with Cameras is looking for volunteers to help train tween/teens in photojournalism. For details contact Toni at XCEL.

KINGDOM COME

Kingdom Come is looking for individuals interested in helping with articles and proofreading for the *KC Chronicles* and *On Mission* magazine. Contact Amy at atartick@thechapel.com if you would like to help!

For a complete list of ministry partners, visit thechapel.com/kingdomcome.

– UPCOMING EVENTS –

MAY 12, 2013

MISSION OF HOPE HAITI CHILD SPONSORSHIP SUNDAY

More than 50% of Haiti's children do not attend school. How can we offer these precious boys and girls a Christ-centered education and hope for the future? Join us at The Chapel on Sunday morning, May 12, to learn how you can respond to this need.

JUNE 14, 2013

THE MARRIED LIFE CAFE

“Get Framed! God's plan to protect and prosper your marriage” is the theme of a special evening featuring conversation, exciting giveaways and practical tools for an amazing marriage. Couples only—no childcare provided. For details and tickets visit thechapel.com/marriageevent.