



Atlanta Church of Christ <sup>in</sup> Gwinnett

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*The birds of the air come and perch in its branches.*

*- Matthew 13:32*

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# Bonjour from Haiti!

Alan and Sherry Rouse traveled to Haiti in February to teach and encourage the disciples there, to see for themselves what it's like for our faithful brothers and sisters there, and to help the Cadets in their leadership of the congregations in that financially challenged but beautiful Caribbean island. They stayed with the Cadets from February 19<sup>th</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup>, and shared pictures and information with us to give us a taste of their warm and exciting journey. Here are a few glimpses of where they were and what they experienced—



Leslie and Danie Cadet opened their home to the Rouses for the length of their stay...



...and took them sightseeing. Their first stop was the Haitian history museum, MUPANAH, including a tasty lunch.



The Cadets drive a sturdy vehicle so they can negotiate the crowded streets in Port au Prince, the rougher roads in the countryside, and all the interesting traffic patterns. And here is one of the colorful vehicles called tap-taps that will pick up anyone willing to hop in and ride in the back.



Their route included buying ice as part of grocery shopping Haitian style (in grocery stores, and on the streets).



The pink building on the left is a business owned by a disciple. The Cadets and Rouses made their next stop at an area where artisans make and sell their hand-crafted artwork.



First they visited a gift shop, then watched a collection of artisans making decorative things out of metal. The craftsmen started with metal barrels, unrolled them into sheets, and then hammered the pieces out using a template.



Their next stop was Hope Village, which houses families who lost their homes in the 2010 earthquake.



People lived in tents at the church site in Port au Prince during the year that it took to build the village. The village has been there long enough now that some of the houses are having much-needed repairs.



Above, you can see mangos growing, and here you see some of the chickens that roam all over the place. Hope Village has recently taken in orphans—mostly boys—who have aged out of orphanages, to teach them trades before they go out in the world—you can see some of them playing soccer in the photo on the right.



At the Hope Village, the director who showed them around is Margarete, a disciple who was in South Florida when the Rouses and Anglins lived there—Kingdom life often surprises us with familiar faces in new places! Here you can also see Wolfgin, a brother living there, and the village’s church building where they held midweek service.



On Friday, Alan taught a leaders’ workshop in the main meeting space for Les Eglises Internationales de Christ at Canape Vert. He taught several sessions during Friday and Saturday, including lessons on the Book of Revelation. Sherry says, “The hunger for spiritual things in the church is so amazing and refreshing!”



The Rouses spent the last night of their Haitian visit at L'Observatoire, which offered delicious food and amazing views of the island as the sun set.



Our sister Millie Morales' sister and brother-in-law, who live in Haiti, joined the Cadets and Rouses there (and very thoughtfully treated them to the dinner!).



Their last stop was a visit to the school where Danie teaches English, then it was back to the airport and home to Atlanta. They returned with memories that will last a lifetime, and stronger relationships with people they will spend eternity with in heaven!

Some of our Special Contribution funds go to fund these Haitian congregations, so please keep these brothers and sisters in mind as you give this year!

There are many churches in our fellowship around the world that will welcome not just elder couples like the Rouses, but any and all disciples who can come for a few days to teach, give and serve.

We have received so much good teaching that has built our faith, strengthened our marriages and families, and laid a powerful biblical foundation for every aspect of our lives—we can pass that on, as reliable people (2 Timothy 2:2), and build up our brothers and sisters who haven't had the same opportunities we've had. Please consider this suggestion for your next vacation!

With many thanks to the Rouses for sharing information and pictures!



# A harmonious happy birthday!

In honor of Thomas Hood's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday, his wife Jenifer invited an ensemble of some of their music-making and music-appreciating friends to their house to help him celebrate in his favorite key! We captured some of the moments and share them here (and if you want to enjoy some short video segments, just ask Nancy Berry)—



# Music from the Heart

Our Sunday service on March 25<sup>th</sup> brought us an unusual and wonderful addition to the musical part of our worship. Several of our talented middle schoolers combined their vocal and instrumental gifts onstage in the contemporary Christian song *Oceans*, while parents Astrid Ritter and Tanja Howard provided sign language translation. Carol McCurdy, Paul Woung, Paul Stovall, Melvin Jordan and Tommy Underwood provided leadership and support as well. Thanks to all who gave their time, energy and ability to enhance our praise to God!



We welcome news and pictures on interesting personal stories, family group activities, and more. Please send them to Nancy Berry, [nberry2@gmail.com](mailto:nberry2@gmail.com). Thank you!

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