

St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands

September 15-21, 2001

Saturday 15, only four days after the attack on America, our trip to St. Croix was questionable. I contacted the airline and was told everything was still a go. By faith in God and assurance from US Airways, Free Will Baptists from Missouri, Oklahoma, Illinois, Ohio, and Tennessee met at the Nashville airport at 4:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 15, and were soon on their way.

Team members included: Larry & Wanda Powell, planter of FWB Church/School in St. Croix from Nashville, TN; Bro. Brian Phillips, pastor of Wyandotte FWB Church in Mansfield, OH; Bro. Stan Konopinski, pastor of Trinity FWB Church in Oklahoma City, OK; Bro. Danny Phillips, pastor of Airport FWB Church in Tulsa, OK; Danielle Jones, Rachel Mackie, Ryan Akers, and Connie Ridgell, teenagers from Cookeville FWB Church in Cookeville, TN; Rosa Moser, Seva Lenz, and Lillian Moore, from the state of Missouri; Ernie & Christina Taylor, from Cisne, IL; Roger Duncan, laymen from Kansas, OK; Carol Jennings, FWBBC student from Hampton, VA; Ken & Sandra Akers, from Cookeville, TN.



Our mission team stayed busy. Each morning we held revival services at both the elementary school and the high school. It was a blessing to see these young people singing and being taught in a Christian school. Each evening we held revival services at the church. Throughout the week there were at least fourteen decisions to receive Christ. We also went into one neighborhood and distributed information about the church and invited people to the revival.

The people of the Free Will Baptist Church and School are wonderful. We went to try to be a blessing, but we were the ones who came away blessed. There were too many to mention them all but, I especially want to thank Bro. Ken and Sis. Paula Dodson. They could not have been better hosts. The people of the church who opened their homes to us treated us like honored guests. We were fed with meals fit for a king. We enjoyed beans and rice along with Roti and other dishes native to the island.

It was wonderful to see God at work on the island of St. Croix. His love was shown through His people. This trip was an eye-opening experience for many of our team members. Our prayer is that God will remind us daily of the impact this trip has made in each of our lives.



In Revelation 2:4, it states, "and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes." These past few weeks, I have seen a lot of tears. On September 11, as the nation wept, so did I.

Less than a week later as the Operation Saturation team went to St. Croix, I saw tears again. This time these tears were tears of joy, Tears of joy as we fellowship with the workers of the church. Tears of repentance as people prayed for Jesus to come into their hearts. Tears of worship as our hearts were touched with the music from special and the choir. Tears of gladness as the Word of God was preached by so many wonderful servants of God.

Yes, my trip to St. Croix will be remembered by my tears. Gratitude welled up in me as I saw the hard work of people back in the States who gave of their time, treasure and talent to help the church in St. Croix become an island of salvation for any.

God wipes tears away in Heaven. We here on earth worked as a group that used our hands and the message of God's love to wipe the tears of sin from people's hearts in St. Croix. It is a trip that will long be remembered with tears of joy and gratitude for having witnessed God at work.

Thanks for a wonderful time in the Lord.

In Prayer,
Daniel Phillips

We have come full circle back to our homes---grateful for the opportunity to visit the Free Will Baptist School/Church in St. Croix during an American troublesome time frame, grateful for the fellowship/love experienced; grateful for the souls who gave their hearts to the Lord, for the souls who renewed their relationship with the Lord, and grateful for the opportunity to distribute door-to-door literature. Please help us pray for a continued growing relationship with God for the brothers/sisters, and fruit from the printed pamphlets left at neighboring houses of the church.

-Lillian Moore

The trip was the best I have ever been on! The people were so nice to us all. I saw the need, and will be helping from now on. If only more people saw so great a need, I'm sure there would be more help.

Thank you for allowing me to be a part of it.

Seva Lenz