

Report: St. Vincent

At 2:00am, today (Feb. 19), we arrived home from our St. Vincent mission trip, exhausted, but rejoicing at the great things God did. From being able to attend and participate in our dear Pastor's funeral prior to our departure for St. Vincent, to a safe return home, we saw God very dramatically at work over the last eleven days. Three words instantly come to mind as I reflect over the last week and a half.

First, we saw God's dramatic **PROVISION**. Though we did not think we'd be home for our pastor's funeral, the Lord provided seats on a later flight, allowing us to be in Hickory for a fitting and powerful tribute to our beloved pastor and friend. Once in St. Vincent, we saw God grant us a beautiful place to stay for the week (the hotel that served as the set for portions of all three "Pirates of the Caribbean" movies). The Lord provided numerous opportunities to share the gospel with many of the island's 103,000 inhabitants. Alan and Beverly Berry were gracious hosts, not only to our HOPE team, but also to thirteen medical team members

from Faith Baptist Church in Tom's River, NJ. Dr. Larry Gaetano, a HOPE board member and dear friend, led the medical team, which was made up of Pastor Joel Speicker and his wife Sandy, along with ten of their teens. Lane Holbrook, a young physician from West Virginia and Bruce



Berryhill, a pharmacist from South Carolina, made

up the rest of the medical team. An incredible spirit of unity and cooperation permeated all that was done. Our team testimony time on the concluding night of the crusade bore witness to the awesome things God did, not only among the people of St. Vincent, but also in each of our lives as guests. Words cannot describe how thrilled I was, as a dad, to see my children (Nathan and Hannah) working in the medical clinic each morning, but also



leading children to Christ each evening at the crusade.

Second, we saw God's direct **PROTECTION**. The day the tent was erected, the island experienced fifty mile per hour winds. With the help of our awesome God and the hard work of Bill Saunders, Lane Holbrook and several of Brother Berry's young men, the tent survived the onslaught. Because the tent was located right in the heart of Barroullie (a community of 6000-8000 people), we were very visible and vulnerable. One evening, a drunk man came in the side of the tent while I was preaching and headed right for me. The Lord allowed me to direct him toward a seat without any break in the message. Toward the end of the message, just prior to the invitation, he once again started toward the front. Again, he was stopped by several men and the message was unhindered. In a community steeped in spirit-ism and much demonic activity, the Lord garrisoned us about and defended us from any harm.



Third, we saw God's Divine **POWER**. Though we have had distractions at other tent crusades, never have I sensed such Satanic opposition. On Sunday evening, the hindrances took the form of high winds, loud talking around the Barroulie square, and disruptive children. In spite of the hindering efforts of our enemy, souls were saved. After much prayer and implementing some minor changes, those distractions were all but non-existent the rest of the week. On Monday and Wednesday evenings, a large number of those in attendance responded to the invitation. Each evening saw numerous decisions being made for Christ in spite of periodic seasons of rain at service time. It was



obvious that the winds died down right about service time (Monday-Friday) and the people listened with riveted attention. Other churches on the island participated most nights and each of those churches had at least one with their group trust Christ. The Lord opened the people's hearts to the gospel and to us. It was difficult to leave at week's end. We've now made eternal friendships with many of the island residents. On Friday, we were privileged to enjoy a wonderful meal, courtesy of a former member of the St Vincent Parliament. The luncheon was held at the



Parliamentary Hall of Fame in Kingstown, St. Vincent. The Parliament member's kindness was reflective of the graciousness of the wonderful people.



On the last Sunday of our visit, I was able to preach twice. On Sunday evening, along with several others, a young man was saved, who was the winner of St. Vincent's version of our "American Idol." All in all, we saw almost 50 trust Christ as Savior and five surrender their lives to full-time Christian service.

Though I'll never forget swimming and snorkeling in the crystal clear, sapphire blue water, the greatest memory I have of our visit there, is the joyful smile and bright eyes of those who trusted Christ as Savior. If you've never visited a foreign field, I strongly urge you to take at least one such trip each year. As with us and those who were saved, the experience will be life-changing.



Thanks to all who prayed so earnestly for this trip. The Lord graciously and directly answered your prayers. Please look for the exciting slide show of our trip that will be posted on www.hopeministriesonline.com soon, and keep us much in your prayers.

Your friend and co-laborer in the gospel,

Daue Kistler