

APW/MWF SPECIAL PROJECT 2010-2011

BUILDING HOLISTICALLY FOR THE FUTURE

It is our prayer that you will find the supplied special project material helpful in understanding both the plight of people in our own country, who are struggling to become home owners, and the vast number of people in Haiti who are experiencing ongoing poverty, recently brought to our attention by the devastating earthquake in January 2010.

While immediate aid to Haiti has been of huge value, the need to alleviate extreme poverty and build community in this tiny Caribbean nation is a long term task and complete rehabilitation will take many years. We hear that some adults are a little better off since the earthquake because they are now able to access food, which they were struggling to afford previously, from relief agencies. But there are also heart breaking stories of families where children have been rejected because the parents can't provide for them resulting in orphanages bursting at the seams.

Our aim in presenting this project is more than helping with the rebuilding after the earthquake, it is to fund aid to break the poverty cycle and set people up for long term quality life in Haiti, and in New Zealand.

Habitat for Humanity aims to help people who are prepared to work hard to help themselves. Low cost properties in suitable areas are purchased and volunteers work to upgrade the properties and build basic homes. Intending home owners also work with other volunteers, and in time they are able to rent, then own, their houses at affordable repayments. There is a principle called **sweat equity**, ie unpaid work hours, that is a requirement for Habitat homeownership - it reduces monetary cost. As new owners pay off their homes without the millstone of exorbitant interest, the money is released for more housing. Habitat for Humanity may be seen as a "hand up" rather than a "hand out". It has been described as a "crazy idea that works the improbable movement that's changing the world". It provides a vibrant testimony to the power of love in action.

70 per cent of the money raised will go to Habitat for Humanity in New Zealand

and

30 per cent will go to Haiti through CWS and Act Alliance

Our thanks go to David Lawson of Habitat for Humanity and to Liz Martin of CWS, for drawing together the information for us.

For more information and speakers, contact your local Habitat for Humanity branch, CWS national office in Christchurch or their field workers Jacqui Ryan (Upper North Island) and Andrew Johnston (Lower North Island).

Recommended reading:

"A Simple, Decent Place to Live" by Millard Fuller. Word publication © 1995.

We hope that you find this material informative and enjoy working with it.

Please send your financial contribution to the project to your national MWF or APW treasurer by 31 August 2011.

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