



## Winter 2018

Olive Cove officially launched in September 2016. Mike and Alexis Swittel founded Olive Cove with the primary mission dedicated to create sustainable communities in Haiti through humanitarian assistance, education, and training while instilling the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Key program activities include mission outreach; benevolence ministries; community infrastructure development via construction projects; educational assistance; humanitarian assistance such as food, clothing, toys, and shelter via orphanages; medical supplies and care; pastoral and theological studies; and training in skilled trades such as nursing, agriculture, and masonry.

## Mission Trip - July 2017

Olive Cove conducted a short-term mission trip in July 2017, where team members participated in the youth summer camp at the University by leading seminars in life skills and skilled trades while assisting in other daily activities. Other team members taught at the EBAC School or provided VBS at the orphanage.



Above: Mia helps out in the school

Below: Repairs to a Faith University room

A construction team also helped repair, update, and paint the interior of a multi-purpose room at Faith Christian University, as well as, rebuild a small roof and facade in Morne Rouge.



Wedding in Robinet - One of the couples reflects the joy of the occasion

The team took part in several long-distance excursions, including an arduous hike up a mountain to the remote village of Port Francais visiting a local EBAC church. They also had the opportunity to participate in a very successful mass wedding event in Robinet with 13 couples.

## Mission Trip-Christmas



Olive Cove feels blessed for consistently attracting new missionaries to the ministry. The December 2017/January 2018 mission team was no different. During the trip they acquired and delivered several cases of much-needed Creole Bibles and hymnals to members of a thriving church in Robinet.



Believers at Robinet praise the Lord for Bibles and hymnals that they received from the Olive Cove mission team.

The team was also able to deliver clothing and toys to people in Tour d'Argent. Team members were overjoyed by the tearful welcome of the local community, even though numerous vehicle breakdowns and several flat tires hindered their expedition.



## Faith University Property

Meanwhile, Olive Cove began construction of a perimeter wall around the Faith Christian University property. One area of study at the University impacted by the wall is agriculture and animal husbandry. Its development will help prevent thieves from stealing livestock and garden crops.







Alexis surveys flood damage to new perimeter wall

Although several sections of the wall were destroyed by Hurricane Irma and subsequent flooding, they have since been repaired. Olive Cove continues to seek funds to complete the remainder of the wall.



In another area of the University grounds, Campbell has begun to cultivate a section of property for agricultural purposes. He and his cousin Julien planted various “test” crops, and recently began to sell varieties of plantains, bananas, and sweet potatoes.



The University garden - Summer 2017



Julien in front of the garden on Faith University land

## February 2018

In February, missionaries from around the country gathered at EBAC to assess and explore construction techniques, materials, and labor required for future building projects. Consideration was given to possible locations for large team housing at Faith Christian University, and family housing for long-term missionaries at the EBAC compound.



During the trip, the need to address pressing needs on the grounds of the EBAC headquarters became apparent. Based on those findings, a renewed commitment toward the longevity of EBAC has been instituted by Olive Cove beginning with improvements in both staffing and infrastructure.



*Left:* Bill Burr, Pastor Cebien, Alexis Swittel, and Campbell Alexis discuss building methods and materials at EBAC headquarters in Cap Haitian, Haiti. *Right:* Mark Bodycombe examines local construction practices with the pastor of Camp Louise church.

## Mission Trips - July 2018

This summer, Olive Cove brought three teams to Haiti, from July 12 to July 31. During that time the teams had two primary goals: assisting and conducting a summer camp, and repurposing the floor above Alice and Kathy's house as a guest house for small groups.

Prior to the trip they were able to raise funds via various fundraisers (car wash, box lunch sponsor, adopt-a-box sponsorship, etc.), which helped contribute to the cost of summer camp supplies, food, and gasoline.

Each day during the camp, 75 to 150 youth consistently participated over the three-week period. During that time 28 youth accepted



Ms. Marlene teaching the art of hair braiding



Jesus Christ as their Lord & Savior! Visiting team members also instructed the local Haitian youth in areas such as cosmetology, hair braiding, extensions, and facials allowing them to get jobs immediately at local salons or generate independent income.



In another location, Matt McNally taught how to construct a solar oven using common reflective material in order to provide an alternative to cooking with charcoal. The team showed how to cook rice, cookies, and granola bars in the ovens in order to demonstrate their effectiveness. The team members also showed how 'brick' ovens using cinder block debris (or rocks) could be used for baking. Ultimately, the participants were able to leave each day with their own 'solar oven' following the demonstrations.



Matt teaches young people how to construct a solar oven.

Other job training classes included construction techniques in plumbing, electrical wiring, basic masonry, and assembling re-bar supports. During the camp some of the girls helped out Ms. Alice and Kathy in the EBAC School tutoring and testing the kids.



Mr. Massebeau (back) oversees the demolition process in prep for a new missionary home.

Lead by Mike Massebeau, Olive Cove also immediately began work this summer on the repurposing of a second story room at the EBAC location to be converted into a small-team missionary home. After it was cleaned out and prepped, the initial demolition and construction ensued.

Earlier in the summer some materials were shipped via container to help with the building process and workflow. Items not previously shipped were purchased locally by Olive Cove as well as custom designed and crafted by local Haitian companies. The team plans on incorporating 3-bedrooms, with kitchen, dining room, patio, and two bathrooms. As of now some plumbing has been laid; floor raised, walls and structures framed; windows, screens, and exterior safety bars have also been installed. A mix of team volunteers, skilled Haitian tradesmen, and summer camp students shared in the construction duties.

workers, etc.) and plans to continue to pour back into the local economy to complete this project. Until now, their fundraising and other contributions have been able to cover all of this.

Additional funding, however, is still needed for roofing, doors, electrical (box, wires, fixtures), some masonry, sheet rock, and tiles for the bathrooms and other areas. Once completed, this guest space will be a wonderful place to house small visiting teams to help with future projects.

Olive Cove was excited to be able to involve local Haitian labor during every aspect of the project (masonry, plumbing, windows, steel



The summer trip completed with an outreach to a remote village in Camp Noel. Missionaries brought shirts, shorts, and new flip-flops bundled together for 150 boys & girls.

The Olive Cove team carries bundles of clothes to the remote village of Camp Noel (right)



We ask for your prayers as we go forward. We need the Lord's wisdom and discernment – and the funds necessary to continue with the work He has showed us so far. The vision now before Olive Cove is truly a God-sized vision. We are well aware of the challenges, and at the same time we are excited to see how God will work to bring it about.

We want to thank everyone who has given their time and resources to support the mission of Olive Cove. We pray that God will bless you in your continued support.

In Christ,

Mike & Alexis Swittel

*Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." Matthew 9: 37-38*

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As always, there is so much more to the story than we can fit in a newsletter. Please visit Olive Cove online at these locations for new and exciting things happening in Haiti.

[www.olivecove.org](http://www.olivecove.org)   [www.facebook.com/olivecoveinc](https://www.facebook.com/olivecoveinc)   [www.linkedin.com/in/olivecoveinc](https://www.linkedin.com/in/olivecoveinc)