

## **Carlisle UMC VIM Florida Trip April 21- 29, 2018 – Team Journal**

Team Members: John Emig, Cherry France, Cheryl Hale, Dave Hatch, Heather Weiser, Frank Williams, Roger Woods

### April 21, 2018

We left CUMC at 7:26 am on a “3 hour tour” and 11 hours later ended up in Florence, South Carolina! Despite my sleep deprivation from yesterday’s working late and packing, it was an enjoyable travel day.

Roger’s excellent itinerary kept us on track with rotating drivers/navigators and 4 stages of printed directions. The breaks approximately every 2 hours kept everybody fresh.

I’m thankful for the beautiful spring scenery along the way, the fellowship, and safe travel.

Thank you God, and may you bring peace to the world. Amen ---Dave

### April 22, 2018

Today we began working on the roof of the name of a lovely lady Annette, or Net as she prefers to be called. Net is a feisty grandmother who evangelizes wherever God calls her to go, often in the middle of the night. Her home is plastered with various Bible verses on note cards and small pieces of paper. When Net is out evangelizing she brings along “mini bibles” that she passes out. Net has even self-published a book about her life and faith.

Roofing work included tearing off “drip edge”, repairing parts of the roof and fascia, and putting down underlayment. Everyone was involved. Nobody fell off the roof or a ladder. Our construction manager from FL VIM is Dale, who taught us a method of grasping each other’s hands to support one another, and to be supported in turn. --- Cheryl

### April 22, 2018

-Today was our second day of travel. I set my alarm for 5:30 AM hoping to get a run in before our hard work might keep me from it the rest of the week. I woke at 4 went to the bathroom and couldn’t go back to sleep. I stayed in bed not wanting to disturb my roomie, Dave. Up and out the door by 5:30 but my routine of drinking water with a banana or apple was disrupted because the hotel breakfast didn’t start until 7:00. So it was just water today. When I got on the treadmill for my half mile pre run walk, I was sure there was something wrong with it. When I began to run it seemed my normal pace as too slow so I sped up! THE AC was not on in the room so I got warm quickly. Though I was skeptical about the machine’s calibration I kept checking speed/distance and the progress of the playlist and

confirmed with the Apple watch. I ran further and at a faster pace the entire run. It was the best I've done since working to a 5K. Moral of the story....sometimes you have to get kicked out of your routine (aka the rut) or comfort zone to start making progress on your goals. The week to come is about just that! The drive kicked off with Heather sharing the wonderful news about Pastor Mira's adoption which was a great emotional kick in the pants to start our day. ---Roger

#### April 23, 2018

-Today we finally got to work. We arrived at the work site around 9 AM and met the homeowner Annette. She is a Christian black lady who obviously loves the Lord. She insisted on giving us all a hug shortly after we arrived. She lives by herself but most of her six children live close by. You never met a more devoted Christian.

-The site manager arrived a bit later, Dale, from the FL UM conference and explained our job. Annette's roof had been damaged during the hurricane. There were tarps over a large portion of it to keep the rain out. Our job was to install a new metal roof. Today we did prep work, replacing rotten boards and putting down "gator skin" over the existing roof.

-Despite a high probability of rain, we only had a few sprinkles and got a lot done. God was looking after us.

-As on previous mission trips everyone pitched in. Everyone was willing, some were even anxious to try something they had never done before.

-At the end of the day, Dale led us in prayer, and Annette was giving hugs and blessings to all.

-Overall, as very good full day. Thanks to God. -Frank

#### April 24, 2018

-The rain clouds that hung over us on Monday dissipated and we were gifted with an ideal day to continue our work on Annette's roof. Sunscreen and lots of water were critical today to cope with the hours spent in the sun. The crew on the roof continued to work on covering the existing shingles with the vapor barrier (Gatorskin). Everyone who worked on the roof was glad that the roof was covered by the end of the work day. The "ground" crew worked on a number of damaged areas and the rotten wood in the overhang. By the end of the day these areas were repaired and the new fascia on the front of the house looked great.

-We had a great send off at the end of the day. Annette joined us and expressed such gratitude for the work that had been done. She said the closing prayer, which was done in her unique joyful spirit filled style. -Cherry

April 24, 2018

The weather was great today and several of us spent the whole day on the roof. God has been good to us with the weather as the last two days were supposed to rain us out. But we were able to get in two good days. Miss Annette is a sweet spirit-filled servant of God. She's had an interesting life and has some great stories to share. We were surprised to learn that this house was actually damaged by Matthew in 2016. Everyone was busy contributing to the work that needed to be done and we made a lot of progress. The trip is about 30 miles one way so we get to continue to get to know each other as we traveled both ways each day. It's been great rooming with Dave this week and getting to know him better. After dinner we drove up to the beach but it was already dusk so we didn't get much time to spend there but we hope to get back earlier Thursday or Friday. It's just a great bunch of folks on the trip with all a great heart for doing God's work. --- Roger

April 25, 2018

-Midweek!! So far so good---1/3 of the roof completed! No injuries, all fingers and toes accounted for. And the 3-4-5 method has finally been put to use—success!

-I've been learning a lot this week about roofing, old geometry lessons (sheesh!) how to adequately apply sunscreen and some new things about myself. It's interesting how God puts us in places and situations to show us how much more we can grow. In my opinion, we got so complacent in our daily routines that we forget to stretch ourselves. We forget about the world outside and personal issues, stresses and priorities. God opens my eyes to deeper reality of my place on this earth He's blessed us with while on these trips. I thank God for nudging me to go and serve on His behalf. It makes me feel just a little bit more complete and a lot more alive!—Heather

April 25, 2018

- I'm thankful to not be driving/riding in the van and instead be working on roofing project!
- I'm thankful that someone else is running this job so I don't have to.
- Everybody is working so well together!
- This all of God's work! ---John

April 26, 2018

-The roof is really starting to come together! Section after section of metal sheets fastened with nut screws and in shiny grey metallic color. It's beautiful! We were able to continue our roofing work today without the VIM site manager, Dale, who will return tomorrow for finishing the project.

-The homeowner, Annette, is so thankful and appreciative. She even gave each of us a stylus pen today as she may be too emotional tomorrow when we leave. She seems to be enjoying us being around.

-Annette is also very spiritual and gave a long send-off prayer the other day of which parts gave me goose bumps! AMEN SISTER! – Dave

April 26, 2018

-We've made great progress this week. Since Dale couldn't be with us today (meetings), we only worked a half day. We should be able to easily finish the job tomorrow (Friday).

-Annette is so appreciative of our work we're doing on her roof. Before we left today she gave us all a multi-functional stylus (pen, stylus, flashlight and laser pointer). She gave it to us today because she said she would be too emotional tomorrow once we finished her roof to say our last goodbye.

-After freshening up, in the afternoon we rode to Daytona Beach. Some of us walked on the beach with feet in the (cold) water, while others walked on the boardwalk. The sound of the ocean is so soothing and reminds us of God's wondrous creation.

-For dinner we ate at the "Breakers" a restaurant on the oceanfront in New Smyrna Beach. We had a good meal.

-We all enjoyed a relaxing day and feel ready to finish the roofing job tomorrow.---Frank

April 27, 2018

-Done! And the roof looks great! There was some uncertainty at the beginning of the day that it would all come together. Dale would check out our work from yesterday and we were not 100 percent certain we had done the job according to his specifications. It turned out fine and we moved ahead with completing the work – laying the metal panels, attaching the panels with screws and adding the gable pieces and cap. At the end of the work day, about 3 PM, we were exhausted, hot and perhaps a little dehydrated.

-Annette was so pleased and so grateful. She had seemed so tired at the beginning of the week, but today was joyful, if a little sad we were leaving. Mid morning we had treats. A man selling fruit from

the back of his truck stopped at Annette's house and Dale bought a watermelon for the group to share. We also took out our drills and posed for pictures on the roof once the job was done.

-What joy and honor it has been to serve with such a giving group of Christians. So much effort was expended to fulfill Paul's admonition to show love through patience, kindness, and civility. And there were times with living so closely together and working side by side that not being envious, rude, irritable or resentful was not easy! What a blessing to be serving God with this group!--Cherry

#### April 27, 2018

-We are now winding down our trip. We have made our final meal, are planning how to get the dishes, laundry, cleaning, etc. done so we leave this lovely "dorm" in excellent shape. As usual, everyone is pulling together.

-I was able to share with Coralie from the habitat and Dale from FL UMC that we were donating Home Depot gift cards that could be used as they saw fit. They very much appreciated it, and noted all the homes they have committed to building or repairing. They make excellent use of all the resources they have and are not wasteful in the least. Dale said the current funding for Matthew repairs runs out in December and they were just notified they have a 2 year grant for Irma. We have been invited back and we are thinking about a slightly cooler month if we will still be doing roofs!

-We are all planning our re-entry into our normal lives and routines and looking forward to seeing our loved ones! Trips like this help us to grow spiritually, in fellowship to building skills, to be a blessing to others...but of course there is no place like home.

-I have an extra blessing of spending a week with my two smallest granddaughters, Emma and Poppy, in Jacksonville before heading north.--Cheryl

#### April 29, 2018

-We are on our last day of the drive home! My focus is on the transition from our week of service back to the daily routine. I usually have a tough time with this stage....feelings of sadness, excitement to see family and friends, hope to continue this attitude of outreach and anxiety that I will go back to the superficiality of doing activities. My prayers will need to be steadfast straight away to prevent distraction.

-Overall, this team of people worked well together with our differing strengths and personalities. It's always a little bittersweet to me how teams bond together during the week and then we go our separate ways. With intention, we can stay connected as we "follow God and building community". – Heather