

HOPE for HAITI

NC Baptist Coed Missions

Meet the Missionaries: Don't make Scott and Janet Daughtry out to be heroes of the faith: they're not buying it. If they are anything more than ordinary Christians fulfilling a God-called task, Scott says, then other Christians will avoid taking on similar tasks.

The Daughtrys are on-site coordinators for North Carolina Baptist Men's disaster relief efforts in Haiti, operating from a rented house on a 66-acre missionary compound owned by Global Outreach. Since February 2010, the duo has hosted numerous teams: feeding, housing, coordinating and transporting them as they conduct medical clinic and construction projects in the area north of Port-au-Prince.



"When you're in a place a long time people start to think there's something special about us, and there's not," Scott said. "There is nothing special about us except Jesus, and He's what makes us all special."

From Selma, Scott is a retired North Carolina Parks Service ranger and area supervisor, and Janet is a retired Wake County Schools kindergarten teacher. She is also a professional basket weaver and quilter. Scott loves to hunt and fish. And he is a Shriner, walking in parades as a raccoon to raise money for hospitals. They've coordinated or been involved in disaster response efforts in Honduras, Sri Lanka and Gulfport, Miss., as well. They were working at the Puu Kahea Baptist Conference Center in Hawaii when they got the call to come to Haiti.

"When missionaries spoke at church when I was little, I was the one on the front row drinking in every word — dreaming of faraway places," Janet said while grabbing a stand-up tuna fish lunch in her kitchen. "I never thought I'd be in those faraway places." Scott, on the other hand, says Janet is the motivation half of their team. "The Lord tells Janet, and Janet tells me," he said.

They harbor no doubts about their role in Haiti. It is hard, relentless work. After they carry a departing team to the airport on Saturday, they go immediately to two or three grocery stores to find enough food for the next team, which arrives the following day. "That's the hardest part, the 24/7 schedule with never any down time to do anything different," said Janet. "Not that there is anywhere to go to do anything different."

Scott says everything in Haiti is "just hard." A trip to a new hardware store to get a refrigerator took three hours over bumpy, rutted roads, although the store was just 15 miles away. Two clerks count the roofing screws he bought one by one. Parts for the vans are not available and have to come in with the next volunteer team. Delays go on for weeks for things that could be accomplished overnight back home.



Scott says he understands why people question the mind of God concerning the devastating earthquake and the death and misery it wrought. "We won't have that answer on this side," Scott said. "Beyond 'why?' the right question is 'what?' What do we do now? And we have a whole instruction book on that."