

An Answer to Prayer and a Lesson in Discipleship

uring the last 20 years the Aiken Seventh-day Adventist Church had a dream of constructing a new church building, but the lack of funds, experience and knowledge made the project almost impossible. The church was praying for a solution and God's answer came through the ministry of Maranatha volunteers. During two weeks in October 2016, a very diverse group of volunteers came from as far away as the Island of Trinidad in the Caribbean, Canada and many other places in the United States. They paid their own travel expenses to come and be a blessing to the Aiken church. Their strong motivation, kind spirit and strong spiritual influence had a deep impact on the church members.

When you think of construction volunteers, you expect a group of young people, however the average age of the volunteers who came to Aiken was 60 years old. Measuring their motivation and hard work based on their age would be a mistake, and they will prove you wrong.

Maranatha has been building churches in the U.S. since the year 2012, and outside the country for many decades. During the project, the volunteers expressed a single rule: be flexible, be flexible and be flexible. They were willing to adapt to the many different challenges with a Christ-like spirit. If your church has a building need, I encourage you to contact the Maranatha volunteers for information.

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When we follow the leading and model of Christ, we never know how He can use us. If these volunteers thought they would only be building a church, they were wrong. The impact they had on church members and the surrounding community was also part of God's plan and part of His overall ministry. We never know how, where or for whom God will use us. It is often in the most unlikely places.

We must be willing to give generously, go generously and do generously when He calls us. IT IS ALL OF ME IN RESPONSE TO ALL OF HIM!

—Ben Rueda, Pastor of the Aiken, NC, Seventh-day Adventist Church

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