

For Immediate Release

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FWBBC Student Encounters Haiti Emergency

NASHVILLE, TN—A senior Missions major at Free Will Baptist Bible College found herself thrust into an emergency life-and-death encounter during a mission trip to Haiti in early September. Kacy Stone, a pastor's daughter from Morehead, Kentucky, traveled to the island nation with a group of volunteers to assist with Vacation Bible School at a mission station two hours from Port-au-Prince.

After a week of VBS activities with more than 700 people in classes, most of the volunteers returned to the United States. Pastor Rick Stone (Kacy's father) drove an SUV to another mission station to observe a new water filter system and visit with friends. Kacy, Caitlin Hall, and Haitians Pastor John and John Baptist accompanied him. On the drive back, they encountered rough weather with heavy rain, thunder, and lightning.

As the SUV passed a roadside stand, lightning hit the small tin structure, striking seven of the eight people under it. Pastor Stone stopped the vehicle, and the group began pulling bodies from the tangled pile to administer CPR.

"We had a hard time getting the bodies separated, because they were face-down and tangled together, lying on top of each other," Kacy said. "While Pastor John and John Baptist separated the bodies, we began CPR and mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. Three of us could perform CPR, and seven people needed attention—only one person had a pulse. I worked on three or four people. During the storm, Pastor John stood beneath the rain and lightning and raised his hands to Heaven, praying for mercy from God."

All three CPR personnel worked on a 13-year-old girl, reviving her once, but she died at the scene. After 20 minutes, the group placed four survivors (three men, one woman) in the SUV and drove to a hospital. Kacy, Caitlin Hall, and John Baptist rode in the SUV to assist. Three survivors were

conscious and thrashing about, unaware of where they were. The fourth (a man) was unconscious with shallow breathing, and a slow heartbeat. The group continued to work on him, but he died before they reached the hospital.

“We left three dead at the scene,” Kacy said, “and one lonely little girl about seven years old, the only one not hit by lightning. She watched her sister and grandmother die, and her father taken to the hospital—he also died. When we went back for the little girl, she had gone with another family member. We later found out the grandmother was a voodoo priestess.”

This marked Kacy’s third VBS trip to Haiti. She plans to return and continue the ministry outreach. The FWBBC senior learned CPR procedures at Camp Caleb in Kentucky.

When asked about advice for others who plan mission trips to Haiti or similar fields, Kacy said, “Although nothing can prepare you for an encounter like that, prepare for the unexpected. Know what you can do in emergencies and stick with what you know. Do what you can, and leave the rest to God.”

She continued, “Five people died that day, four people who may have never heard the Good News of Christ. I won’t live long enough to forget what happened or fully understand why it happened. I must remember that God is sovereign, rules with a sovereign hand, and always does what is right.”