Creating the Master Development Plan for a Remote Hillside Medical Clinic in Thoman, Haiti

Scott W. Kramer, Ph.D.
Professor
Auburn University
Auburn, Alabama

Erin Walker & Chelsey Jacobs
Senior Thesis Students
Auburn University
Auburn, Alabama

But God Ministries… (BGM) is an NGO (non-government organization) that began its mission in Haiti after the devastating earthquake in 2010 to support those in need and to help Haitians become more sustainable and self-supporting. They have built a medical-dental clinic called The Hope Center, in the community of Gallette Chambon in Ganthier, Haiti, 18 miles east of Port au Prince. BGM provides medical and dental care for the local people, as well as a church and an orphanage. They have also built 40 individual small houses in the area and moved destitute families from the Port au Prince Tent City into a place they can call home and eventually own. Although BGM has made great progress since starting in 2010, Executive Director Stan Buckley is looking to the future in building a new Hope Center in the remote hillside village of Thoman, Haiti. This research is a compilation of a 5-month project that looked at the work in Ganthier, Haiti, analyzed it, and used the best practices to create a master development plan for Thoman. It provides the programming, architectural design, and master plan for the Thoman Hope Center and ultimately gives BGM a guide for similar projects in the future. This research was conducted as part of an undergraduate thesis class in the McWhorter School of Building Science that: (1) analyzed the major challenges for the Thoman topographical site, (2) created the Hope Center architectural design layout, and (3) provided a construction plan with detailed sequencing of building components. The overall goal for the poster session is to (1) transfer our knowledge with others involved with international development/missions work and (2) propose a new construction management elective class that would give students the opportunity to study, design, and build abroad.

Key Words: Haiti, International Development, NGO, Master Plan, Medical Clinic