



By Carolyn Lee

The Imperial Republican

Dale and Elisa Large recently returned from their second mission trip to Haiti through Faith Missions International of Omaha.

The Larges, of rural Imperial, were drawn to the project through brother-in-law Stuart Pederson, who is a team leader for Faith Missions.

In January 2013 the Larges worked with a group constructing homes for teenagers who would soon leave an orphanage.

This January they helped build individual homes and a large gathering/eating pavilion for the teens in the Faith Missions compound.

Dale helped with construction while Elisa did some plumbing and prepared meals for the 26 volunteers.

Elisa said the contrast in living conditions between Haiti and the U.S. is staggering. Flying from Haiti to Florida is the difference between “bare bones to yachts and swimming pools,” she said.

She was also reminded of “How stable our government is. It’s been years since the floods and hurricanes in Haiti and the government is still basically nonexistent.”

People live on handouts. Some grown men have never held a job, Elisa noted. The tent city is still erect in Port Au Prince.

Only the people and God can change Haiti, Elisa stated. Faith Missions has housed some of the teens since they were five years old, and hopefully some day they will be the leaders in Haiti.

The trip made the Larges realize “How totally blessed we are with our government, our lifestyle and our work ethic.”

The couple may not return to Haiti again, but plans to continue to support Faith Missions. “We’d like to organize a group of senior high kids from the area to go down there,” Elisa said.

Local individuals and businesses supported the Larges’ trip. Adams Drug donated mosquito repellent bracelets, while Prior’s Fabric donated material for curtains and dresses.

Local Mennonite women sewed a suitcase of dresses. Imperial Super Foods provided food at cost and the Imperial United Methodist Church held a fundraising dinner.