



“And Jesus answered them, "Have faith in God. Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.” Luke 11:22-24

Habitat Wake is an independent affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International. You can learn more about both organizations online: www.Habitat.org and www.HabitatWake.org.



Habitat International: Faith in Action

Habitat for Humanity International is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian organization, dedicated to eliminating substandard housing and homelessness worldwide and to making adequate, affordable shelter a matter of conscience and action.



Putting faith into action Habitat's ministry is based on the conviction that to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ, we must love and care for one another. Our love must not be words only — it must show itself in action. Habitat brings diverse groups of people together to make affordable housing and better communities a reality.

The economics of Jesus When we act in response to human need, giving what we have without seeking profit, God magnifies the effects of our efforts. Together, the donated labor of construction volunteers, the support of partner organizations and the homeowners' "sweat equity" make Habitat's house building possible. By sharing resources, Habitat volunteers and supporters have made affordable housing a reality for more than 350 families in Wake County and 300,000 families worldwide.

The theology of the hammer Habitat is a partnership founded on common ground— bridging theological differences by putting love into action. Everyone can use the hammer as an instrument to manifest God's love. Habitat's late founder, Millard Fuller explained, "We may disagree on all sorts of other things, but we can agree on the idea of building homes with God's people in need, and in doing so using biblical economics."



Kevin: Living Faith

In each issue, we hope a faith leader in our community will share what it means to live out her or his faith. This time, we'd like to introduce you to Habitat Wake's Executive Director, Kevin Campbell.

Kevin served as Director of Building Industry Relations for Habitat for Humanity International where he directed the national Home Builder Blitz, a program that began here in Raleigh. He has also focused on expanding and providing support for ReStore operations in Habitat affiliates across the country.

Prior to joining the International staff, Campbell was the founding executive director of Virginia's Greater Lynchburg Habitat affiliate and, during his nine-year tenure there, brought that affiliate to national prominence based upon its innovation and high number of homes provided for families.

Kevin and his wife live in Cary. They have twin sons and a daughter.

Q: Why did you get involved with Habitat for Humanity for the first time?



Kevin with his wife, Gayle, his children Nathan, Micah, and Hannah, and his mother Betty

A: I was working in inner-city ministry with an organization in Lynchburg, Virginia and was in contact with lots of families with serious housing needs and simultaneously with many churches that wanted to do something to help. I had read about Habitat several years before in *Sojourners* magazine. We made contact with Habitat's regional office, got organized, raised some funds, and the rest is history. That was 22 years ago.

Q: How would you describe your faith?

A: Tangible, hands-on ways of serving those in need is when the Christian faith really comes alive for me. I believe that, as a Christian, I should try to model my life after the life of Jesus in my particular time and context. I fall far short, obviously, but I try to keep Jesus' example in my mind in everyday situations.

Q: How does your faith inform or affect your everyday life?

A: Jesus demonstrated a humble and grace-filled way of living. With high levels of turmoil and uncertainty in the world, following Jesus' example of loving and serving others brings hope to what could easily look very hopeless.

Q: What's your favorite scripture and why?

A: Hard to narrow this down, but I'd have to say II Cor 4:7: ***But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.***

This scripture reminds us that we are humble vessels (jars of clay) which is a good reminder, but not all that uplifting or exciting. But then there is this "all surpassing power" that surrounds us when we put our faith in God and obediently follow. That is exciting—both that there is this power and even more that the imperfections of our life are able to reflect that the power comes from God and clearly not from us.





Habitat Wake has a variety of resources that congregations can use to learn more about Habitat's mission and about poverty & social justice in our community.

Building on Faith e-news for churches: This monthly update for churches includes a seasonally appropriate message for bulletins and newsletters, a printable bulletin insert, and resources for education and for worship.

Under Construction Vacation Bible School: A VBS curriculum to teach children about community and the value of serving others. Contact Habitat Wake to set up a service project to accompany your VBS!

Just Neighbors Curriculum: This interactive poverty awareness program for adolescents and adults addresses the underlying causes of poverty to get people talking about community issues and how to be part of the solution. Contact Veronica to borrow a copy of the curriculum: 919.833.1999, x245 or veronica.bitting@habitatwake.org.

25th Anniversary Stories project: To tell the stories behind the mission, we've developed 25 photos and stories of donors, volunteers, and homeowners who make up the Habitat Wake family. You can print and display these black and white flyers to educate your congregation about Habitat Wake. Contact Kim (919.833.1999, x248 or kim.westermann@habitatwake.org) for a display.

Speakers and Presentations: Staff and volunteers are available to talk to your congregation about affordable housing and the Habitat mission. Just contact Veronica (veronica.bitting@habitatwake.org) to set up an opportunity for a Habitat Wake Sunday School class, Ministry Moment, or display table.

Sign up to receive our Building on Faith e-newsletter every month: www.HabitatWake.org

You can also request that our quarterly paper newsletter be mailed to your congregation by contacting Habitat Wake through the website or by calling 919-833-1999, x248.

For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.
1 Corinthians 3:9

Habitat Wake depends on partnerships with faith communities to make the mission happen.

Pray: Keep the work of ending poverty housing in your weekly prayers. We pray for justice and the universal opportunity to life in a safe, healthy, affordable home.

Give: Consider holding an annual fundraiser for Habitat Wake, or join our Building on Faith Monthly Giving Club. Partnership opportunities are available at many different levels and include volunteer dates for your church. Contact Veronica for more information (919.833.1999, x245 or veronica.bitting@habitatwake.org).

Advocate: Read more about the issue of affordable housing and use your voice to share your knowledge and influence decision makers in our community.



“We need a faith that not only moves mountains, but moves us.”
-Yolanda King (daughter of Martin Luther King) on a Habitat worksite in Lynchburg, VA

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Paul: Faith Moves Mountains

Paul was a preacher in Kenya. He left his home with his family to seek a better life for his children. Paul works as a Certified Nursing Assistant in Raleigh. When they arrived, the family lived in a small, cramped apartment where their son and two daughters shared a bedroom. Rent was expensive and there was never enough money. “In the back of my mind, as a family man,” said Paul, “I was looking one day to have a house. But it seemed like a farfetched dream.”

When Paul first heard about Habitat for Humanity, he thought there must be a catch. How could he afford a home? Then he learned that neighbors help to build homes with volunteer labor and donors cover the cost of building materials. “When I discovered that ‘sweat equity’ was just working,” Paul said, “to me, that was just a miracle.”



Now that the family lives in a safe, affordable home of their own, Paul says that he feels as if he is “somebody.” He is able to put some money away in savings. “That means a better future for my children. They are young children. But I know that soon they will be going to college,” he says.

“My biggest obstacle,” Paul says, “was money. A big mountain was before me, and Habitat for Humanity just pushed the mountain away.”

Paul was happy to learn Habitat is a Christian organization. “I, too, am a man of God,” he said. “I preach the gospel.” Paul is a true disciple, who sacrifices for his family and understands the meaning of community, hope, and a faith that moves mountains.