

# A Rich Heritage

**Author :** Ryan

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The first MAPS Construction team was lead by Norm Correll in 1967 to Freeport, Grand Bahama. The adventure began as a group of men flew in a private plane 90 miles off the coast of Florida to assist with the construction of a church on the Caribbean island.



Ryan Moore, Norm Correll, Lamar Headley, Ken Patrick

This trip set in motion the ministry of MAPS Construction that has involved thousands of volunteer builders on thousands of projects around the world. This facility is still in use today and represents the longevity the investments of time and money in and Assemblies of God World Missions construction project.

Here is the original story on this project from "MAPS News" circa 1989:





## MAPS: Pilot Project

### 1967-68--Church constructed on Grand Bahama Island

When the Port authority of Freeport, Grand Bahama Island, granted a 99-year property lease to Missionary Robert E. Ferguson in 1967, the island officials required that he construct a \$40,000 Assemblies of God church within a year's time.

The task seemed impossible, since Missionary Ferguson did not have \$40,000 and no Assemblies of God people were on the island to build such a church.

Constructing the new church on Grand Bahama Island, just 78 nautical miles off the coast of Florida, became the pilot project of the MAPS short-term service feature. In December 1967 a group of volunteers flew to the island to assist Missionary Ferguson and Construction Missionary Gordon Weden lay the foundation and participate in weekend ministries on the island. This met the deadline for beginning construction.

Ferguson and Weden then itinerated to raise the needed \$40,000. In June 1968 they were joined by teams of MAPS volunteers who completed the church on September 4--well ahead of the deadline set by the local authorities.

Fourteen MAPS volunteers participated in the second stage of construction, and each worked an average of 2 weeks on the project. These men--carpenters, electricians, plumbers, painters, and others--donated their time and talents to this missionary endeavor. They are thrilled with their involvement; Missionary Ferguson is grateful for the generous assistance; and Missionary Weden is seeing the fulfillment of his lifelong dream to use his building skills for God on the mission field.--Abridged from articles in the March 10 and October 27, 1968, issues of the *Pentecostal Evangel*. Used by permission.



### Douglas Blue, the first MAPS volunteer, is a missionary today

From Charlotte, North Carolina, Douglas Blue worked with Congolese Christians to build a new church in Kinshasa, Congo (later renamed Zaire) in 1968 (pictured below, left). The first 1- to 2-year MAPS volunteer, Blue returned for a second assignment in Zaire in 1971 where he supervised the construction of Tucker Memorial Church. Sensing God's call on his life and the great need in Zaire for preaching the Word, Blue returned to Zaire as a missionary with his wife Patricia. They have now completed three terms (below, right).



The first MAPS volunteers for the Grand Bahama project stand with the missionaries on the church floor they have built. **Back row** (left to right) are: Paul Wagner, Wesley Syverson, George Wirth, Missionaries Weden and Ferguson, Charles Turner, and Norman Correll. **Front row**: James Loutzenhizer, Tommy Scruggs, Ellis Townsend, and Robert Birdwell.



**LEFT:** Completed church in Freeport, Grand Bahama Island. **RIGHT:** The ground-breaking service was an important victory on Grand Bahama Island. Left to right are Construction Missionary Gordon Weden, local believers Tony Davis and Malcolm Green, and Missionary R.E. Ferguson.





**What's your favorite memory from a construction missions trip?**