



Mission-Haiti Newsletter

Love Jesus, Love Others, Make Disciples

November 2009

MOVE... THAT... BUS!

They say, "When it rains, it pours." God has been pouring out His love on the people of Haiti by using thousands of people in the United States to answer



their prayers. It started with a sincere desire from Suzanne from KNWC (96.5 FM) to gather a couple hundred pairs of shoes for us to take and give to children she had seen without shoes while she was

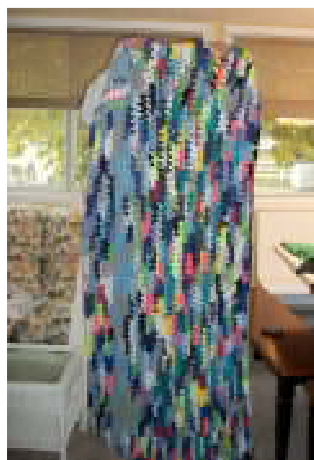
in Haiti this summer. God took her simple desire and multiplied it to the tune of almost 6,000 shoes!

While we were waist deep in shoes, Rock Valley was knee deep in t-shirts (see story on right!). At the same time, Darryl Johnson was working out all the details to bring a ministry called "Kids Against Hunger" to Sioux Falls. They make a rice casserole that you simply prepare by adding it to boiling water. It is packed with protein and vitamins. The kids in our school program love it and for many, this is their only meal of the day. Darryl's desire was to provide food for several organizations: one being "us!!" and another being our good friends from Irene who have a ministry called "Helping Hands For Haiti." Before we even had time to worry about how we are going to get the shoes, the rug material, or the food to Haiti, School Bus Inc. donated a school bus that we could use to transport all the items. Mike will load the bus (I suppose I could help), drive it to Florida, put it on a boat and ship it to Haiti. The bus will also be a huge answer to prayer as we were needing a larger vehicle to transport team members from Port-au-Prince Haiti to the village we work in called Ti-Rivier.



Some of the room on the bus will be loaded with t-shirts that have been cut up into strips of fabric. Geri Kraai, from Rock Valley, Iowa will be joining a team going to Haiti November 7th to teach Haitian ladies how to crochet the strips into rugs that can be used for their families to sleep on or sold to provide food to feed their families.

then a write up in the paper, followed by talks in churches, hospitals and the Legion. Most of the shirts came from Justice for All, thrift stores, churches and People's Bank and Trust. After gathering all the shirts, the real work started. Geri had volunteers of all ages. 5th and 6th graders with their parents did this for a service project in Bible School, women church groups, a 78 year old lady (she cut 300 shirts with a scissors), a local bank, the Faith Reformed Church youth group (40 kids cut for 2 nights), a group from Milford, the Spirit Lake Lutheran Church youth group, and even groups meeting in homes. To crochet the rugs you need an oversized wooden crochet hook. Two men from Rock Valley made 400 of the hooks from wooden dowels.



It started when Geri took 20 of her daughter's t-shirts and made a small rug. From there the news spread by word of mouth,

A GREAT INVESTMENT



Since May, we have had the privilege of having Fern Haan, a nurse of 17 years from Sioux Falls, SD, working at the orphanage. You know it is God calling you when you are willing to give up your house, your job, your health insurance, your dogs and living close to family... but Fern did all that and never looked back. She gave us a 6 month commitment which is completed November 13th. During the past 6 months, the kids have become very attached to her. (And she has become very attached to them.) She does an amazing job with the kids and handles life in Haiti extremely well. She believes God is calling her to continue caring for the kids in the orphanage. The most difficult part of being a missionary is asking for support; so I am going to do it for her. We would like to raise \$520 a month for her. This would give her health insurance and enough to visit home 3 times a year. I know this is not the traditional way missionaries

raise their support but to have her come home and visit churches, send out letters, and speak to friends and family members would take months. The kids in the orphanage and village need stability. If you are receiving Fern's updates on the kids, you know they have made great progress with Santia. Santia lost her mom when she was 4 years old. At such a young age, she was not able to process the grief. All the kids will suffer from her leaving but I am most concerned for her. I don't know if her heart can be broken one more time. If God is putting Fern's name on your heart, please consider becoming a monthly supporter or sending in a one time gift for her. Simply go to the website, www.mission-haiti.org and donate online or send a check written out to Mission Haiti with Fern's name in the memo. Your donation is tax deductible and 100% of your donation will go directly towards her expenses.

Volunteer Opportunities

Mother Class Coordinator- We would like to continue to improve the health of the mothers and children in Haiti as well as strengthen their relationship with their children, their husband and the Lord. Fern is currently teaching mother classes to 65 women in Haiti. We would like to continue to improve the program and need somebody who has a passion to do just that. Please contact us if you would like more information on this. It can be a huge step of faith to say, "Here am I, use me," but if your heart is burdened for the mothers who are hurting but have nobody to encourage them and for the children who learn at an early age they are "just another mouth to feed," God will use you to heal their hearts and teach them how to raise their kids to know they are loved. Although you will be working with Fern, this volunteer position is for somebody living in the United States.

Christmas is Coming!

Soccer is the #1 sport in Haiti and now we are using it to spread the Gospel. Torrey Babb who is with a ministry called "The Mission Ball" is working with us to get the Word out. He has designed a soccer ball that shares Biblical truths, such as "The 10 Commandments" and "God's plan for you." If you would like to send your sponsor child a gift for Christmas, we are recommending this. The cost is \$10. We will hand deliver the ball to your child and take his/her picture with it. Please contact us if you are interested in purchasing one.



4th Annual Festival of Tables

The Festival of Tables is our largest fundraiser for the year and possibly the most fun. To make it extra special, this year was unique in the fact that so many people were running into friends they had not seen for a long time. The tables were gorgeous, down to the most incredible detail. Keryn Rowland was our speaker for the event and I think I speak for everybody when I say, "It has been a long time since I laughed so hard I cried." I want to thank everybody who



volunteered. We could not have raised \$4,949 for the orphanage without all of you.

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Andi Update



We are extremely grateful for the amazing work Dr. Geoffrey Haft did on Andi's foot. His foot was amputated and he now has his prosthesis. Mike Barber from Orthotic & Prosthetic Specialties had his team design and make a leather boot that straps on to his leg. Knowing that dental work is almost non-existent in Ti-Rivier, Dr. Thomas Weisbecker from South Western Dentistry in Sioux Falls agreed to take x-rays and clean Andi's teeth for him. Good News! No cavities and he has beautiful teeth. Unfortunately, Andi failed the test when Dr. Horner from Exact Eye Care in Brandon examined Andi's eyes; thus, the new glasses you see on Andi. We also want to thank Jason Stahlberg for volunteering to be his personal trainer and Grant Boltjes for physical therapy.

Andi came from the mountains of Haiti so I really expected a good measure of culture shock but we have only seen 2 incidences. The first was finding out we have a machine that washes our dishes for us. The second was discovered a couple of weeks ago when he was slipping his fleece sweatshirt off over his head and saw static electricity. He was scared to move, certain he was going to start himself on fire. Just last week, we were sitting at the dinner table and Andi asked, "How many days have I been in America?" I said, "about 3 ½ months." He replied, "My whole life has been in misery except for 3 ½ months; I know God has a plan for me."

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