



Mission-Haiti Newsletter

Love Jesus, Love Others, Make Disciples

April 2011

UPDATE ON THE ORPHANAGE



The orphanage is finally able to be moved into! There are a few odds and ends that still need to be done but they can be completed later. There is one house for the boys and one house for the girls. Each house has a mom (Gertrude and Renard). Actually, Renard will soon be getting married so we will be welcoming Lubin to the family. They have done such a wonderful job of raising the kids to love Jesus and think of others first. To be honest, it is not just these 2 ladies that we are blessed with. Each day Patwouko (he co-leads youth group with Cory) teaches them Bible and drama, Junior teaches them music, and Antoine and Elise tutor them. The kids love to be included in ministry so we are teaching them how to sew on buttons so they can repair uniforms at school during recess.



Above: Gertrude and Renard (orphanage moms)

I Love School!!

Our first January team had the task of putting the finishing touches on our first new style preschool classroom. They finished the welding and painting and also got a jump start on creating some room separators. Our second January team continued where they left off. Much of their time was spent working with our 2 preschool teachers in their new environment. I was walking in the mountains in February and came



across one of our preschoolers. I asked if he liked his new school. He said, "I love school!"

The most difficult part was

convincing the Director and teachers that kids could learn another way, but after our first day of school, nobody needed any more convincing; in fact, all the other classes were asking when they would get their new classroom. We want to send out a special **THANK YOU** to **Dust-Tex** out of **Sioux Falls, South Dakota** for donating all the commercial mats we needed for the schools.



Dan Palmer working with preschoolers in our Mountain school

AFTER 5 YEARS...

Somewhere in the ball park of 5 years ago, I was visiting with Gary, a friend from Galcom, the ministry we purchase our Audio Bibles from. He mentioned his friend has an Aquaponics program in Florida. (Check out their website at www.morningstarfishermen.org)

Aquaponics is an enclosed water system that raises fish and vegetables. The fish waste feeds the vegetables and the plants help oxygenate the water. The fish eat the plants. People will eat the fish and the vegetables. This sounded exactly like something we needed in Ti-Riviere. All I had to do was find the right guy for the job. Four years later, I heard of somebody who just retired from Game, Fish and Parks. I thought we had found our guy but unfortunately, he was not interested. Six months later Bruce, one of our board members, asked for more information on the program. I asked, "Why?" and he said ever since I first brought it up to him the Lord hasn't left him alone about it. SO.....Initial work has been done to start an Aquaponic program at Mission-Haiti. Pending material availability and funding, the initial system will be done this summer. As our system matures, sharing the information and assisting Haitian families in growing their own food with start-up fish and plant seeds will be the next step.

I guess the moral of the story is, if God gives you a dream, "DON'T GIVE UP ON IT". His timing is perfect.



Above: Aquaponics system from Morning Star Fishermen



NOTICE: School pictures and re-sponsor letters have been sent out. School sponsorship is a one year commitment. If you would like to sponsor a child to go to school, check out some of their photos on-line at www.mission-haiti.org or contact us for details.

Now sponsor a child online!
www.mission-haiti.org

Thank You
Merci

-to Richard Hildenbrand for giving us 6 weeks of your time and for all the beautiful furniture that you created. Don't stay away too long!

-to Dan & Kari Elliott for giving 3 weeks and endless miles of walking to take our school pictures.

-to all those who donated towards the water purifiers and bed mats.

-to Saylor Weiland for inviting friends to come to your birthday party with a gift for a child in Haiti, not for yourself!

-and to everybody that is part of this ministry: those who pray, those who go, those who give. God is using us all!

Missionary Update

GRIMMS: It is hard to believe that the next time I go to Haiti, Cory, Lynn and their family will be returning with me. It has been wonderful to watch as their 3 year old (who is now 4!) went from telling her mom she is moving back to live with her Grandmother to last month telling mom, "We don't have to go home because we are home, right." The kids in the orphanage are going to cry when the Grimms leave for the summer.



Cory and kids making a home visit

SUE HOUCK: Hopefully you got a chance to see Sue while she was home for 2 weeks but I don't think she left her new granddaughter for more than a few minutes! Sue does an amazing job heading up the clinic in Ti-Riviere. She has a list of people that need surgeries, eye care, and dental work. She chooses those who are most critical and goes until the money runs out. After sending out an email concerning Esperancia, the girl with the machete wounds, many of you responded with prayers and monetary donations. Thank you to everybody who sent in donations so Sue can buy medicine, schedule surgeries and help Esperancia. By the way, Esperancia is still in the hospital but has fewer headaches and the doctors are hopeful for her recovery. With Sue in Haiti, we know the money is spent correctly and the patients are well taken care of. Sue has spent many a night in the Haitian hospital with her patients and that is no small sacrifice on her part. (Note: if you would like to donate to Sue or towards the work she is doing, you may send a check to Mission-Haiti with "Sue" or "Medical Needs" in the memo.)

A Tearful Reunion

Jean was one of the children taken out to the country after the earthquake. He was told his parents and siblings all died when their house fell on them. He was living with a family in the mountains but it was evident they were mistreating him. After another beating that left him with a black eye and swollen face, I took him into the orphanage and sent word to the family to come and talk to me. They never did. A couple of weeks after the 1 year anniversary of the earthquake, a team of us was working in the school. Mike pulled up to the school and told me to get Jean and come to the vehicle. Mike announces he has a surprise for Jean and opens the door for Jean to see his mother sitting in the back seat. I think the tears flowed for 30 minutes. We found out Jean was at his Aunt's house on the day of the earthquake. After her house was destroyed by the quake, somebody loaded him up and drove him out to the country. A relative of Jean was visiting Ti-Rivier and reported to Jean's mom that he thought he saw Jean. She came looking for him and to make a long story short, Jean returned to live with his mother and 4 siblings last month.

This and That!



*Left:
Antoine
and
Jesula's
wedding*

*Right:
Preschool
class*



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Tea, SD
57064

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Sioux Falls, SD
Permit No. 7898

ABOUT MY TRIP TO HAITI

By Nicole Blankespoor

HAITI, for those of you who have been there, that word can mean many different things. I have been to Haiti 3 times and each trip has meant something different to me.

After my first trip I felt grateful. I felt grateful for our country, grateful for our doctors, grateful for our schools, grateful for roads without potholes, grateful for clean water, just grateful.

My second trip to Haiti meant humbleness. I was humbled time and time again by the Haitian people. I can remember sitting in a pew at church while a group of young people sang "Here I am to Worship". The first part of the song was sung in Creole. The second part was sung in English. Perfect English. I can't imagine how long it took them to learn that song in English.

I just returned from my third trip. To make a long story short, we were the biggest group Pam has ever taken to Haiti. If you total team members, missionaries, orphans and staff living on site, there were 49 of us living in a small area for 6 days. Eating together, sleeping together, working together, AND using the same outhouse! To be honest, I thought it was going to be a disaster. Thank-

fully I was wrong and God had other plans. During the week 4 men from Detroit constructed an earthquake proof house with the help of local Haitians; a Promise Keepers style men's retreat took place; medical clinics were held every day; American nurses delivered a baby; children participated in VBS; a group of Haitians learned how to sew diapers; and the team watched Pam as she tirelessly worked from sun up to sun down. I praise God for how He made it seem as if the compound was much bigger than it is, that He gave us the patience when dealing with each other, and that He never left our sides. One incident in particular moved us to tears. On our first day in Haiti, a possessed boy showed up at the clinic with his mom. After several hours of praying and singing the victory was Jesus' because by His saving blood the boy was released from the terrible hold Satan had on him and his family. An even greater victory came a few days later when both the boy and his father asked Jesus into their hearts as their Lord and Savior. So, what does this trip mean to me? Victory.

As one team member commented. "There is only one way to describe our March trip - VICTORY IN JESUS - We saw miracles each day and how awesome and powerful our God is!"