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International Faith Missions

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Adelante con Cristo (Forward with Christ) Church has experienced much blessing from Almighty God. Since the recent baptisms we have had the joy and responsibility of discipling new believers. It is rewarding to witness the Holy Spirit at work. Following a recent Saturday evening youth service, three young men and one young lady acknowledged their need of a Savior. Gloria a Dios!

Our prayer is that all in the fellowship will experience the joy of serving Jesus, will grow in their knowledge and application of God's Word, and will be bold in sharing the Good News with others. The Friday evening Men's Bible Study continues to draw eager learners, as God's Word is faithfully taught.

We are happy to share about the progress on the Meeting House construction. The block walls are complete, and the concrete roof over the restroom and classrooms is poured. The cistern and septic system are also complete. The metal roof over the sanctuary and the annex is com-

plete, thanks to the team from Cornerstone. Many from our fellowship have been eager to help on the project. We hired Kiko's uncle, Delki, as the contractor to do the block and concrete work.

We were privileged to have Gale and Shirley Turner, Joni Rolle, and Tom Mohler Jr. from Cornerstone Dunkard Brethren Church here for 10 days. The men built and installed roof framing and metal roofing. Shirley helped Laurie with some sewing projects for girls in the fellowship. We thank God for their encouragement to us, for their involvement in this community, and for the work of their hands.

We want to express thankfulness and appreciation to all who have supported our building project so far. We trust Almighty God to provide funds necessary for it's completion.

We covet your prayers as we disciple believers and reach out to the lost.

Tom Mohler

BLESSED BY ALMIGHTY GOD AN UPDATE ON HIS WORK IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



UPCOMING EVENT: YOUTH BIBLE SCHOOL

"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:" (Eph 4:11-13 KJV) This is what the church should be doing, working together to bring people to the knowledge of the Son of God, so that the fullness of Christ can be made evident by our actions. In this way, the world is forced to see the glory of God in the lives of Christ's disciples.

Inside each one of us there is a struggle to allow our lives to be totally controlled by the Spirit. Daily, we must put the flesh to death. Sometimes we get discouraged in this struggle. Sometimes we doubt that God really knows what is best for us. Youth especially have a difficult struggle.

This is where the church comes in. We make a big effort to teach our youth the knowledge of the Son of God. I can think of at least five good Mennonite Bible Schools to which we send our youth to be trained in the knowledge of God. We know that teaching our youth about Christ, about the love of Christ, and about the work that Christ did on Calvary for us helps them to grow in their love for God.

So this year, we are planning a youth Bible School for the Haitian youth. Oftentimes the youth are raked over

the coals by the pastors for not living holy lives. But there is a great lack in teaching how to live holy lives. How do we have power to live above sin? Our youth at home have the advantage of having many role models that live out the Christian life. They have an idea in their head of what a true Christian looks like. But for many of the youth in Haiti, they are first generation Christians. Many of their dads had three or four different women, and many of their moms had three or four different men. For some of the Haitian youth, they are the only one in their family that is born again. They do not really have a picture in their mind of what it looks like to live the Christian life. They do not know what a godly home looks like.

We plan to hold a 5 day youth Bible School for about 150 youth in this area from different churches. We will hold it during summer vacation at a time that makes it easy for the youth to participate. This will be an all day, intense learning with a little organized

recreation. Please pray for the speakers that are preparing to teach, and for the students that God wants to participate. The youth are hungry for the truth, but some are so distracted by the world, that they do not know they are hungry. Pray that God would awaken a desire in the youth to really know Him. Pray that the teaching during this week of study would whet their appetite for a deeper walk with Christ.

~Michael Martin



Prayer
&
Praise

We praise God for:

- ◆ the Board God has put together and how they have been able to pull together to work through changes needing to be made.
- ◆ providing yet more prospects willing and eager to get involved in the work in Haiti.
- ◆ safety as teams and visitors have traveled to and from Haiti.
- ◆ providing funds for the work to continue - thank you Lord!!

Please join us in praying for:

- ◆ the continued need of a 12 or 15 passenger van for the Children's Home.
- ◆ clear direction as the IFM Board works with the staff in the upcoming changes with which we are faced, including moving to a new location and operating on a slightly different basis.
- ◆ God to continue to work and show us His will as we continue to reach out in the mountains of Peyi Pourri.
- ◆ the finances needed to continue doing what God calls us to do as changes are being made.
- ◆ a new secretary for our US office.

IFM'S YOUNG MISSIONARIES

I have really enjoyed learning Creole. It's fun to be able to talk to the Haitians and translate for the visitors that come. I would like to learn Spanish when I can speak Creole better because that is what they speak across the border in the Dominican Republic.

I also enjoy being with my Haitian friends. Are Haitian friends very different from American friends? Not really. They still enjoy playing games and giggling. I've made a lot of friends at our Sunday school and I love seeing them every Sunday there.

-Kenslie Lavy



I enjoy being involved with the children from church here. I like going to visit some people that the kids know. One thing I enjoyed most is having a church party with the Haitian kids on New Years Eve.

We sang creole songs and did some other activities together. It was so much fun!

- Jayla Lavy



Some things I like about being in Haiti are, learning Creole and hanging out with the Haitian guys and the staff here. I really like the Haitian food too. In fact, I would pick that over American. Another thing is living by the lake here, I love to swim. Going to the Wednesday evening services in the village is fun and different, they are at people's houses. We sit in their yard and sing and pray.

- Rylan Lavy



HOW CAN YOU PRAY?

Anyone who has been to Haiti between Christmas and Easter has probably seen or heard about Kanaval or Rara. It's something that is very much a part of Haiti. Mardi gras, also known as Kanaval, draws thousands of people every year and about every town has at least one Rara each year. So what is it? And how does it affect us?

Mardi Gras is actually a French phrase meaning "Fat Tuesday." It refers to the last day of eating fatty foods before Lent (a period of forty days of fasting leading up to Easter observed in the Catholic Church), which begins on Ash Wednesday. Mardi Gras has become a festival of indulgence celebrated all over the world. Haiti's Kanaval has been influenced by Voodoo rituals and is centralized around Haitian music. It is the biggest platform for bands to gain public exposure and is celebrated with concerts and parades sponsored by the Government and private businesses. You can imagine the partying, drunkenness, and immorality that comes along with this type of celebration. The evangelical churches are constantly exhorting their congregations not to participate and most churches plan revivals or other special activities over Kanaval to help deter the young people from going to Kanaval.

Rara is another activity that takes place over the period of Lent culminating on Easter week. Rara is a series of religious voodoo parades led by a local Houngan (voodoo priest) with participants playing music on bamboo pipes and drums that they composed for the event. These parades can last up to days without stopping and pass through large intersections and cemeteries to perform rituals.

This is just a short description, but it will help give you an idea of what these things are about. In the face of these things, how can we pray? Pray for a generation of Haitian youth that are so in love with Christ that the pleasures of this world no longer hold an appeal. Pray for a hunger and a thirst for purity and holiness. Pray for the spiritual battle that takes place every day in the life of every Christian. And that we as Christ's church would prevail over the gates of Hell to lead nations and peoples in worship to our Creator and Father.

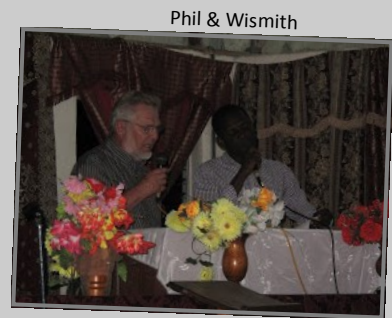
~Shea Alexander

REMEMBER YOUR CREATOR REVIVAL IN HAITI

Last week we were truly blessed by the revival services we had here. Starting Monday night, Aaron opened with some thoughts of "remembering our Creator in the days of our youth." Phil Gish gave powerful messages from the book of Romans through the week nights, finishing up Sunday morning with a message to the fathers and their role in the home. Tuesday through Thursday night Kurt Rolle opened with many good thoughts from the Word of God, starting out the first night with

the importance of appreciating the parents God has given us. It was a blessing to watch Phil and Wismith work together. Wismith did a wonderful job of translating the messages to his people at a level they could understand. Andy Eversole got to live out his dream this last week - to give devotions in Creole. He led out Friday through Sunday as he stepped right up there into the culture and shouted, Alleluia! and other greetings in the Creole language. He had good feedback from the Haitians as they listened. For us as missionaries, to hear these messages in our own language was truly living water to dry and thirsty souls. God is the fountain of life of which to draw. Sometimes, it seems we allow ourselves to dry up and need that continual refreshing that only He can pour out. For the Haitians, they were eager as they learned new insights from the Gospel. They appreciated hearing from somebody that didn't even know the struggles they face every day and yet understood what their real need was.

~Wendy Lavy



Phil & Wismith

HOW BLESSED WE HAVE BEEN!

Reflecting back over the two weeks that our work team spent in Haiti makes us want to praise the Lord, praising Him for the blessings He granted us. Blessings that, as we saw with our own eyes, so many people in the world today don't have. I had spent a few months in Haiti this past summer, so for me it was very exciting to see all the familiar faces once again. For all the rest of the guys it was their first time to Haiti, so it was interesting to see how they responded to the new culture.

As for highlights — the first day we were there we got the chance to go to a church in the mountains to show the Jesus film. That was really fun, just coming from the airport, then hopping on the back of the truck for the half hour trek up the bumpy mountain road. After the service, the women had made some soup for us guys. I think we all had come to the agreement that it was very good until the next morning when Shea told us we had actually eaten Goat Head soup! We also went to the market — very exciting! All the noise, smell, dirt and bartering all added to the Haitian experience, especially the meat market — wow! Everyone should have the opportunity to walk through there! The smell—I mean it's just amazing! Also, we had a youth day and went to check out an old fort. Then they took us over to the D.R. on Sunday, and we had the opportunity to have communion with them. That was really a blessing, even though we could not understand everything. We could feel the peace of God as we washed the feet of men that we could only so much as say hi to.



We got to work on a few different projects. Finishing off fencing around a housing project is where most of the time was spent. This included digging post holes, mixing concrete, stringing wires, and playing with the children. Also, we installed a staircase over at the children's home and did some plumbing and concrete work for some new washrooms at the church. We also built some kitchen cabinets for Wismith's (Redeemed Vocational School) using plywood for the boxes then mahogany for the face frames. The mahogany came from the trees at the mission that the lake took over and had to be cut down. I asked the guys for their reflections, and how this trip has impacted their lives. These are the responses that I got:

- How blessed we have been to have been born and raised in Christian homes with Christian friends and family surrounding us.
- I took these everyday blessings that we experience all too much for granted. How can we find ourselves complaining when we have so much?
- I was challenged as to whether my light was really streaming around me like it should have been, or have I been too self-focused and not concerning myself about others around me that need Jesus as well.
- It makes me want to be a better missionary wherever God calls me.
- I was enriched to see and feel what it's really like in Haiti.
- Why are we so blessed when others have so little?
- It makes me feel selfish and creates a desire to help those more who have less.
- Seeing the reality of that spiritual warfare in Haiti was a real eye opener.
- The blessing I received was so much more than the small sacrifice it took on my part to go there.
- I was blessed to see children with so little, yet they can happily play for hours!
- I appreciated the closeness between the Mission and God.

We as a team would like to thank all the IFM staff for all the work and effort that they put in to make our stay more enjoyable and for all the places that you took us and the meals you cooked for us. You guys did a great job and may God richly bless you all for your efforts. Our prayers go with you as you continue seeking God's will for the future and doing His work in Haiti.

Best Regards,
Dale Martin

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— WAYS YOU CAN HELP —



GENERAL

I would like to contribute
\$_____ to be used
where needed most.

SUPERSTORM SANDY RELIEF

Please use the enclosed \$_____ for:
____ "Reforestation and Erosion Control" to
help aid victims of superstorm Sandy.
____ where most needed.

D.R. CHURCH

This \$_____ is to
help build a new
church building in the
Dominican Republic.



AID FOR ORPHANS

I am donating
\$_____ to aid
orphans not in the
IFM Children's
Home.



DISASTER RELIEF

Please use the enclosed
\$_____ to help relieve the
suffering in Haiti following the
earthquake of 2010.



MEDICAL RELIEF

*I would like to help
those who cannot
afford the medical
care they need.*



\$_____ monthly
\$_____ one-time gift

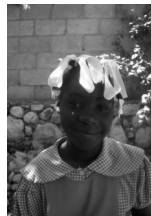
CHILDREN'S HOME

I wish to give for the
operating expenses of
the Children's Home
\$_____ monthly
\$_____ one-time donation



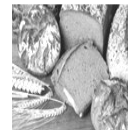
SCHOOL SPONSORSHIP

I wish to sponsor #___ children at
\$15 per month/\$180 per year.
I am enclosing \$_____ as my
initial payment and understand
that I will receive a picture and
more information.



FOOD PANTRY

*I wish to help stock
the church's relief
supply for the poor
within the church.*
\$_____ monthly
\$_____ one-time



HOSPITAL

I would like to help provide quality medical care in Haiti.
\$_____ construction \$_____ operating expenses
\$_____ where most needed \$_____ cholera treatment



*Any sponsored donations received over the
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cause. All donations are tax deductible.*