



International Faith Missions

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ANOTHER LIFE TOUCHED

It was a busy Thursday at the Water of Life clinic. We had just started filling prescriptions for the swarm of people at our pharmacy window when Doc Alexis burst into the pharmacy and began bustling around giving orders Doc-style. "I need some vinegar, sugar, and triple antibiotic," he announced rummaging through the bins and cupboards.

"Umm...I don't think we have any," I replied.

"Oh yes, we always keep some on hand and we need it right away," he replied enthusiastically. "We have a young man with a two-inch hole in his leg all the way to the muscle."

I quickly ran up to the Children's Home and Alicia gladly supplied me with a jar of apple cider vinegar and a container of sugar.

Back in the pharmacy Doc showed me how to mix up a new and improved version of triple antibiotic, especially designed for wounds which have stopped responding to antibiotics. We whipped up a bit of sugar, a splash of vinegar, and a container of triple antibiotic, and headed over to Nurse Mdm. Wilhem's room.

She called the 25-year-old man into her room. He slowly and painfully climbed on the examining table. I couldn't believe my eyes when Mdm. Wilhem lifted the bandage off his wound. Literally a two-inch-wide, two-inch-deep hole into his leg straight to the raw, tender, pink cord of muscle. Yellowish-green pus oozed out the sidewalls of the wound.

As we worked on packing the wound with the



triple antibiotic mixture, we visited with the young man. He told us how he had visited many doctors and clinics, all to no avail. He told us how one day there was a huge bubble on his leg, the next day it burst and a gallon of fluid drained out of it. We finished and wrapped his leg up neatly with gauze and tape. He winced in pain as he descended the table and hobbled to the pharmacy to fill his prescription.

He had an appointment for the next week and he was there. We repeated the treatment. By the next week we saw huge improvement. The last time he came, his leg was nearly healed. He was so happy and kept thanking us and praising the Lord for healing. Nothing like Jesus' touch, a few tablespoons of sugar, a splash of vinegar, and half a cup of triple antibiotic to heal a leg.

~Sheila Driedger

[Inside: Hope for Vulnerable Haiti]

Looking for a long-term way to help those who have suffered devastation from Superstorm Sandy? Turn to page 4 for more information.

MECHANICALLY SPEAKING

When I was asked to serve here at IFM as a mechanic, I came from a fully equipped, North American auto repair shop having been trained as a mechanic with access to the tools for the job. Coming to Haiti to be a mechanic with only the very basic tools needed, or even making the tool you need to get the job done, was an adjustment! Not to say I do not enjoy the challenge of being this kind of mechanic!

As for the challenges that are faced from day to day, suspension and body maintenance on vehicles that run gravel and rock roads all the time, includes ball joint replacement at least once a year on most of the vehicles, spring repairs, shocks, axle mounts, etc. The most difficult part of this is getting replacement parts here in a timely fashion. Purchasing parts in country for our American model vehicles is nearly impossible, and there can be a long delay in sending parts from the states. Poor fuel quality and dirty fuel is something else that we deal with at times. This can mean gasoline engines that will not get you home from the gas station, due to poor fuel quality. These can be the causes of vehicles sitting, for months on end.

Another thing that we are facing is the rising lake taking what little work space we did have. The flat area that I was using to do most of the mechanic work is now part of the lake, or has become a swamp because the lake is pushing springs in that area. This problem is not getting better, as the



lake continues to rise steadily day by day. We are currently working on making a level area behind the shop, and cutting an entrance in the back, to get the longest possible use of the shop.

In closing, I would like to give all my fellow mechanics, and knowledgeable individuals who willingly give of their time, for technical service phone calls, a big thank you for their part in the ministry here. Without this, I would be lacking a very valuable resource, a second opinion!

Thank you! And God bless!

~Austin Martin



AND THE LAKE KEEPS RISING...



The lake to the north of our compound in Fond Parisien continues to rise, slowly claiming more and more of our valuable space. Please pray that we would have wisdom as we consider the future of the IFM compound.

THANK

We want to extend a special thank-you to all of you who supported the various Haiti Benefit Auctions in 2012. Proceeds from the auctions were used to help various missions in Haiti, and we are privileged to receive a part of these proceeds. Whether you donated an item, gave your time to help on the day of an auction, labored baking goods to be sold, gave financially, or something else in between, your support is very appreciated!

YOU

Prayer, Praise, & Thanks

Please join us in praying for:

- God to provide a continued immediate need of a 12 passenger van for the Children's Home.
- safety and blessing for our staff as they continue to serve the Lord.
- the teachers ministering in mountain areas in December and that God would work open hearts to receive His Word.
- safety for visitors and work teams as they travel to and from the field.

We praise the Lord for:

- opening doors to do a week of leadership training in two separate areas of Pays Pourri.
- God's faithfulness in providing teachers to work with natives in training leaders in the mountain churches of Pays Pourri.
- a great team on the field who faithfully carries on what God has called them to do.
- all those who support (financially and otherwise) the work to which God has called us in Haiti & the Dominican Republic.

Recently I was challenged by a pastor who spoke about the greatness of our God. All I need to do is take a moment to consider the beauty in nature around me, the vastness of the heavens, the expanse of an entire universe far beyond what my eye can see, and it's easy to recognize the great power of the Almighty. But much more difficult is to try to understand, even in part, the vastness of this power of our God. No extensive time of detailed constructing was needed at the beginning of creation. No long hours of careful sculpting. Words spoken. And it was so. Then this same God created us, frail humans, from dust. It's no wonder David stepped back and asked the question, "What is man, that thou art mindful of him?" (Psalm 8:4a) How can a God so big & powerful have time to notice me? And not only notice me, but love me enough to give His Son to make the ultimate sacrifice so that I might truly live. Yet He doesn't stop even there, but continues to take a personal interest in the details of my life, patiently leading, guiding, and molding me. Amazing. And it is that leading, I believe, that has led me here to the office of IFM. Here I have the privilege of seeing a whole team of people who are also led by this same powerful God working together to further His kingdom. From the faithful supporters who pray, to the donors who share financially, to the staff on the field who are giving their time, and so many others in between, our mighty God continues to lead, guide, and mold His servants, so they can be used as channels to change lives for eternity, a work of which no human can boast. What an awesome God He is!

~Mandi Wengerd

VULNERABLE HAITI

On January 12, 2010, a huge, sudden disaster hit Haiti killing over 200,000 people. Most of these people lived in the crowded city of Port-au-Prince. Over the past 2 ½ years, Christian missions, NGOs, governments, and non-profits have worked together to help with the disaster. By many indicators Haiti has recovered from the earthquake. Haiti has the fastest growing economy in the Caribbean for 2 years in a row¹. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) projects Haiti's economy to grow 4.5% in 2012 and 6.5% in 2013².

But a slower, silent disaster is taking place in the mountains of Haiti. Subsistent farmers have been struggling for years to put food on the table for their families. Crop yields have been dropping due to deforestation, drought, and erosion. When these farmers have crop failures, they do the only thing they know to do to feed their family (even though they stay very hungry). They cut down the few remaining trees to make charcoal to sell.

While the northeastern United States was preparing for Superstorm Sandy, Haitian mountain farmers were looking over the damage. Thirty inches of rain fell across the mountains in less than a week. This water rushed down the mountains, taking tons of good topsoil with it. Flooded rivers eroded their banks taking houses with them. In the valleys, the

mountains, taking off roofs, and destroying crops. One farmer had his red beet seedling just ripped out of the ground.

This silent, slow disaster taking place in the mountains of Haiti has a solution. Planting trees will serve as wind breaks to protect crops and homes from the brunt of the hurricane force winds. Planting live terraces will hold the water and soil on the mountain sides where they can produce crops. Increase in crop yields will enable the farmers to protect their trees, so that they do not cut them down to feed their families.

As we know, many organizations have claimed to plant trees, but where are the results? Agriculture development can be difficult for big organizations to do effectively, but smaller missions (such as IFM) often see results due to their grassroots level of ministry. There is a wealth of information from agricultural research sources like ECHO³ and others, to equip us. To start, we envision beginning in two different ways. First, we would begin by starting several "for profit"

nurseries in the mountains of Pays Pourri. Subsidizing the trees to make them affordable for the mountain farmers is also an option being considered. The second thing would be to do a test project,

planting live terraces. As the neighboring farmers see the results, they will want to duplicate it in their own fields. If you would like to help with the Hurricane Sandy disaster, consider specifying your donation for "Reforestation and Erosion Control". May God bless you for your interest in Haiti.

~Michael Martin

¹<http://www.caribjournal.com/2012/10/04/haitis-gdp-to-grow-6-percent-continue-to-lead-region-in-2012-eclac/>

²<http://www.caribjournal.com/2012/10/09/imf-haiti-suriname-dominican-republic-boast-top-regional-growth/>

³ECHO (Educational Concerns for Hunger Organization) www.echonet.org/



water flooded through yards and homes, raising the water in the already flooded lakes. Winds ripped across the

FEATURED CLINIC EMPLOYEE: MOISE ALEXIS

We greet you in the name of Jesus Christ the Savior. We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you, thank you for your efforts, and thank you for your support. We want you to know that every time you reach out your hand and give to the mission IFM, you are helping many Haitians and you help save many people. Your help gives lots of life in Haiti. We have nothing that we can give you as a reward, but we pray that the God of Life continues to give you something, so that you can help those that do not have. May God who gives life protect you in all that you do. Thanks to the determination of the missionaries in the mission and the Haitians that work for IFM, things are going well. ~Moise



Moise with his wife & daughter



Moise behind his desk

PASTOR'S NEWS FROM JIMANI

"If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily, and follow me." (Luke 9:23)

In our congregation we are learning to carry the cross of Christ every day, and teaching others to do the same. Every Friday, I and brother Tom share Bible studies with young men, more or less about 13 people, where we have a time of prayer, a time of worship and share the Word of God. In this study we have won a entire family, and a man named Tomas, and Nicolas trusted in Christ. With the help of the brothers of the church we have a ministry in the streets carrying a message of salvation to the families and youth of our community with a projector and some Christian movies, we do this Saturday.



In my family we have a new member, a child that we adopted is called Jairo, 1 year and 2 months. This child comes from a very poor family. His mother is a single mother with seven children by different fathers. This condition prevents her from giving her children good nutrition. She has no job to support her children. God has given us love for this child and we want to save his life. He got very sick and we are dealing with doctors. Also the father of this child does not recognize him as his son. Pray for us that God will strengthen us in the work.

In January 2013 the sisters Vicki and Laurie plan to initiate a sewing project. Dr. Camila Perozo has offered her facility for sewing classes. Women of our community will be taught sewing skills, and we will be sharing the Word of God with them. If you would like to help with this sewing project, please specify that your donations should be used for the "DR sewing class materials."

~Pastor Kiko

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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

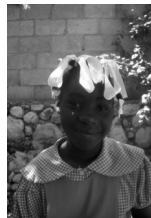
CHILDREN'S HOME

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



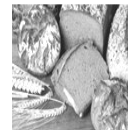
SCHOOL SPONSORSHIP

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
present need will be used for a similar
cause. All donations are tax deductible.*