

July 2014



International Faith Missions

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COMPASSION...asks us to go where it hurts to enter into the places of pain, to share in brokenness, fear, confusion, and anguish... challenges us to cry out with those in misery, to mourn with those who are lonely, to weep with those in tears.....requires us to be weak with the weak, vulnerable with the vulnerable, and powerless with the powerless. Compassion means full immersion in the condition of being human. —Henri Nourin. My prayer is that I never become calloused to the pain and suffering around me. But that I am always filled with a Christ like compassion, not pity, but compassion!

I love working in Pharmacy! People often ask if I ever get sick of it. Always working with people, repetitious, monotonous pill packaging- but my answer is always the same, "the more I do it the more I love it". It has a way of growing on you! I love working with the people. Of course it has its stretching moments but it also has its extremely rewarding moments.

One of the most challenging things for me is the feeling of helplessness, today was a prime example of that. Nurse Vilaine stopped me in the hall and asked me to come see something. I followed her down the hallway. Nothing prepared me for what I saw next. A dear sweet baby bundled tightly, but at first glance I saw there was something horribly wrong. I tried not to look horrified or too shocked. It was the first case of Hydrocephalus (when the head retains water and swells to an abnormally large size), I had ever seen. The mother had tears in her eyes. She had just been told that her baby would most likely die. Different tests have been made and options explored without success. Nothing I could do, nothing anybody could do, except place them in God's hands.

Then there are the many cases of success, improvement and healing. There are few things more rewarding than seeing a patient come back and seeing the stubs of his fingers healed, and seeing the little old mountain man using his hand that we thought would have to amputated, and the boy with stitches and the many others.

Though some may say our job is stressful and monotonous I wouldn't trade it for the world! I have to thank God for the opportunity we have each day and the wonderful people we get to work with everyday and the little tiny part we can play and pray that we not only meet physical needs but also spiritual needs! ~Jeana Byler, Pharmacist



We're moving!

Beginning September 1, 2014, please send all
correspondence and donations to our new address:

5553 County Rd. 79 A St. Joe, IN 46785

Our phone # will remain the same until further notice.

Earthquake Housing Update



Praise God that he provided the funds to build 2 more duplexes for earthquake victims. Madam Soufiz, the lady that has helped us throughout the duration of the project, said, "You thought God wasn't going to provide, but I was praying, and I knew He would provide".

Madam Soufiz has been a big help since the beginning of the rebuilding project. We had asked the government for a piece of land to build a village for the earthquake victims, but God closed the door to the first piece of land that they gave us. Then He led us to Madam Soufiz. Madam Soufiz helped us ask the government for a very nice piece of land by the edge of a big field. The land was actually owned by a big sugar company who had closed down their sugar mill many decades ago, and the land we were asking for was the location of a sugar mill. You can still see the rail bed on the one edge of the property.

Madam Soufiz cooked Haitian meals for the teams as we worked on the building. She was very honest, keeping watch over the construction materials and tools for us. She told me, "You may think that what you all did was little and unimportant, but it really was a big thing. Most of the people living in the village have been converted. We are praying hard for the ones that are not yet converted." Madam Soufiz sacrificially helps manage the village. From organizing clean up and maintenance to settling disputes, she stays busy.

Please pray for the people in the village that have received these houses. Pray that they would grow in their walk with Christ. Pray for those that are not saved. Pray for the mission as we continue to work with Madam Soufiz and the village recipients. Pray for Madam Soufiz and the village committee.

~Michael Martin, Projects Manager



Staff Update

Ya'll, Caitlyn calls Virginia home and has taken the position of house keeper in the mission house. Everyday she cleans, cooks and launders with such enthusiasm that it brings this verse to mind: "Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily as to the Lord, and not unto men; knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance for ye serve the Lord Christ".

She has a way of making the mission house a warm and cheerful place to be with many thoughtful touches. She is quickly picking up the language and making many friendships, being a wonderful example of a godly young woman. Caitlyn is also a willing servant when needed at the pharmacy or children's home, bringing joy, energy and smoothies wherever she goes.



Carlos has joined our team as field secretary here in Haiti after growing up in the Dominican Republic, Arizona and Wisconsin. He spends most mornings in the office entering data, dispensing money, organizing information and fixing technological difficulties. The afternoons find him investing in lives of friends or working on learning Creole with an occasional siesta or iced coffee in the schedule too.

We are all blessed and encouraged by his cheerful attitude, love for God and His word and heart for the Haitian people. What we love most about Carlos is how he serenades us in three languages early each morning as he enjoys his cold shower.

A very special thank you to Austin Martin, Ellen Schmucker, Julia Bauman, Michelle Driedger & Sheila Driedger for their years of service at IFM in Haiti! We are so grateful for all they did & for all the lives they touched in the time each one spent there. God's blessings to each of you as you continue to serve Him in your communities.

We have an urgent need for a mechanic in Haiti as soon as possible! If interested, please contact our home office at 330-439-6468 or by email at ifm-hdr@juno.com.

A Letter from the Founder

Greetings of Blessings to all,

It has been a blessing to work in Haiti and the Dominican Republic for many years and for the Lord to one by one make a difference in the lives of people. We have been blessed to see people getting saved and serving the Lord, some of them going on to their eternal reward!

It has been a blessing to educate children and see them grow up to become Pillars of Faith and leaders in the church and the community. Some adults have also learned to read and can now study their own Bible. Many lives have been saved through the cholera and earthquake hospitals that were provided for them. The medical center has also made a big difference in the lives and health of over 80,000 registered patients. Our children's home and re-nourishment center continues to minister to the eight resident children and those that come for one to two months for re-nourishment. This program seeks to help the child to regain strength and health while at the same time teaching the parents how to properly care for their child. We endeavor to follow up to verify the child's continued progress.

All of this would not be possible without dedicated staff and the financial support of the Haiti Benefit Auctions, businesses, and individuals. We have been so blessed by each one, and again want to say Thank-you! May the Lord continue to bless you! Only eternity will reveal the difference you have made.

Some of our readers may recall little five year old Michelet Dort who has been at the children's home since he was nine months old. As time went on we found his legs and ribs breaking for what seemed to be no reason at all. After several breaks it was discovered that he has Osteogenesis Imperfecta (brittle bone disease). The doctors in Haiti said that there is nothing that could be done for him in Haiti. After some research in the United States the University of Michigan accepted him as a patient. It took over five months to obtain a medical visa for him. Finally, on May 7th we brought him to Michigan. The doctors want to do surgery placing rods in his leg bones with the hope that he may be able to walk someday. We don't know what other treatments he may require after that. Costs may prohibit some of the treatment that he should have.

The church youth are excited and looking forward to another seminar in July. This was a real boost to their faith and spiritual growth last year. We are looking forward to great things from the Lord!

Our God is an awesome God! How we praise him for his continued watch and care over his work.

For eternity, **Merv Sommers**



A special thank you to Donna Weaver Barkholz for all her hard work to research and secure the appointments for Mich at the University of Michigan as well as working as an advocate for his care. God bless you Donna!

Please continue to pray for Mich's continued healing as he undergoes surgery. Also we ask for your prayers that finances will be available to pay for any treatments Mich may need. Thank you!
~The JFM team

Let Us Be Content

Having food and raiment let us therewith be content.

Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (for after all these things do the gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

What would you say are the most basic, essential human needs? In a country where poverty is everywhere it is easy to become overwhelmed by the needs and desensitized to what is important by what seems to be urgent. What, then, in the host of demands, should evoke and would warrant an immediate, unhesitating response?

When Jesus was teaching His disciples about worry He cited three very common needs: food, water, and clothing/shelter. I think we can all agree that these are important and we would not deny them to anyone we love if it was within our power to provide them. But Jesus also said there is more to life than any of these three. "Is not the life more than meat...?" So it is possible to miss what is really important by becoming overly concerned about food, water, and shelter. There is more to life than food; there is more to life than meets the eye; there is a more fundamental issue. What is that issue, and does it necessarily preclude food and raiment?

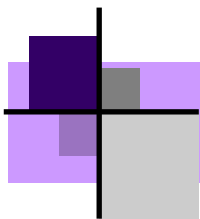
For generations men have wrestled with this question, and *the staff at IFM are brought face to face with it every day* in the people we are called to serve, forcing us to decide moment by moment, 'Is this a legitimate need?' 'How can I help this person?' 'What do they really need?' 'If I *help* them today, will they be back tomorrow?' 'I can't do everything, or help everyone; what should I focus on?'

People generally answer "what should I focus on" according to what they regard as the fundamental issue, or, what is broken. Some answers are insufficient to satisfy the range and scope of the nature and condition of mankind who was created a very complex being, even in the image of God. A humanistic worldview, for instance, will supply and support a different set of criterion as well as a different prognosis than either an animist or a theist on the issue of environment. Haiti is considered a *reached* nation, but is still deeply mired in superstition and darkness; even with the Christian façade its core is animistic with an education system that is moving towards humanism. An animist looks for an evil spirit as the cause of all disorder, physiological, social, economic, ecological, etc., which in turn motivates them to look for answers by appeasing the spirits through ritual and often by seeking, or at the least, accepting a spirit guide to keep them from curses and malevolence; which demonstrates what they believe is broken.

If we start with "In the beginning..." we know that when God was finished on day six He said everything was very good. This is important because it provides us with a standard of normal. But something happened and now everything is broken -- everything. Everything has the smell of death on it. However, even in the hour when the creation was subjected to futility (Rom 8:19-23 *read it*), God promised to send a _____. A what? A savior? A redeemer? A deliverer? A king? A priest? One word alone doesn't serve us very well, that's why we just say Messiah because Messiah means all of those things and much more. And so, when the time was fulfilled Jesus came, took on the nature and condition of those He came to save and in His hour of triumph, said, "It is finished!" What was finished? What exactly did Jesus come to accomplish? Consider this: While everything is indeed broken, one thing in particular is at the heart of it all and that is relationship: with God, with fellow men, with creation, with myself. All of these relationships need restitution, reconciliation, and restoration. And Messiah Jesus made restitution and a way of reconciliation when He was finished; and will ultimately restore in Himself more than was lost in Adam.

So what are the real issues? What did Jesus die to secure, raise again to guarantee, send His Spirit to realize (in a measure) and is coming again to fulfill? Pray for us that we can keep the main thing the main thing.

~Peter Garber, Administrator



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AID FOR ORPHANS

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



CHILDREN'S HOME

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

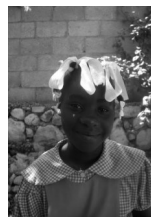


GENERAL

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

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.



D.R. CHURCH

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



MEDICAL RELIEF

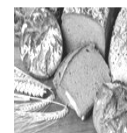
*I would like to help
those who cannot
afford the medical care
they need.*



\$_____ monthly
\$_____ one-time gift

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.*