



International Faith Missions

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From the Children's Home

As I reflect back over the last 21 months of living here at the kids home, I think of how God has never failed me, always being faithful when I was in my weakest moments.

Things weren't always easy, there were difficult things to work through, but God always came through. There have been days that I wondered why on earth I'm living here in Haiti, but then Lóna comes and randomly says, "I want to give you a hug", and I remember why I am here. There have been times when my day was rough, and one of the kids bring me a beautiful bouquet of flowers. Perfect timing! They seem to know when life is a little rough on nanny Barb!

I can honestly say that being here has changed my world. Even though these children come from rough pasts, and come with their own set of baggage, being able to love them (sometimes easier said than done) as my own has been very fulfilling! Being able to give them love and stability and watching them thrive in that, makes me never want to leave them!

Now for just a little glimpse into the kids home - Davensky is 8 and full of life - always bouncing through the house and singing on the top of his

lungs! He has a tender side to him, but doesn't often show it. He loves to be creative with wood. He is working hard at finishing up 2nd grade and when it comes to math, he is quite smart! Judnay is 6 and even though he has only 1 eye, he will not let that keep him from riding his bike! He loves to give random hugs and kisses. He has done really well in preschool this past school year and learned to recognize letters and numbers, and has also learned quite a bit of sounds.



Lovenie is 5 and recently learned how to ride her bike. She loves to "babysit" Sebastian, help in the kitchen, hang up and fold rags, and likes to keep her room tidy. She recognizes all her letters and recently wanted to write a letter to "her cousin" in the states (my niece), she is also good at recognizing sounds. Lóna is 3 and is quite bright and smart considering her malnourished past. Last year

when she came to us for the 3rd time, she weighed only 12 pounds and didn't know how to walk and was very reserved and shy. Today she is very energetic and full of life! She knows her abc's well and can almost count to 15! Just recently we were talking about Father's Day, and the question was asked, "Lóna, who is your father"? She gave a quick reply, "um, Daddy". Where she learned the different names for Dad, I don't know! Nathalie is 3 and has an endless amount of energy! She loves to help hang up laundry and will sometimes get the rags off the line without being told. She will often be found sweeping the porch and the sidewalk. She loves to rock her baby and most times, she will be singing to her baby too. She loves when I can rock her too and sharing my lap with Lóna is sometimes a hard thing for her (we are working on that one).

These kids are full of life as you can see and I love doing life with them! Sometimes I wonder how I have ever done life without them! They have taught me so much.

Pray for us here as we show the children what true love means. Pray for grace, wisdom, strength, and patience as we deal with situations that come up. Thank you for your support!

~Barb Stoltzfus

TEAM MEMBER NEWS

Welcome...



Ellen Schmucker
Clinic pharmacy

We welcome Ellen Schmucker to Haiti. She has served long and short term with IFM in the past helping with domestics, pharmacy, and the children's home. She will be helping Amy in the pharmacy.



Amy Yoder
Clinic pharmacy

Amy comes to IFM from Pennsylvania. She has visited numerous times and helped out short term in the children's home as well as the pharmacy. Her sister Mary Ann served as nanny in the children's home for several years.

Thanks and Farewell...



Janice Penner
Clinic Pharmacy

Thank you Janice for your hard work in the pharmacy. Many hours deciphering doctors' handwriting, filling prescriptions, packaging meds, and balancing reports. You will be missed. God bless as you continue to follow Him!



Jen Bontrager
School Teacher

Jen, your care in school this year was appreciated. Your students will remember how you made learning fun. Thank you. Your willing hands and quick smile are a blessing. God bless as He leads you from IFM!

PRAISE & PRAYER

PRAISE

- * Willing workers throughout IFM.
- * God's continuing provision for the financial needs of the mission.
- * Flexible team members willing to fill in responsibilities left vacant by leaving staff.
- * Those in church sincerely desiring to learn more Bible doctrine.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- * Protection for our team members in both Haiti and the DR
- * Willing people to fill the openings on our Haiti team.
- * Wisdom for the Board in directing the work.
- * Discernment in helping the church ordain more leaders.

URGENT NEEDS AND OTHER MUSINGS

If you are a reader of these newsletters you know that we have been in search of staff for some time now. Some of our administrative positions have been open for over a year.

This lack of people has left me to ponder a couple of things; Why are people unwilling to serve in foreign missions; Is God not calling, or are God's children not answering His call to serve on the mission field?

I have opportunity to talk with other mission personnel from time to time and the need for long term staff is something that Anabaptist missions are facing...not only IFM, not only in Haiti, but all across the world. For some reason we as Anabaptists are not encouraging our people to engage in mission work.

I am left with questions not answers. Are our local churches not teaching service in the Kingdom? Are we as an Anabaptist people so engaged in and enamored by the affluence of America that we don't hear our Father's call? Do we not have an urgency to reach the lost with the Gospel? Are we lacking a burden and sorrow for those who will enter a Christ-less eternity? Are we too comfortable in our life of ease to consider personal sacrifice and answer the call to actively serve in God's kingdom?

There are many ways to serve in God's kingdom and if you are already busy serving in some way don't let me bring guilt on you. If you are not actively serving Him, I

would ask you, "Why?" and leave you with the words of Christ, "...look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." John 4:35. "...The harvest truly is great but the laborers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He would send forth laborers into His harvest." Luke 10:2

Will you join us in praying that the Lord of the harvest sends forth laborers?

~Durwin

My House Is Full

*There is peace and contentment in the Father's house today;
Lots of food on His table and no one is turned away.
There is singing and laughter as the hours pass by,
But a hush calms the singing as the Father sadly cries:*

Chorus:

***My house is full but my field is empty,
Who will go and work for Me today?
It seems My children all want to stay around my table,
But no one wants to work in my field.***

*Push away from the table, look out through the window pane,
Just beyond this house of plenty lies a field of golden grain;
And it's ripe unto harvest, but the reapers, where are they?
In the house, oh, can't the children hear their Father sadly say.*

Chorus again:

MICHOLET UPDATE



Mich is doing very well. He just finished 1st grade in our church school, and is looking forward to 2nd grade. He has lots of friends in our church and they often come over to fish and play in the dirt with their excavators, plows, tractors and dump trucks. The laundry is a challenge but they are so happy it makes it worth it.

Mich had been doing very well walking without a walker around the house, and using his walker or wheelchair for longer distances. He is gaining weight and building muscle.

May 15 Mich underwent surgery to replace the rods in both legs (femurs) with telescoping rods that will grow with him. We hope this means he will not have to have this surgery again. Next year the doctors will insert rods into the tibias (shin bones) and finally they will re-build

his hip. We want to limit his surgeries to 1 per year if possible. He has phenomenal doctors here. We seem to be in an Orthogenesis Imperfecta (brittle bone) triangle here with the national leading specialists within 1, 2 and 4 hours travel.

Mich is also receiving infusions of medicine that will make his bones stronger and reduce the pain he experiences daily. We are seeing improvement. The doctors believe 1 more infusion and he can try to play whiffle ball. He is really looking forward to that!

Here are 2 photos of Mich: his 1st grade school picture and the brace he has to wear for the next 2 months.

~Kathleen Carter



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MISSION NEEDS

Staff Needs:

- ◆ **General administrator—general oversight of all IFM work in Haiti. Right away!**
- ◆ **Medical administrator—oversight of all IFM medical work. Right away!**
- ◆ **General maintenance. Right away!**
- ◆ **School Teacher—2017-18 school year**
- ◆ **Children's home house parents—2018**

**If you are sensing a call to serve please contact us.*

Material Needs:

- ◆ **Student sponsors for the Every Child School—\$25/month**
- ◆ **Funds for general operating expense.**
- ◆ **Funds to replace the truck in the DR. The red pickup is worn-out—\$10,000**

Any specified donations received over the present need will be used for a similar cause. All donations are tax deductible.

MISSION NEWS

- The school year has officially ended and we are grateful for a good year. Our first year working with the Every Child School has gone well and we look forward to the start of a new year this fall. As with any new endeavor there were some bumps on the road but with God's help they were smoothed out. School also went well at the Siloe school on the compound.
- The Water of Life clinic continues to be extremely busy and sees up to almost 200 patients some days. Patients tell us they are willing to travel significant distance to be seen at our clinic because they know they will get results. This is the result of our hard working staff and the quality work that they do.
- Our church continues to seek Biblical teaching and is working toward ordaining more ministers to help Pastor Voltaire. It is exciting to see their hunger for the things of God.