

# International Faith Missions

333 South Market Street Shreve, Ohio 44676 (330)-439-6468

ifm-hdr@juno.com www.ifmhaiti.org www.internationalfaithmissions.blogspot.com

### Sent to Reap Where You Did Not Labor.

#### Board of Directors

- Ivan Miller
- Bill Jones
- Merv Sommers

#### **Board of Advisors**

- Don Zook
- Joe Schlabach
- Durwin Miller
- Alvin Bontrager

I Corinthians 3:6+7: Paul to the Corinthians. "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase."

These scriptures bring a freedom with them as we realize that the source of all increase is not of man, but of God. We are the channels that God uses to fulfill His plan.

Our family first answered the call to serve in Haiti with International Faith Missions in August, 1999. We lived nearly one and a half years in Haiti then we moved back to USA. Six months later, we were accepted into the Board of Advisors. After serving there for 9

years, I was voted into the Board of Directors. Recently our family accepted the call to serve as mission directors for IFM

We want to glorify His name in all we do. We desire the prayers of all of you as we fulfill our new responsibilities. It is only by the grace of God that we can serve Him.

Hebrews 12:28+29 says, "Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire."

The shoes that have been left for me are shoes that I will never be able to fill myself. Brother Merv will never know

Continued on page 3

Inside this issue:	
A Life Restored	2
Feeding the Flock	2
Praise and Prayer	2
Jimani, Dominican Republic ladies	3
Grace and Bless- ings from God	4
Called to the Missions	4
Special Feature	5



Welcome Ivan & Linda Miller and family



Thank you Mervin & Lois Sommers

### A Life Restored ~ Shea Alexander

Part of working within a mission compound context and being white in an all black nation, is having many people in need coming to your door. This asks for much wisdom in how to put to action our faith in Christ. Some that come are beggars yet many have real needs. But how to partner in collaboration with the needy in order to advance them in life, and without creating dependencies is where much prayer and discernment is needed.

Delène Pierre was one of these people. In the middle of the stress and turmoil of the earthquake in 2010, all the staff were running back and forth to town trying to meet medical needs of suffering victims, Delène came looking for help. A single mom of four children ages 1-12 years old needed a place to stay. Mervin Sommers was here at the time and helped by renting her a room temporarily. This was the beginning of our

involvement.

Right off we looked for a way for Delene to support her family. A small grant to start selling bread was given. This was successful but after being robbed she was back to square one. A second grant was then given, but this time she was selling fried food. Her business has proved to be successful and to this day is supporting her family.

The housing issue was still a problem, but thanks to Harvest Community Church she was given money to help her build a small house. With labor and added funds from our brothers at Corner Stone Dunkerd Brethren, we were able to complete the project.

Please pray for Delène and her children as they continue to press on. And also that the love of God shown to them might lead them to a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.

# Feeding the Flock ~ Ellen Schmucker

It's amazing how much food we serve here! When we had a work team we served 84 plates of food in one day.

We usually serve around 40-50 plates per day. Most of our supplies used in our kitchen is purchased in bulk quantity. We buy milk and eggs by the case. Rice, sugar and flour are purchased in 100 bags. In a 6 day period we used 30 dozen eggs. Some went for the children's home.

Besides cooking, I do a lot of cleaning, washing laundry with a wringer washer, a daily trip to the market for fresh vegetables and of course I serve lots of cold water and coffee to the people who stop at the house for a drink. Sometimes they are fortunate enough to get fresh backed cookies with their drink.

I enjoy working for IFM and I am so thankful to the Lord for placing me here.

### Praise and Prayer.

- Matt & Alicia Newcomer and Ruth Raber chose to extend their time of service in Haiti.
- God provided the funds to start building a second story on the children's home.
- Thank God for keeping all our work teams safe as they traveled thousands of miles in the past two
- months.
- Shea Alexander is taking a two month furlough to attend Sharon Mennonite Bible Institute.
- Pray that we at IFM would see beyond the physical needs around us and point the people to Jesus Christ.

## Jimani, Dominican Republic Ladies Ministry . ~ Laurie Mohler

In January, Viki, Brother Kiko's wife, asked Bettina and I about having a sewing class as an outreach for our Ladies Bible Study. We went door-to-door handing out invitations and Spanish tracts of "La Antorcha de la.

We praise God for open doors for this sewing ministry. He has answered our prayers. The Lord provided a beautiful and spacious facility at the Chadasha Foundation (another mission in town) and some sewing supplies. On February 9th we held our first class. There were ten women who attended. A good beginning.

Our first project was a handmade baby blanket made of 25 blocks, Next, we want to teach them sewing machine basics and make aprons.

We meet Wednesday through Friday from 2PM – 5PM. We spend a portion of our time: singing, praying, and sharing the Word of God. Only a few of these women attend worship services, but gladly send their children to Sunday school every Sunday.

We desire to build stronger and deeper relationships with the women as we speak God's truth into their lives. It is wonderful to see younger girls learning alongside their mothers and spending quality time together. May God bless the work of our hands.

Please pray that we plant seeds of our Lord and Savior as we minister to these women. Pray specifically that the Lord open their hearts to receive the gospel of Jesus Christ.



## Sent to Reap Where You Did Not Labor. Continued form page 1

how much he taught me. His undying passion to answer the call of reaching the lost and the hurting people of Haiti and the Dominican Republic left a deep impression on my life.

I want to publicly say, "Thank you" to Merv, for his wonderful example and all he has done for IFM in the past 30 plus years. Merv will continue to serve on the Board of Directors and help make decisions. May the

Holy Spirit guide us in all we do.

John 4:38 Jesus says, " I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors."

Serving Christ,

Ivan Miller

## Grace and Blessings from God ~ Pastor Voltaire Oscar

Let me commend you for your courage, patience, effort and all the resources given us at our school in Fond Parisien, Haiti. I appreciate the knowledge God has given you with your support for us. This is special grace from God that we cannot measure. It is too much for my understanding.

I have a school that started with only 35 students. Today we have 479 students. It is a school that is recognized by the government as a good school.

For 16 years, Ecole Siloe (Siloam School) has been one of the top schools in government tests in the commune of Ganthier. It is the grace of God that gives these bless-

ing.

The mission supports 17 teachers, 1 academics director, 1 school director, 1 secretary, 2 gate boys, 2 janitors, 2 cooks, and provides us with teaching materials, books and pens.

The mission also supports the secondary school (grades 7 - 12) by allowing us to use the buildings in the afternoon.

I would like to lift my voice to thank God for his grace and blessings and for the people who support Ecole Siloe through IFM.

### Called to the Missions ~ Keith Martin

I love this quote by Oswald Chambers; "Never choose to be a worker for God, but once God placed His call on you, woe be to you if you 'turn aside to the right hand or to the left'." This has challenged the very core of who I am. My question to myself has been; "Am I working for Christ because that is what "I", on my own, decided to do. . . or. . .am I living my life in the center of GOD'S WILL according to the Word of God??

I believe I am doing what the Lord has called me to do.

As long as I can remember I wanted to be a missionary. As I got older I developed a love for the medical field and dreamed of some day traveling to far countries to care for the sick.

Having been blessed eleven times to travel beyond US borders, there is one trip that stands out far above all the others.

In 2010 I went to Haiti with Haiti Family Ministries. There I cared for victims of the massive earthquake. I was going to help with the wounded but a nurse, Sabrina Zehr Yoder, had other plans for our team. She said that though we could provide good medical care for our patients, but we did not touch their hearts with prayer, we totally missed the point of our mission outreach. We must send them out from our clinic not only having their physical wounds healed but their hearts knowing that their Creator sent you to show them His Son's love

through the Gospel message of Jesus Christ.

In times of such physical urgency, what was she saying? You want me to pray with every patient? I can't even speak their language. I first said to myself; "Spend time praying? We will never meet all their physical needs if we spend time listening to their griefs and woes, and spend time praying with them!"

God used this experience to radically change my life. I still love medicine, but I have a totally different view on what it meant to go in Jesus' name to the dieing.

After leaving Haiti, God had me return once again. In May of 2011, God opened the doors to join IFM. I began to learn more about this Mission and the needs in Haiti. It was then that I found my life radically changed again and I answered the call to return to USA to work in the office for IFM

Although I do not understand all the whys and wherefores of this new assignment, I know that God has a plan for my life. As I embrace the Lord, He will continue to show me His will in my life. All I have to do is say, " Yes, Lord." whenever He calls me.

I encourage you to choose His will in your life. And choose you this day whom you will serve.

# Special Feature ∼ Photo Album

At the request of our dear sponsorship partners and donors we published these pictures of Gods precious children in Haiti and Dominican Republic.









Thank you for the coloring books.







## **International Faith Missions**

333 SOUTH MARKET STREET SHREVE, OHIO 44676 Return Service Requested

OUR NEW PHONE NUMBER IS:

(330)-439-6468

Non-Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Wooster, OH Permit No. 240

If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, Please call (330)-439-6468 Printed by Little Mountain Printing, Myerstown PA, 17067 Phone: (717)-933-8091

## — WAYS YOU CAN HELP —



I would like to contribute \$

<u>General</u> to be used where needed most.

#### 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

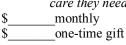
Outreach

is to help take Christ

to the D. R.

This \$

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



### Children's Home

I wish to give for the operating expenses of the Children's Home

\$\_\_\_\_monthly \$\_\_\_\_onetime 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**

**Dominican Republic** 

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 deductable.