



International Faith Missions

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www.lfmhaiti.org

The Dominican Republic

If you remember from last summer, Tom and Laurie Mohler left Jimani after 10 years of service and returned to Washington. Their tireless work in the community and church continues to bless IFM and the people of Jimani.

Let me introduce you to Joe and Naomi Schlabach. Joe served with us in Haiti while single and has since served on our advisory board. His input has been a valued addition to our board. We began having a conversation about their calling to work in the DR a couple of years ago. Other commitments kept them from going to Jimani for a period of time.

They were able to move in January and are currently getting settled in to life in the Spanish culture of the Dominican Republic. Time is being invested in language learning and adjusting to life in Jimani in general.

Joe and Naomi plan to help in the church as needed as well as begin searching for another area to begin an outreach work in. Our vision is to find a location close enough to Jimani that we could involve the *Forward with Christ Church* in the new outreach area. We feel it important for a young congrega-

tion to learn the importance of reaching the lost for Christ.

Directors

Durwin Miller
Mervin Sommers

Advisory Board

Marlin Martin
Dan Schmucker
Darrel Herschberger
Rudy Yoder
Jordan Dutter, MD

Praise Report!

Praise the Lord for how He provided for our needs.

After mentioning the decision to purchase Tom's house last summer, the Lord provided in a big way for that purchase. We received donations that allowed us to complete the purchase soon after making the need known.

Thank you to the Lord and you our supporters!



Joe & Naomi Schlabach

God is GREAT!

I want to share a situation that we encountered last year that once again proved the Lord's power and provision for the mission.

You'll remember I mentioned in a newsletter last summer that we were experiencing a decrease in donations due to various benefit auctions not being held as usual due to COVID-19. Some auctions were cancelled and others were forced to change to online auctions or drive-thru fundraiser meals. We were experiencing a significant shortfall!

Following that notice, you allowed the Lord to use you in a mighty way and we saw donations come in that covered the shortfall.

Out of curiosity I sat down to compare the donations

received, to the sale contributions missed. Those calculations indicated that you had donated \$5,200 more than the missed sales. I hadn't received a donation from one auction that was forced to go to an online format. The thought crossed my mind, "I wonder if that sale will be \$5,200 less than last year?"

By now you may be guessing how it worked out. When the check arrived....it was very nearly that \$5,200 less than last year's.

I'm convinced that God enjoys working in ways that His children know He's involved. Our budget was met and my faith was strengthened.

~dm

Haiti News!

The first thing that comes to mind when Haiti is mentioned is SECURITY. About two years have passed since security on the streets has begun to deteriorate. The government is not able to maintain law and order well. Gangs of thugs now rule many of the streets and the people live in fear of being robbed or kidnapped. Within the last month, the US embassy reported 17 kidnappings in a 24 hour period. We now have a gang of thieves working our only road into Port Au Prince. So far we have not been bothered due to our clinic reputation and using clinic marked vehicles. The gang is becoming more bold and although generally not violent, they have recently used their guns on a few people and a tour bus.

We continue to work in Haiti with a greatly reduced North American staff presence. During this time of insecurity and limited travel, we have learned to rely more on our Haitian staff to accomplish the work that needs done. This is working well and we are finding

more and more people skilled in the various areas of expertise needed to keep things running.

We have four North American staff still working in the clinic, Keith and Delphine Martin, Ellen Schmucker, and Barb Stoltzfus. Keith and Delphine work in clinic administration with Dr. Alexis, taking care of clinic staffing and supplies purchasing. Ellen has been in Pennsylvania for a number of months on sabbatical, resting and recharging for a soon return to Haiti. She will be working in the central supply room to manage our inventory of medicines and medical supplies. Barb has just started helping out in the clinic office with bookkeeping now that her time is not required in the children's home.

We are grateful for each of our staff. They sacrifice a life of relative comfort and security to live in Haiti and work for IFM. Please pray with us for their continued safety.



Children's Home News!

Over the last couple of years the board of IFM has been looking hard at the children's home and how we can best care for the children.

The original vision for the children's home was to provide care for needy children and prepare them for adoption outside of Haiti. We worked toward that goal for a number of years and have several children in the US today that have been adopted by forever families. In the years since we started the children's home, the international adoption rules have changed dramatically. Currently, prospective parents cannot pick children to adopt and homes, such as ours, can't select parents for our children to go to. That responsibility is carried out by the government of Haiti. I'm sure you can imagine the problem we as a Christian organization have with the possibility that our children could be adopted by any random person seeking a child.

Haitian adoptions are still an option but require the adoptive parents to live in Haiti for a number of years. Most are not able to commit to that length of time.

After praying about it much the board decided that our children could be better cared for by others. We as North Americans cannot prepare the children for the life available to them in Haiti. The boys, Davensky and Judnay moved to a home in northern Haiti that we have

been working with and supporting for almost as long as we've been working in Haiti. They seem to be doing well there and enjoying other boys to live with and relate to. The girls have all gone to forever families that are already living in Haiti and can see the Haitian adoption through to the end. Nathalie is with Barb, Lona went with Brad Wagler's, and Lovenie is with Nelson Schrock's.

As hard as it was to close the children's home, we are blessed to see that each of the children went to good homes that will care for them in ways we couldn't.

Pray for Barb as she adjusts after working in the children's home for so long.



Schools

The two schools are reopened and operating under a normal schedule. We are rejoicing that we are able to have a hot meal program at both schools this year. Last year we were forced to discontinue that with security problems and COVID-19 lock-downs.



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Mission needs

Material Needs:

- ◆ Funds for general operating expense.
- ◆ Funds for clinic operation.
- ◆ Funds for a clinic battery bank—\$7,000-\$13,000

Staffing Needs:

- ◆ Couple or family to work with our schools, church, and community outreach.

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