

October 2015



International Faith Missions

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Thoughts on Service

As we enter the fall season I realize that another year is mostly past us. This brings to mind the questions, “What have I done for the Lord?” and “Have I been useful in His kingdom?”.

If we consider the great price paid for our salvation we are left indebted to our Heavenly Father. We owe our very lives to him. God has called His children to work in His kingdom. We will never fully repay the debt we owe but we should be working in His kingdom faithfully. While I don’t know the specific call God has put on your life, I am confident that if you are a child of His you are called to His service.

It seems that life gets too comfortable for us and we are lulled into drowsiness that inhibits our ability or willingness to hear His calling. We are all too satisfied setting at His table. Any nudging of the Spirit to get up, leave the table, and go work in His fields is unheard or unheeded. I pray that we as His children would awaken to the needs surrounding us and to His calling in our lives. We are His hands and feet here on earth. If we aren’t willing/available to serve Him, who can He use? There will be those faithful in serving God. Let’s make sure we are included in that group and not the other of “unfaithful” servants.

Living in service to the Lord is a life of incomparable fulfillment since we are living out what we were created for. It isn’t always easy and many times not convenient but rewarding and blessed it is. We will find no greater joy as a child of God than serving him with our life and energy. It is humbling to consider that our omnipotent God is interested in the seemingly insignificant, often flawed service that we are able to perform for Him.

Durwin Miller

Director

“...if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.” John 12:26

PRAISE & PRAYER/STAFF NEEDS

Needs

These needs are immediate. If the Lord is calling you or you know of someone who might be interested please let us know.

... *General administrator—Couple or family with administrative abilities and a willingness to serve people.*

... *House parents—Couple or family to serve as mentors to the single staff. Will also be responsible for visitor hospitality needs on the compound.*

... *Pharmacy worker—Single to work in our clinic pharmacy. Attention to details and medical interest necessary. We will provide necessary training.*

Praise

... For His Watchful Eye and Protecting Hand as Mike & Joanna Martin and their family traveled to different states sharing the work of IFM.

... For His faithfulness in providing willing workers for the field.

... For God's grace and mercy bestowed on His people daily.

Prayer

... that God's Spirit would move in and through the hearts and minds of the Haitian People.

... that God would send rain to help with the drought complications taking place in the mountains.

... for continued safety for those travelling to and from the field. This includes both staff & visitors.

... for the new staff on the field learning to adjust to the culture and working with people relations.

... for new staff to replace those returning home.

2015 WATER STUDENTS

Thanks to WATER program, I had the privilege of spending 5 weeks of my summer with IFM in Dominican Republic. For the first half of my time there I lived with Kiko & Vicki Perez and their family. This was very good for my limited knowledge of Spanish. :) They were very kind to me; I enjoyed getting to know them and also the friends who were always stopping by. The other 2 1/2 weeks I spent with Tom & Laurie Mohler, who just included me in their everyday life and the mission work in Jimani. We had a lot of good times going to mercado, to church, or visiting. The laid-back atmosphere gave me time to hang out on the porch and talk with the neighborhood children. Also, the girls from church included me in their Father's Day pantomima (a kind of slo-mo dance interpreting a song), so we spent hours together practicing. One week the church hosted VBS and everyone worked together to make this major event go smoothly. It was a memorable summer with lots of learning experiences and many highlights--experiences with friends from the church there are definitely among my favorite memories! I appreciated everything that Kiko & Vicki and Tom & Laurie did for me, and am thankful to God who made it possible!

~Julie Yoder



My time spent at IFM in Haiti was something I will never regret. Experiencing a new culture is good for anyone. It was really good for me to learn just to set back and not rush around; take time to say "Good Morning" to those we meet on the road or just smile at someone. Aside from working at the clinic, "helping" Wismith Joseph teach English, or just working at the mission, one highlight for me was going with Caitlyn to market. On the way we would stop and drink hot coffee as we visited with the locals. I really appreciated how the mission staff related to the natives. It was apparent that they had a heart for the people! I am so glad that God opened the doors for me to experience life in Haiti, and would encourage anyone else to do the same.

~Laura Knically



2015 WATER STUDENTS CONT.

July 2015... A month that has come and gone so fast it is almost hard to remember all that has happened. But don't let that be a discouragement! If you are considering going on the W.A.T.E.R. program with SMBI or just going down to visit the IFM mission in Haiti, I highly encourage you to take the opportunity! You will be blessed.

Here is a quick snapshot into what happened in my life during the month of July. Every day was busy, or at least we had something to do. Most of the days found each of us W.A.T.E.R. students individually working at different locations, whether that would be the mission house, clinic, kid's home, or helping out with Wismith & Rebecca's English classes. I really enjoyed the variety we were able to experience in working with the staff at different mission outreaches.



I want to close with a few ways my life has been challenged through this month. I loved the chance to interact with the native Haitians, and experience a taste of their culture. Laid back, yet opinionated, some of these people kept a piece of my heart. All the trials they go through for what I expect as a comfort of American living – I was challenged. Do I really need more “stuff”? What is life truly all about? Also, thank you Laurie for something you told us when we spent time with you and Tom in the DR. The one evening you told Matt, Laura, and I, “The mission field is at your feet.” That is something I want to make part of my daily living and would love to pass on to every Christian I meet! To those of you still on staff with IFM – keep fighting! I know mission life is not easy, but it is worth it! Keep speaking into the lives of the natives. You all have blessed and challenged my life!

~Jana Good

My month in Haiti was an amazing experience that I really enjoyed. There was a lot of situations that I was put into that really stretched me. Driving around picking stuff up and not being able to speak a word of the language was always a stretch. I enjoyed every second of it! I played soccer with the Haitian kids almost every day at the mission so that was a huge highlight as well. I really enjoyed interacting with the staff at IFM and was encouraged to see the dedication that they have for serving Christ in Haiti. It was a huge blessing for me to live with them for a month and I'm so thankful for the sacrifices they made to make it possible.

Matt Byler

CHILDREN'S HOME

Warm greetings from the children's home. We have experienced a lot of adjustments in our lives the past three months, but God has been faithful. Every week it feels more like home.

We thank the Lord it has been raining quite a bit this past month, making everything so nice and green. I will never be able to look at rain and MCC meat cannery the same again after living here.

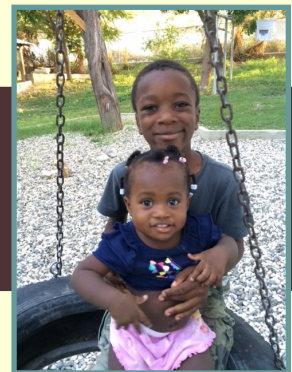
The biggest challenge we face here at the children's home is knowing how to deal with the emotional needs of the children. They are searching to belong, to find an identity. Some frequent questions they ask are, "Where are my mom and dad? Why don't they come see me? Do you think they forgot about me? Will I ever have a mom and dad for my very own?"

Everyday life here includes trying to keep everything running and improvising when you don't have or can't get parts. Lawn work and planting new things like pineapple and mango trees. Cleaning and doing laundry by hand when the washer doesn't work. Pretty much normal life. There's always things that need to be done and people on the porch that want something.

When life gets hectic and all we see is trash, dust, and poverty its easy to miss the beauty of God's handy work in the mountains that surround us.

Keep praying for all of us at the children's home.

~Andrew Byler



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CHILDREN'S HOME

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expenses of the Children's
Home
\$_____ monthly
\$_____ one-
time donation



GENERAL

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

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

This \$_____ is to
help bring Christ to the
Dominican Republic.



MEDICAL RELIEF

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



\$_____ monthly
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be used to help
provide the
mission with
solar power.



SCHOOL SPONSORSHIP

I wish to sponsor #___ children at
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initial payment and understand
that I will receive a picture and
more information.



CLINIC

I would like to help provide quality medical care in Haiti.
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