



Continuation of Mission Trip to Haiti August 8-14- 2010

Vince is a youngster who has already acquired a passion for missions, who after the earthquake, collected items in his neighborhood so he could donate them on a trip he took in May. Coming back home with a renewed desire to give back more, he decided to mow lawns to raise money to pay for his next trip. With a video he made from his last trip he returned to Haiti in August to assist in the clinic and hand out the goodies we brought.

Our first impression of Haiti was to still see all the damage that was done to the island even after 8 months have past since the earthquake shook. You would have thought that with so much money that had been pledged towards Haiti that you would have seen some tangible form of recovery. Driving through the overcrowded streets, there is no sign of construction of any kind to show that something is being done. There was an absence of heavy equipment to remove rubble and instead you saw a few people with everyday tools like wheelbarrows, etc. trying to clear these areas. Some areas were already cleared, but so few. Buildings are still dangerously perched with cracked and collapsed walls, ready to fall. Meanwhile the tents where people live are in various parts of the city and countryside, stretching to the hills as far as the eyes can see. It rains nearly every afternoon and it is HOT. You cannot imagine what these people are going through.

We were hosted by Pastor Nathan Dieudonne at his home where he used to live in Croix des Bouquet that is an hour away from the clinic in Dumay. He hails from this village and continues to give back to his community by pastoring a church for the last 27 years, a clinic, a school with 500 students to Grade 6, a feeding program, overseeing the building in progress of a storehouse, pharmacy and a hostel to house over 30 missionaries. Pastor Nathan is a very humble and quiet man and overcame great difficulties in his life. Three years ago he was kidnapped, beaten and tortured and held for ransom. He was released after 5 days for \$4,000 dollars. His wife works for USAID and they were told to leave the country. He returns periodically to oversee his projects. His home is now a mission house where we stayed and he has 2 tents in his yard as shelter for families, among others he has rescued for food as well.

Ironically, this is the same venue that Dr Keen began his first mission with Adopt-A-Village Missions in 1990, now returning 20 years later with his own team.

Dumay is a small village at the foot of the mountains with flat farm lands. The roads are not paved and some areas are indescribable. We were slipping and sliding in mud even when in a 4-

wheel drive truck. The potholes were wide, full of water and of unknown depths. There were several areas like this and a lot of prayers were being said by the team members in the hope of getting us through. The driver's skill was also to be commended. In fact, we can easily say "Haiti's driving is Number One in the WORLD !!".

We were at the clinic for 4 days seeing a total of 400 patients. The optician was also kept busy. Eyes were checked and several pairs of reading glasses were given as well as eye drops.

Among the patients, we met a 10 year-old who desperately needs heart surgery and a 16 year-old who also needs surgery for a badly deformed leg. Touched by these youngsters, CAMEO is going to coordinate with the appropriate resources to get these surgeries done. We are hoping to contact a cardiologist in Jamaica to do the heart surgery as well as approach the Jamaican Government to absorb the hospital cost. The other surgery will be done in Orlando and we are currently working on getting the appropriate Visa for the trip to the USA.

We observed the need for many types of help and not just medical food or housing. There are several youngsters who would like to go to school to learn a trade but have no funds. The trade of choice is mechanic. CAMEO will now try to seek sponsorship for them as well. We also met a young man who is in school for computer science but lost his computer in the earthquake. Lots of sad stories, but some are doing well, like one of the interpreters who is a 3rd year medical student. Another is doing engineering in Santa Domingo and others still trying. Food is another big issue. People are hungry. Pastor Nathan informed us that for days some people have nothing to eat. He feeds about 600 people a week.

This trip is an unforgettable one. One that makes us feel inadequate and helpless. Yet the people were grateful and expressed their appreciation to us. I suppose every little bit helps and they get the feeling that somebody cares. It may be just a kind word, a touch or a smile but it makes a difference in situations like these. This experience for the students is life changing too.

TRULY THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL BUT THE LABOURERS ARE FEW.