

Journal from Haiti

Day 1: We made it!

Hi all!

Just a quick note to let you all now we made it here. Flew in to Port Au Prince. Coming in, flying over from the plane things looked pretty good. Actually green and lush from the air. I first thought everything I had heard and seen on the news was an over exaggeration. Well as we start driving all the tent cities started popping up everywhere. Blue tarps cardboard junk everywhere and the stench. I thought ok this is bad but still not as bad as I had imagined. We started the drive to Anse Rouge they said it would be 6-7 hours to go 90 miles. In my mind I thought right, how can that be? We it was the ride of my life. What we saw the entire way made the tent cities look like the Ritz. Unbelievable poverty I thought not possible. No words can describe. These areas were not even affected by the quake. This is normal life for them. We road in the back of a open transported truck standing up for 3 hours we switched places during the trip. Winding one lane roads. Up into the mountains wondered a few times if we would fall over the edge. Truly the most I have ever been scared for my life.

We got here the accommodations are better here at the church than expected. They have showers! We had a lovely meal of goat stew with the head horns attached and brains floating in it. It tasted pretty good. We had Mass this am 630 and now are ready to start the first clinic. Wish us luck. This is an experience that will never be forgotten. Hi to all. Love ya miss ya. Will somebody tell Rons parents we are ok I don't have their email. Sue hope all is well with the dogs. You can reply I will be able to check later. PS its 9:00 am and I am already soaking with sweat.

Day 2 of Haiti into Day 3

We were awakened @ 5:00 am with rooster crows and church bells. It is very hot here. 100 plus degrees with high humidity. Yesterday am clinic here saw 68, then in pm traveled to the country for another 45 between Dr. Whitters and I. Our afternoon clinic was closed early because of big thunder storms. We road again in the back of a truck (don't tell my dad) for about 40 min down bumpy dirt roads. On the way home it was in a thunder/lightening storm, was a little concerned about being struck by lightning and the truck got stuck in the mud, Too much rain too fast. We had to leave early before the roads were impassable. We got soaked! we were big muddy messes Our clothes were filthy and so were we! At least it was a little cooler.

No more goat soup yet! Some fish it was good. We are seeing all kinds of things malnutrition, parasites, pneumonia, Otits, HTN Diabetes, rashes yeast Abcesses STD UTI. The people here for the most part seem to appreciate what we are doing. Some know how to play the system just like in the US! Some of the people are so sweet. You can almost see the face of God when looking into their eyes. It is very humbling.

I don't think the work here can ever be completed. It just goes on and on. No end in site. At least we can help a few people along the way. Kind of like the "star fish on the beach" story Our Love to all, keep us in your prayers! This is by far the most indescribable experience I have ever done. If I make it alive may do it again. Love and kisses to my dogs, Sue!

Day 3 of 4

We are still alive. Ron had a close call yesterday. We were crossing a river over the road (if you can call it a road) everything is dirt and rocks. Very bumpy, anyway, Ron got out to access the situation from the back of the pickup. Just as he was jumping back in the truck, the driver took off to make it through the river. The driver gunned it so we wouldn't get stuck and Ron fell back in the pickup but was able to cling to the tailgate with his legs and hands. He looked like a spider monkey hanging upside down on to the tailgate. Whitters and I grabbed his hands and legs to keep him from falling/dragging into the river. It was out of an Indiana Jones Movie Scared ... me!

We have seen over 600 people in 3 days! Hopefully we are making a difference to some. Gave out 300 pairs of glasses besides all the meds. Wow this is just overwhelming. Found a tarantula in our bath house Ron killed it. We now have an entire Tarantula Task Force established. We have been to the beach yesterday and today in the afternoon. It felt good to cool off a little. The beach could be really nice but it is full of garbage!!! Much potential! That will probably never happen anyway the water felt good.

Tonight saw a 2 inch cockroach in the bathroom just have to watch where you walk.

Overall things are worse than I imagined. The food is good but different than we are used to. Most of us have diarrhea by now. Will consider Cipro tomorrow. We think we have been careful with eating and drinking, but you never know.

There are many goats and dogs running around. I think the goats end up on the table: (Trying to stick with rice and beans. Ever heard the saying tougher than an old goat? It's true! It is heart breaking for me to see the skinny dogs. Try to feed as many as I can. And tend to their wounds. Surprise, surprise!

Well tomorrow will be just another...GREAT ADVENTURE!! I sure hope my nerves can take it!!! God Bless please pray for us!! God knows we need it!! Love, Monica and Ron

Sunday, July 18, 2010

Hello,

It is me again. Today was not quite as exciting as the previous days. 6:00 am Mass for 2 1/2 hours. Then breakfast, some kind of chicken noodle stuff. Food here is different. I'm sure it is very good. Just not what we are used too! Tried to take a nap but it is so hot you just lay there and sweat. Yes, I am actually sweating. We went back to the beach. It's the only place to cool off! No garbage in the water only on the beach. Of course Ron wants to buy land down here! Surprise... surprise!

So far today no near death experiences, no flat tires, no pickups that won't start in the middle of nowhere!! And no giant bugs!!!

We will leave to drive back to Port Au Prince around midnight Tuesday am /Monday pm.

Want to have plenty of time. Don't want to miss this flight! Looking forward to home! My DOGS my own bed and my own bathroom! We have one small clinic tomorrow just for the workers here at the church. Then we are going to visit the "hospital" and see where they grow salt. Right now it is raining and has cooled down some :)

Everyone take care. Thanks for all the thoughts and prayers. Somebody tell my Dad happy 80th birthday tomorrow in case I can't contact him. Happy belated birthday to Ellen! Love and prayers to all. Monica