

Haiti Medical Mission Trip 2010

We are finally fulfilling our dream. After the Earthquake & postponement of our February trip, 6 months later, we are now on our Journey!

We left Clarion @ MN for the Mpls. Airport. The portable generator was not allowed to go along, so sent home with Pat, to be shipped. This was a big disappointment, but maybe it was not meant to be? Our flight from Miami to PAP, also included 60 from Campus Crusaders for Christ, & 10 from Alabama. Our 3 Mission groups were announced, thanked & cheered on. PAP airport was chaotic-- people everywhere begging. We followed closely together carrying our 18 duffle bags & 9 carry-on's.

We were very relieved to finally see Father Dorléan outside. We took off through miles of tent cities & crazy driving. Dodging, honking, garbage & graffiti everywhere. People walking on the roadsides, carrying pails/baskets etc on their heads. These are pictures from our arrival in PAP, & 6 hour journey to Anse Rouge. We arrived there @ 8:30 p.m. & dinner was ready--Plantenes/Rice/Goat stew (skull/brain & all) Mama (Father's Aunt) is our main cook this week. A nice white crocheted tablecloth covered the 2 tables.

Wednesday: the bells starting ringing @ 5 a.m. to prepare for morning Mass @ 6:30. (also goat/chicken/rooster/+ barking & fighting dogs most of the night) Bell rings every 15 minutes. After Mass & breakfast, we started our first clinic in our school (Anse Rouge) We examined & gave medicines to 65. After lunch, we rested a bit, then off to Platon. Large 5-6" rocks are the floor of this chapel. We saw 46 people, then a storm brewed. No radar to indicate. It got very dark/windy & poured. We packed up quickly to get out before we'd be stranded there.

The roads wash out easily. One truck did get stuck & the guys pushed, as Pam & I prayed. Tires here last 6 months if lucky--we can see why!! We had a fish (nicely decorated with onion slices) Rice & black beans, potatoes/mixed vegetables & Sweet potato dessert.

Thursday: Bells chiming @ 5 Mass nice. Brkfst chicken soup, toast with peanut butter (a favorite!) Grapefruit. Clinic @ school again 8:30-11 (too much rain up in Atrel to go there) Lunch Mac/cheese/spam & watermelon juice. Rested 1 hour, then off to Glacys 2:30-5:30. We saw 142 today! Exhausted, but I found

Lovemika here! We have sponsored this little girl since 2005! She is now 10. Pictures & Jerry took video of her saying "Monica" Supper rice/goat/chicken/fried plantains. Tarantula in our BR! Travel is "interesting" with treacherous roads. Many walking or riding animals or scooters to our clinics. Ron nearly fell out of the backend of truck, when driver sped up to go through water. At 5, we went to the beach--very pretty & relaxing. Got ready to leave & had a flat tire. Changed by Monica's small flashlight!

Friday: Morning Mass with 11 Baptisms. Back to Glacys (81) then to Lavisite (82) Lunch @ 2. Dinner--whole fish again, rice & beans. Very loud music in streets tonight until 3 am Felt aftershock @ 2--shook bed & walls.

Saturday: Mass @ 6:30 Clinic @ Terres-des-Negres. Saw 65 + wormed over 100 Seafood/plantenes & chicken for lunch. Rested. Had kids make cards to bring back "art class." Toured school. To beach--light rain, but no flat tire. Supper shrimp/conch, rice & beans.

Sunday Mass @ 6 am Anse Rouge--2 1/2 hours. Very nice music--enjoy the drums. They've also been practicing allot to get ready for August 15th-- Feast of the Assumption. Brkfst, then Father, Mike, Jerry, George left for Feast/celebration @ Glacys. When there, they had a 3 hour service. Haitian dancing--offering of 3 chickens & box of bananas for us. VERY appreciative of our support & medical care. Eyeglasses have gone over very well too--over 300 pair taken--all used!

The new Fender portable sound system was used there. Not everyone fits inside, so this helps the others to hear outside. The copier that was sent by sea container has also been received to use in the parish. 100# of school supplies were also added to that shipment. We've been taking turns "not feeling well." Some went to the beach this afternoon, but some of us stayed back to rest. Having an adventurous time, wish you were here! The generator is wonderful & allows use of fans & light for evening hours.

Monday: Our week is coming to an end. The Baptisms today were cancelled because of rain & roads. We did a clinic for the staff, handed out more medicines, then packed remaining ones up to save until the winter visit. We wore our red bumblebee shirts today--"We BEE--Lieve in Haiti." (Father Dorléan wore his too). We did a couple of house calls in the town & walked to see the hospital. There was an explosion a year ago, so the Dr. was seeing patients in a tent. We also saw a building where babies are delivered (old stirrups) & 3 white metal

framed beds, & pharmacy cupboard. We drove to the salt fields. Lunch lobster/conch, rice, beans & a lemon cake. Rested.

We met with Father @ 4. He expressed SINCERE THANKS for our visit & continued support. The people don't communicate/cooperate or follow, as he'd like. He often feels alone or abandoned. He LOVES having company. Sometimes he "runs away" to Gonaives. MERCI BEAUCOUP!! He has had MANY calls thanking for our care, medicines & glasses. God is the Master of the Mission. After the pastoral visit last summer, the bishop saw the needs were great & has offered some financial support to help @ Platon. There are 28 teachers here. Continue as a mission & God will Bless us. Today, Tomorrow, & Forever---He Believes. Trust me to do my job.

Father Dorléan is very proud of us--"Servants for his people" makes him proud. His plan is #1 Finish the school (smoothing of cement/add doors/& complete electricity. This generator will also handle school.) Goal: to someday add a Trade school (evenings) to make people more independent/self sufficient.

sewing/crafts/telemarketing? He also needs money to complete Platon \$9000. & Laviste \$8300. Mass @ 5:45 today Dinner Goat/rice/chicken/potatoes/pineapple cake Gift presentation.

Tuesday: Our week has been a success--seeing over 600 patients & giving them the free medicines that they needed. We got up @ 1 a.m. & left Anse Rouge @ 2. Scary & dark. The words "Journey of Faith" take on a whole new meaning. We are all anxious to get home safely. We dropped off Mama & another cook in St. Marc. She had warm croissants & pastries ready for us, coffee & pop. They really hit the spot.

We said goodbye & continued our trip. It took 6 hours to get 90 miles!

As we enter Port au Prince again, we continue to see the devastation from the Earthquake 6 months before. Rubble & distraught people everywhere. It is very sad. Death-destruction & homeless, many still searching.

Our flight left @ 12:30, then to Miami for a longer lay over. We got delayed, so did not get back to Minneapolis until MN--home @ 3:30 & to BED! Glad that we went, also Glad to be home safely! Notice, our after shots are not nearly as cheery or healthy looking! We all took turns being sick.

THANKS to EVERYONE for their support & PRAYERS!

Monica Staudt & Medical Mission Team