

Report from the Haiti Medical Team Visit

By Monica Staudt

I am Monica Staudt. I was one of the “chosen” to go on our first Medical Mission to our Sister Parish in Anse Rouge. After the Earthquake devastation, we were forced to reschedule 6 months later. It was a big disappointment to wait, but we now have fulfilled our first Mission.

It was a physical & emotional journey of FAITH, HOPE & LOVE. Our FAITH was tested many times through the conditions that they endure daily. We brought HOPE & LOVE from our parishes in Wright County, Iowa. We had people jump for joy in seeing again. The eyeglasses were a huge hit—we had over 300 pair, & not a single one left unused. Start saving for next winter!

The innocent faces of the children melted me—all of us from the same creator. I was united with Lovemika, a girl who our family has sponsored the past 5 years. To meet her & hear her say my name was very touching. How, out of 600 patients, did she happen to get into my line so I could see her? God was working overtime!

Our school is a dream come true—we delivered Crucifixes for each classroom & passed out balls/stickers/candy/shoes to the kids.

We attended daily Masses, usually at 6 or 6:30 a.m. The bell started clanging at 5:00 a.m. daily. We also had chickens/roosters/goats & dogs keeping us awake. And often, we'd wonder if we were eating the creature we met in the morning.

The roads were unreal. I've heard bad, but “holding on for dear life” took on a whole new meaning. Their tires last 6 months, if lucky. We had 1 flat, which was changed by flashlight. We had Gecko's on our screens, a tarantula in the bath house, and felt an aftershock Saturday morning. I am thankful to have gone on this Mission & also thankful to those who stayed here & prayed for us, so we could also return home safely. Thank you to those who continue to give unselfishly for this ministry. The help is greatly appreciated.

Merci Beaucoup!