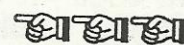




HELLO FROM HAITI



GREETINGS TO ALL

MARCH 1999

I can't believe it's time for another newsletter. Time sure is rolling along fast. I received many good responses from the first letter and will try my best to keep them coming. We have had our hands full lately with many things. We have been having trouble with the generators, cars, and other things. But such is life and time marches on. The most important and most time consuming is taking care of TWO BURN girls named Roselène (5 yrs old) and Carline (4 yrs old). We have taken them into our home to give them proper dressing changes, good food, and lots of love. Roselène's father carried her to clinic (an 8 hr walk) fifteen days after she was burned. She was at home alone watching food cooking when her dress caught fire. It burned a large area on her stomach and right leg-severe 3rd degree. Her parents took her to a "doctor" up in the mountains. He gave her a shot, put eggs all over her burn, and said that was all she needed. Because of the delay in proper treatment, she is likely to have much scar tissue. The first few days were a little rough. She had her first ride in a car, saw white people for the first time, and had to endure painful dressing changes. She was also trying to figure out how we got candles lit on the ceiling, how water comes on inside our house, and how we got the little people inside the box (TV). We have had her since March 2nd. Carline came to clinic 4 days after she was burned. She had been playing at a friend's house when another kid spilled a pot of BOILING WATER on her. Her parents are very loving, but just couldn't really cope with the dressing changes. She is one of eight of their living children and the mother is eight months pregnant. The burns weren't very deep, but they cover her entire left leg and arm. Her family had carried her on a bed 4 hrs to get to our clinic. She was in the beginning of kidney failure from a combination of malnutrition and her burns. Her puffed up face allowed for small slits for her eyes and her feet

and hands were very swollen too. We've been caring for her since March 25th. Her burns are healing fast and her edema has quickly went down. She is even starting to smile and laugh. She has had the same adventures as Roselène, but the TV really doesn't seem to do much for her. Anyway, our hands are full with both of them along with all our other responsibilities. Thanks so much for all the letters and supplies that have been sent lately. We all appreciate them so much. I'm going to continue to run a needs list in each letter in case you run across a bargain. I am so grateful for all of the help we get from each of you. Without it, our work here would be impossible. God bless you!!

CLINIC-CLINIC-CLINIC

March 17th marked one year that our family has been at the Cazale clinic. Here are some year long stats...

• Villages served.....	over 175
• Individual patients seen.....	8,320
• Total consultations.....	13,987
• Average patients seen (we work 2 days per week)	
monthly.....	1,166
daily.....	143
• # of emergencies (burns, stitches, etc).....	199
• Referrals to hospitals.....	209

Pediatric (5yrs & under)

• Total consultations.....	7,928
• Malnourished-helped with food/milk.....	2,194

Prenatal

• Total consultations.....	2,695
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General (kids >5yrs & non-pregnant adults)

• Total consultations.....	3,364
• Malnourished-helped with food/milk.....	911

Some of the costs (all figures are in American dollars)

• Medications purchased (in Haiti only).....	\$13,308.55
• Peanut butter (for malnourished kids).....	\$614.00
• Soap.....	\$1,125.00
• Total cost of running clinic (past year).....	\$27,494.91

(This includes the above items, payroll, help with operations, tests, supplemental foods, transportation for pts to get back & forth from hospitals, benevolence, help with housing rent, dental care, etc) Some of these figures seem staggering, but with God and support from friends, all things are possible. Thank you all so much for each donation of powdered milk, medicine, hygiene products, vitamins, and money. Please know each item was given to those in need in the name of the Lord.

I can't tell you about all of the *thousands* of people we've seen. It would take a lifetime to explain the **conditions, problems and sufferings** of the Haitian people. I can only give you a quick *glimpse* into their lives. Even living here and working among them, I still can't possibly comprehend their pain and struggles. For example, we recently had a group of people from a town called **Soto**. It is a **10 hr walk**. Some people needed to be seen desperately, but feared they couldn't get to clinic in time - so they **RAN** & made it in **5 hrs!** Some of these people had minor problems- *acid, headache and cold*. Others were very sick- *typhoid, malaria, 5 month old twins with pneumonia*, etc. The word is **traveling** about our clinic and we are getting patients from villages further and further away.

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Some of the **emergency cases** have been interesting. I've **stitched up** *three* people so far. One was a guy who was cutting with a **machete** (large knife) and cut the back of his left hand. It wasn't too bad-*only 5 stitches*. I have since taken them out and it healed up fine. It was a good warm-up for the next guy. The next case was with a young guy who *sliced his finger while getting in a truck*. His right middle finger was sliced length wise *almost in two*. I can't describe to you how **disgusting** this was. Besides the enormous amount of blood, when he came in he *opened* his finger up to reveal the depth of the cut. I swear I could see the **bone**. His fingernail was purple and black. It was cut in a crescent or semicircle shape which started at the tip of his finger and went  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch below his 1st joint. I *lost count* of how many stitches I did, but let's just say I got *alot* of practice. Anyway, I'm not sure if it will heal back normal, but at least the covering flap of skin will hopefully keep out infection.

The other case was minor. A kid threw a **rock** at a 12 yr old boy's head making a short, but deep laceration-*only 3 stitches* (but the first kid I've done).

Another suture case was with a very old man (like many others, he doesn't know how old he is). He was working with his animals and got **bit by a pig** (I'm not really sure how?). He cut his **right thumb from the tip of his thumb almost to the wrist**. Thankfully, this was before I was stitching and **mom** did it. It took a few weeks to heal, but it's fine now.

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Besides Roselene and Carline, I've had many other **burns**. One was a **10 month old girl** who sustained **2nd degree** burns after *hot bean sauce* spilled all over her. I totally covered her right arm and hand, the back of her head and neck, $\frac{1}{3}$ of her upper back and her left shoulder and $\frac{1}{2}$ of her left upper arm. Her father was very intelligent and caring. He did the daily dressing changes. The mother couldn't even watch. He did a **wonderful job** and it healed in **2 1/2 weeks**. Another was a **7 month old** who put his hand in **hot food**. It was also a **2nd degree burn**. Only his right hand was involved, but healing a burn on the hand is extremely **difficult** especially when they are that young.

When he came in, his hand was *one big blister*. After *soaking*, I removed the skin from the hand. Peeling the finger off inside out is **very painful** (and not a pleasant experience for me either). After a week of dressing changes, I could see that the mother was not doing a very good job. I *chewed her out* a little- stressing the importance of doing it well now to avoid deformity for the rest of his life. She must have gotten the picture because when they came back the baby's hand was **completely normal**. I was so happy for him, but a little embarrassed for me since I had been do harsh with the mom. All things forgiven, she was *extremely grateful* for everything we did to help. I've had a **pregnant lady** with a burn on the *top of her toes and foot*. Another burn was a **young child** with the side of his calf burned-**10 hr walk**. Another was a **10 yr old boy** who was carrying some hot food. He **tripped and fell face first in it**. His burns covered his *chin, lips, nose, right cheek, and right eye..* Thankfully, it wasn't a deep burn. His lips were the **worst and most painful** to remove. They were infected and crusted over, but I think he will heal good. Another was a **small child** with a burn on the side of her *right arm*. Another **14 yr old boy** had a burn-like injury on the side of his neck. His dad told me he was playing around with a **ROPE** and put it around his **NECK**. Another boy pulled it and caused a *nasty abrasion*.

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I also take care the people we send to get **surgeries** done. I do their **dressing changes** and **take stitched out**, etc. Lately, we've helped with many hernias, masses, cysts, a hysterectomy, etc. The surgeries cost between **\$125 and \$250 American**. We ask that most of the patients pay **1/4** of the cost and we *pay the rest* out of our support money. But, of course, there are some who aren't able to pay anything. We help those we can and are grateful God has given us **favor** with a hospital that can do operations *this cheap*. We have several patients with **goiters** and are considering sending a few of our worst ones in the next few months to get them removed.

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We have several active **TB pts**. They are *so debilitated* and *close to death*. A recent one that I had was a **20 yr old man** who weighed **82 lbs**. He couldn't even talk without getting out of breath. We sent him to get tested and find a place to get medicine. The TB meds must be taken for **one year** and most places in Haiti give them out free. But there seems to be a shortage lately, so he is having *difficulty*. He has **NO FAMILY**, so that makes it even harder. He lives together with **5 other single guys**, so they are now in the process of being tested, but none have symptoms so far.

We have had **3 leprosy** cases in recent months. Two pts are older and have had it for *forty or more* years. One is a lady whose toes and hands are deformed. Another is a man with no toes and parts of his feet gone. He came in with horrible foul-smelling, pussy

♥ We are all here on this earth such a ♥
♥ short time - please use the time you ♥
♥ have wisely - loving, living, ♥
♥ caring, helping, smiling ♥

Directors - Darrell and Denise Hutto