HELLO FROM HAÏTI SISISI

GREETINGS TO ALL 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 <u>most</u> important and <u>most</u> 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 legsevere 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 <u>first</u> 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. has had the same adventures 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. 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 * 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 •Average patients seen (we work 2 days per week) daily......143 •Malnourished-helped with food/milk.....2,194 •Total consultations......2,695 General (kids >5yrs & non-pregnant adults) **Some of the costs** (all figures are in American dollars) •Medications purchased (in Haiti only).......\$13,308.55 Deanut 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. Dlease 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 PAN & 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.

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 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.

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, ½ of her upper back and her left shoulder and ½ 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 2½ 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. Deeling 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 littlestressing 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 vr old boy had a burn-like injury on the side of his neck. His dad told me he was playing around with a RODE and put it around his NECK. Another boy pulled it and caused a nasty abrasion.

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.

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 fbs. 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

ulcers on the balls of his feet. After a round of Denicillin and soaking in Epsom salts, his ulcers healed over, but the damage is permanent. I don't know much about lepers, but these two seem to have a slow form of it. Another man, about 40 yrs old, seems to have a more rapid type disease. When he first came in, only his toes were affected. Now, he is getting more ulcers on his feet and it has already started on his hands. He has only been sick for 3 years. He has no family.

We have had several suspected AIDS cases. Only two have been tested-one was negative, the other positive. We do not send people to get tested for HIV because there is no available medication here. Also, they are tagged for life and most doctors and hospitals won't treat them because they feel it would be a waste of time, money, and medicine since they will die anyway. Obviously, we do everything possible to help treat symptoms, but medicine can only do so much. It is estimated that one out of every four

Haitians are HIV positive.

We are constantly amazed and overwhelmed by the desperate need of some of our patients. After walking or carrying their sick child for hours (sometimes 6-10 hrs-the farthest was an 18 hr walk), some of these faces are still smiling and spirits are still full of hope. For many of the mountain people, we are the only qualified health care workers they will ever see. Some of the diseases and situations we deal with are beyond our control. We place them in God's mighty and all-knowing hands. Into His care, we have put our tuberculosis patients - debilitated and diseased. Under His wings, we have given Him our single mothers with 8, 10, or more kids - weary and worn. In His arms, we have placed our terminal patients with AIDS, cancer, and leprosy - desperate and dying. We are so thankful for those that we can help - malnourished children, pneumonia patients, those with fungus, skin infections, STD's, pregnant ladies, emergency cases and MANY others. 999999999999999999999999999999999999

IN THE NEWS (*)

Mardi Gras was as expected-druken groups dancing through the streets, but we did not have any trouble. The Easter season will bring out some other party animals, but

it is never as bad as February's Carnival.

Cazale had a recent visit from Haiti's President Preval and many other government officials. The first lady is from this same area where our clinic is located. There has been much construction and talk of further development in this zone-paved road, telephone, and bigger clinic or hospital. This is all up in the air, so please pray God's will be done. Our clinic has recently been featured on a local radio station. When the president came, the whole town was on TV, including the clinic and dad. (I was hiding:) I know you're not surprised).

A major system for **electricity** has been **broke down** for over a month. Some days we had 2-3 hrs, others 20 min, some only 30 seconds! (that's also another excuse for this late

edition newsletter) Hopefully, it is close to being fixed.

The **rainy season** is starting and it's beginning to warm up. We have had rain every night for almost a week. It makes it good, because we shouldn't have to buy water for a while (all our bathing, washing, etc is from rain water, but drinking water must be bought) The main drawback is the enormous amount of mosiquitos-transmitting malaria, typhoid, and other diseases.

There was a recent outbreak of a very contagious form of encephalitis on parts of the island. Thankfully, it is under

control and only one of our pts was affected.

There have been several robberies near us this past month. It is rumored to be a gang of young boys. One is same boy who broke into the house last May. We recently found a crowbar and 10" knife inside our yard. But everyone is on the lookout for them, so hopefully they will be caught soon.

♥personal thoughts♥

This is a quote that hangs in our office and always makes me examine my heart and put things in perspective......

ATTITUDE - Charles Swindoll

The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than failures, than successes, than what other people think of say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill. It will make or break a company...a church...a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past...we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude...I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you...we are in charge of our attitudes.

No matter the circumstances you find your self in today, know that the one thing that you have control over is your attitude. The difficult moments will pass, but the way you have dealt with them will be a lasting impression on your friends and family. It's easy to see the glass half empty - the wasted time in a traffic jam - sadness in a rainy day. But the extra effort you use seeing the good in things and keeping a smile on your face will pay off in the end.

There are so many people in this world who are just struggling to meet their basic needs in order to live. Why are you complaining about the guy who cut you off in traffic? Be thankful you have a car. Why are you bitter about a joking comment from a family member? Be grateful you have a family. Why are you angry that you have to work late sometimes? Be appreciative you have a job and a healthy body to do it. Why are you grumbling about cleaning up the house? Be happy you have a house and things to put in it. Rejoice and cherish those things that you do have.

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

******SILVADENE CREAM - for burn patients *****BLOOD PRESSURE MEDICINE *****ANTI-FUNGAL MEDICINES - pills, cream, shampoo

-kids chewable vitamins

-skin ointments (Bacitracin, anti-itch creams, etc)

*****ACE BANDAGES, KERLEX, CLING, 4x4's, Telfa

-soaps, shampoo, and cream (small-motel size is the best) -index cards

-pictures for education posters (nutritious foods; body systems-bones, circulatory, digestive, etc; personal hygiene-hand washing, brushing teeth, etc; any other health-type pictures

*****INSECT REPELLENT *****STAMPS

-canned meats (chicken, roast beef, ham)

-boxed(non refrigerated)cheese-like Velveta, but cheap kind

-batteries-any kind, but especially AA & D

-ENCOURAGING LETTERS FROM YOU! **** THESE INDICATE URGENT NEED

PRAYER REQUES

-patients at the clinic-healing and strength

-safety while traveling

-wisdom, strength, and patience for the workers while at clinic

-Haiti's government

-peace in the mind and hearts of the people

-God's Will in each of our lives

-favor with the people and leadership in the areas where we work (answered !!!!)

-favor to receive papers needed to buy land and other red-tape kinds of things (in the process-almost answered !!!!!)

-funds for clinic - surgeries, buy meds, supplies

-a good area and funds to buy land and a house (closer to clinic, able to meet all our family's future ministry needs)

-Licia & Enoch - wedding plans (June 2000) and future ministry

-Casey - at school in Oklahoma, planning summer missions trip to Turkey and Israel

Being a winner is more than taking home a trophy. It's hanging in there when you'd really like to quit. It's doing your best when you could get by with less.

Present Projects & Future Goals

I'm still working on the notebooks for common medications and disease we encounter. The education classes are going well. Graduation for the mother's class will be held April 23rd. They will receive Bibles for their gifts. Several have already been saved through this outreach After that we will begin another class for mothers and teenage boys and girls classes. We had a midwives conference during the last Saturday in March. We have also added a Bible class on Thursdays.

There are work teams planned for....

-April 15-23

Church on the Rock - Carrol, OH Team with well drilling rig, MS

-May ??-?? -June ??-??

Grace International, MS

-July ??-??

Fort Worth, TX

I Asked ...

I asked God for strength, that I might achieve.

I was made weak, that I might learn to humbly obey...

I asked for health, that I might do greater things.

I was given infirmity, that I might do better things...

I asked for riches, that I might be happy.

I was given poverty, that I might be wise...

I asked for power, that I might have the praise of men.

I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God...

I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life. I was given life, that I might enjoy all things...

I got nothing I asked for - but everything that I had hoped for.

Despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered.

I am, among all, most richly blessed!

-anonymous

I believe in the sun even when it is not shining. I believe in love even even when I feel it not. I believe in God even when He is silent. --written on a wall in a concentration camp--

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