

HELLO FROM HAITI



*Sharing and Showing the Love of God
to the Lost and Hurting*

Isaiah 58: 6,7 "Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, to let the oppressed go free, and that you break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry, and to take in poor who are cast out, and when you see the naked to clothe him."

bonjour bonjour

Well, here we are again coming straight from Haiti to your mailbox. As usual, the action never stops down here. As I am sure it is with your family, we have several irons in the fire as they say. We will share with you as many of those projects that we can in these pages to give you an idea of our day-to-day activities and chance to visit Haiti, at least through our eyes. God continues to pour out His mercies and renews our minds everyday. It is only through His Grace and your support that we are able to touch so many lives with the Love and Forgiveness of Our Lord and Savior. We thank each & every one of you for caring and loving Haiti.

MARCH 2003

Danjela's song

Often, Haitians have nicknames that make reference to their personality or situation. We have had kids named "the miserable boy" and "gutter girl", so Danjela---"danger is here"---didn't cause us much shock. Her family gave her the name when the danger of sickness and death was always present with her. Nothing the family tried could separate "the danger" from their precious little one. So, the name stuck and developed into what some would view as a self-fulfilling prophesy. Whatever the reasoning, she came to us extremely malnourished and swollen from kwash. We had little hope for her recovery, but extended our arms of love around this child and desperately began doing what we do for the hundreds of children that pass through the Rescue Center. First, putting them and their care in God's Hands, as He knows best. Next, pouring out our love and affection. Daily, providing nutritious food and necessary medicine. She was in our care for almost a month when she took a turn for the worse. Her body began swelling up again, she didn't eat, and didn't play. Then, she couldn't lift her head or speak. The life finally left in her eyes and we were sure she would die. I put a feeding tube down when she had stopped eating and gave her milk mixed with protein powder. But as we tell every parent, we might know foods and medicines to help your child, but God is the one who gives life. When all our medical treatments were exhausted, Jesus Christ came to this little child. I have no doubt. For we know the face of death and have seen it overcome the frail body of a child many times. I even said at one point she would not make it through the night. But God saw it another way and came to save her. Indeed, a "miracle" would not be an overstatement. Even in her dark days, she sang out a prophetic Haitian hymn that seemed written just for her.



Jesus, broke the casket.

He broke it. Jesus broke my casket.

I was sick, I was suffering.

My casket was here all the time I was looking at it.

I saw I was going to be buried.

Everyone and my family lost hope.

They all had water in their eyes.

A Christian brother was praying.

They lost faith and told me I lost.

Jesus touched me, He lifted me defiantly out of the casket He had broken.

And so we must believe, our time here on earth is planned and scheduled by Our Father's Will. Nothing that the devil tries to do to bring us down will prosper against us. Our Master has power over death and the grave. Danjela knew it. She believed it. And now that she is recovered and back at home with her family, this 4 year old sings this song as a testimony and witness of what Her Healer did for her.



.....
It is impossible for that man to despair who
remembers that his Helper is omnipotent.
.....

God calls in for Haiti **Reinforcements!**

God knows our limits and sees our needs. His timetable is perfect and all we need to do is trust Him. We were literally drowning with our workload and problems this past year. "Overwhelmed" would be an understatement. We didn't want to complain nor question God's hand, so we just kept on going. And through our faithfulness, God saw to it that He took care of His Children.

Without solicitation by us, we had a Peace Corps volunteer near our village ask us if we would be interested in having a health education volunteer come for two years to help us. Through a few meetings and an application, Margaret showed up at our door with a rich knowledge and experience that is indeed rare to find. She calls home North Carolina and has two children and two grandchildren. She has a Ph.D. in physiology, was a professor and supervised countless research projects on the peripheral vascular system. She then worked in Saudi Arabia for four years putting together curriculum for a new medical school. After which, she started to serve in the Peace Corps. She has since completed 2 years in Morocco where she built a well and pipe system for drinking water and hygiene as well as concentrated on women's health. She served another 2 years in Sierra Leone during the war there. Though she was in a remote area, she still saw the

effects and devastation. She built, organized, and supervised a school and a clinic. To get to the nearest town she had to ride in a dug-out canoe for about 5 miles then hike a couple of miles just to find a vehicle that could take her over several more miles of bumpy road to reach "town." Then she decided that she still had more to give. So she came to Haiti. And now she is with us. She is continuing a project left over by that other previously mentioned volunteer to build 40-50 latrines. She is working to build a water aqueduct that will be built over a deep ravine. This water will bring irrigation to an otherwise desert area providing the means to raise necessary crops and fruit trees. She has rented, organized, and planted a field of Moringa trees, which we will talk about later. She gives simple but important educational lessons to those coming into the clinic. She is committed to working in Cazale for 2 years. *Oh yeah, by the way, she is 70 years old!*

David & Jackie Copus, based in Tennessee and the North Carolina area, have lived and worked in Haiti for several years. They originally worked with a Haitian orphanage, but were not satisfied with their work within that mission. After leaving, they ask God to show them how they would best serve Him here in Haiti. Through mutual friends, we were put into contact and our visions seems similar. We both desired to take malnourished children into our homes in order to give them physical health and a spiritual witness. They have no medical background and leave for stateside visits every 2-3 months. Considering their limitations, but knowing their hearts; we agreed to

cooperate for the benefit of Haitian children. We have been referring malnourished children to them for almost two years. They recently moved to the Cazale area in January and only live about 3/4 of a mile down the road. This move has enabled better communication, goal-setting, observation, and medical services for the kids. Jackie has stated interest in helping in the clinic one day per week, which would decrease our workload and give her more experience in Haitian culture and language.

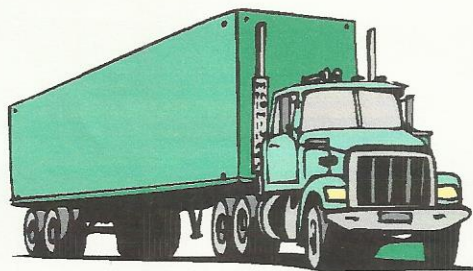
So, even in our solitary desperation, God sees our corporate relief. Even in our personal pain, he has a Heavenly Plan. Even in our cries and weeping, he orchestrates a beautiful melody to praise His Name. As only He can in His Marvelous Ways, our paths so intricately intertwine together to weave the pattern He has chosen to show the world His Love for each and everyone of them. The pressure, tugging, and bending we may sense as pain, stress, or isolation might actually be the Weaver's masterful Hands at work. He knows it all - the tension, the direction, the placement, and the finished product. Don't resist. Simply trust.

.....
**I lift up my eyes to the
hills, where does my help
come from? My help
comes from the Lord...
The Lord will keep you
from all harm. He will
watch over your life.**

Ps 121:1,2,7
.....

MORINGA TREES

The leaves from this tree are harvested, dried in the shade, then pounded by mortar and pestle to make a fine powder. This powder is tasteless and can be added to virtually anything to increase the nutritional quality. In some places in Africa, there is almost no malnutrition because they use this cheap and easy to find form of protein. It is good for high blood pressure and diabetes. Infant mortality dropped in areas when pregnant mothers began using it daily. The tree itself is readily found in Haiti and can be grown in almost any soil, with little water. It has been named by some to be a miracle tree. God knows what he is doing. He gave this miracle to the areas that need it the most. We are trying to push this tree for reforestation and for its nutritional value. Margaret has written up a research project in order to study the actual help it gives it relation to weight gain. We plan to add it to the diets of those in the Rescue Center. We will also educate clinic patients as to preparation and nutritional content. Hopefully, this leaf powder will be an indigenous and inexpensive solution to malnutrition in Haiti and other parts of the world.



APPROVED & RELEASED

The 2 semi-containers full of relief supplies for Haiti were inspected, released and mostly unloaded the last week of February. We thank you for your many prayers, donations, and financial gifts to make this possible. Many clothes, shoes, and toys have already begun to be distributed. Peanut butter came straight from the truck to those who were in desperate need. Powdered infant formula began to be mixed before the box that it was in was fully put away. Even the empty cardboard boxes were taken as soon as they were unpacked to be mixed with mud to make houses. We were down to the "nitty gritty" (as they say) and everything has become a great blessing to many. Thank you again for your participation.

King David said..."I will not take for the Lord..which cost me nothing."

I Chronicles 21:24

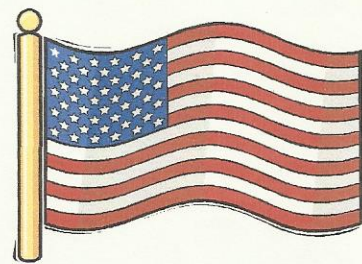
Father, help me always to remember that what I give in Your name is being given to You, not merely to "someone less fortunate." -Isabel Wolseley

A NOTE FROM LORI

I wanted to update you on an incident that happened to me on Feb 12th. As many of you already know, I was caring for a lady in the end-stages of AIDS. She was blind and bedridden and refused to inform her family of her

HIV status. They assumed that it was a Voodoo curse put upon her by an enemy. They were trying anything to help her and eventually brought her back to us. Several years ago, she became involved with a man from a larger city whom the family did not know. Against the family's wishes, she moved in with him and they had 3 children. When he died 2 1/2 years ago, she moved back to her home town with the kids. She lost weight and had horrible skin infection that couldn't clear up. We sent her to be tested and she found out she was HIV+. We begged her to test her children before she got too sick. We gave her referral letters and money, but she said they family would suspect something if she took her children to the capital without good explanation. So she never did. She didn't want her last dying days to be full of "I told you so." So the family carried her over hour to us to receive IV fluids and medicines in hopes of her recovery. IV fluids are often seen as a cure-all and most would take an IV for the common cold if they could. Seeing the family's desperation, I could not turn them away back into the hands of the witchdoctor. I told them I would do what I could and pray that God would help and comfort her. No false hopes or empty promises were given. In Haiti, illness seems to be classified into two groups - "a sickness of a doctor" and "not a sickness of a doctor." The latter caused by the devil, evil forces, a poison, or a curse. These two groups of illnesses have two totally different forms of treatment. A doctor's illness treated with a doctor's medicine (IV, shots, pills) and a Voodoo illness treated by a hougan's medicine (syrops, charms, rituals, etc). I tried to explain that this was a doctor's sickness that did not have a cure, but that I would try to ease her pain and

chances of becoming HIV+ by 79%. I must take it for a month and be tested in the following months. I believe that what the devil meant for my harm will be turned around for His Glory. In a newsletter several months ago, I wrote how our next big battle would be with AIDS. I just didn't know that battle might be mine. I know some of you don't really understand why we came to Haiti or what keeps us here after something like this happens to one of us. The short answer is God. The long answer could fill a book. I can only say that this incident has given more of a passion for the dying. This was not my first nor last experience caring for HIV patients. I will not hesitate when the next one comes, though I will ask for help - help from those around me here in Haiti and help from those of you in the states. I am only one and I only have two hands. I am often ashamed to beg and ask for aid and assistance as some might see it as a sign of weakness. But I am weak and only He can make us strong. There is a Haitian proverb that says "many hands make the load light." How true. I am asking for your hands, your time, your support for these people that God so unconditionally loves. The Zachary family can not do this by ourselves. We need your hands - in the states and here in Haiti. There are no words that I can put upon these pages to express my gratitude to all of those who helped make it possible for me to get the very expensive medicine down here to me. I can never repay you nor thank you sufficiently. I appreciate each and everyone of you. But there is one lesson that I learned in all of this - if I would have asked for help before maybe nothing like this would have happened. I cannot fail in this again. I will ask you for help when we need it. I can't afford not to.



Henley and his mother will be in the states from March 12th to April 23rd. They are planning to rest, relax, and visit with family and friends. If you would like to contact her while she is in the states, call 765-643-2688.

To send letters or put on the mailing list
write to only one of the following:

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