

A Journey of Joy & Grace

What a joy it is to take folks to visit my friends in Haiti.

My friends in Haiti are also blessed as they have opportunity to share their testimonies and their lives. Together, we worship and participate in various projects. Through it all, God is at work by His Spirit in our hearts.

I, personally, get excited as I see God work in the lives of people as they visit Haiti, experiencing first-hand what God is doing among the people there. This month, I asked Jon Couch if he would be able to share with us about his Haiti experience. Jon's passion and growing love for the Haitian people has been evident since his return; despite the fact that not all circumstances were easy for him in Haiti. He has eagerly gotten his family involved as well as many others in his church and community. It strongly encourages me as I see God at work when we, Haitians and Americans, come together to share and learn from each other. It is truly part of God's grace as we walk this journey of loving and serving our Lord.

Stan Wiebe,
Director
of HHH



"What the eye does not see does not move the heart." This could not have been more true for me. Before going to Haiti, I had ideas of what I thought it was like there. I knew the weather was hot, but I didn't know how hot! I knew they had had an earthquake, but I could have never imagined the devastation that it caused. I also could not have imagined what change would occur in my heart because of one short trip to Haiti. Now that my eyes have seen, Jesus has definitely moved my heart.

When I arrived in Haiti, I was amazed at what I saw. The devastation was incomprehensible. What I saw was completely different from what I am used to here in America, different from what I had expected. I was so impressed by the faith of the Haitians at HHH -- and the joy that they had amidst



the hardship and spiritual warfare that goes on around them. They did not have a lot in terms of material possessions, but they were rich spiritually. I could not believe how welcoming the people were to us. They had such a love for our Savior.

Although I was only in Haiti for a short time, I have truly come to love the Haitian people. They have shown me what it means to be content in any circumstance, how to die to self, how to trust Jesus and how to depend on Him for everything.

Before going to Haiti, I met Stan. What a love he had for the Haitian people. It was incredible to me. He loved them with Jesus' love and you could plainly see that. I couldn't wait to get there and meet my brothers and sisters in Christ.

Now I have had my own personal experience with Haiti and I will never be the same again. I have such a love for the people that I have met and I pray that God would give me an ounce of the faith and trust in Him that my Haitian friends have. I have such a heart to help the people there, but honestly, they have changed me in ways that I can never explain. It opened my eyes to my lack of faith and dependency on God. I have garbage pick up, grocery stores, three meals a day (if not more), lights, running water, medical treatment whenever it is needed and much more. We Americans have so much and, although it is a blessing, it has caused me to be spiritually complacent. Because of my abundance, I do not have to trust and depend on God like I should.

Words can not express how I have been changed by my experience there, nor the gratitude I have to God for allowing me to go.

(Written for HHH by Jon Couch from NY. He travelled to Haiti in October 2010.)

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Is your VBS looking for a project?
Please consider raising funds or collecting special items for the summer Church Bible Camps in Haiti.
Contact: stan@heartsandhandsforhaiti.org

A Haiti Herald, June 2011

Partnering through University Assistance

For years, HHH has been partnering with Haitian leaders to educate and train youth for a brighter future. The leaders have also encouraged the young people to assist others in their communities even as they have been blessed.

Several childrens' home youth are preparing to graduate from university next year and to begin this new chapter in their lives. We are eager for these enthusiastic, qualified youth adults to take on leadership roles within the ministry.

Many of other youth have grown up through our churches and schools.

They would also appreciate the chance to further their education.



Some years back, we established an education endowment fund. With interest received, we currently assist 18 youth with high school tuition. Our new goal is to raise funds to assist at least five qualifying youth to attend university in Haiti this fall.

Cherismond Delva will chair the university committee in Haiti which includes several other HHH leaders. They plan to establish guidelines, interview applicants, etc., and assist with university fees while students and/or parents provide the balance.

Would you prayerfully consider sponsoring a young adult for \$1,000? Would a group you know consider raising the funds?

We hope each university student to have a sponsor for encouragement, financial and prayer support. What an opportunity to potentially change the future of a young person in Haiti, who in return could influence so many others.

Giving Thanks!

- We had a great trip to Haiti in late April. **Bruce Hansen** was able to mentor 17 leaders in how to effectively teach **adult literacy** and was very encouraged by their enthusiasm. Our 9 yr. old son **Jonathan** had a wonderful **1st trip to Haiti**, playing with the children at the home and eating mangoes.



- Our **container of food** from Stop Hunger Now left Raleigh last week along with **2,400 lbs of shoes** for our school students. Thanks to Trinity Academy of Raleigh who collected 200 lbs of shoes as well as others including Share our Shoes which contributed over 2,000 lbs.

Thanks also to the team who helped sort and pack.

- Anne Rose, a graduate from our Pacot Primary school many years ago, successfully completed nurses training in Port-au-Prince. She is now our **newly-hired community school nurse** who visits each of our 3 primary schools on a weekly basis. She also assists our children's home and church communities.
- Pastor Jeremiah began a **Bible study** and **discipleship program** with our high school youth who are receiving tuition assistance.

Please Pray For....

- the **students** who are writing exams in late June.
- wisdom** and **discernment** for the university committee in Haiti as they establish guidelines for the youth who request assistance for university tuition. Please also pray for funding for this project. We desire to assist at least 5 students this fall, offering a total of \$5,000.

- discernment** and **wisdom** in planning the construction of the 2nd story of the girls home as well as the needed funding.
- the various **summer camps** planned by our churches in Haiti.

Upcoming Events

- 1st Monday of each month - **Prayer meeting** for Haiti at 7:30 PM at the Wiebes'. We will skip July as it falls on the 4th. Please join us in August!
- Late July 2011 - A team from Christ Covenant Church will assist and teach at **summer youth camps**, as well as a **Pastors/leaders' conference**.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HHH, CONTACT:

Hearts and Hands for Haiti
2013 Midwood Drive
Raleigh, NC 27604

stan@heartsandhandsforhaiti.org
919-755-1903

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.heartsandhandsforhaiti.org