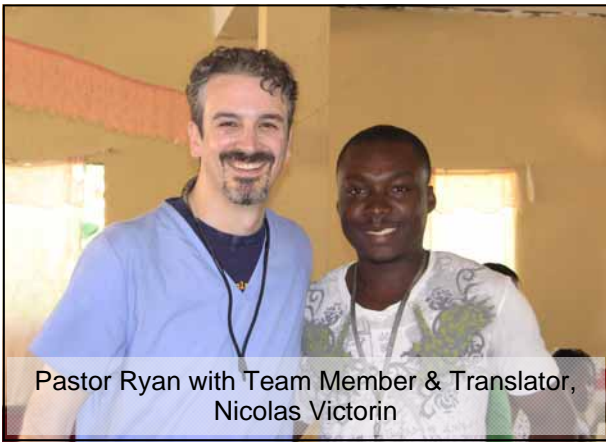




Haiti Medical Mission Team

January 6-14, 2012





Pastor Ryan with Team Member & Translator,
Nicolas Victorin



We had a very successful mission to Haiti. Our team was made up of 21 people, half medical professionals and half non-medical people. We saw over 550 patients during our 4 clinic days, Dr. Ng did several “lumps and bumps” surgeries (on a wooden table, on a concrete floor, standing in a puddle, with a chicken walking by, and by flashlight!) and others brought healing and God’s love to many sick people. We hope these “Haiti Vignettes” will give you a greater understanding of our mission trip and inspire you to serve locally and globally. You can also go to this link online to view all our Mission Haiti videos: <http://gslcirvine.org/serve/mission-haiti-2012/>

I’d like to thank Good Shepherd Lutheran Church for your support! We couldn’t have done it without you! We raised \$56,970 for the trip (the participants gave or raised \$39,864 of that), the Good Shepherd Foundation gave \$4,000, CREAN Lutheran High School gave almost 2,000 hygiene kits, Thrivent Financial For Lutherans gave \$1,600 and we had many others donate money and tangible goods toward the trip. Thank you one and all!

It was an honor for me to help lead this wonderful team on our (first of many) Global Mission trip with God’s help. We look forward to “Going and Doing” as a congregation in the years to come in Jesus’ name.

Blessed to be a blessing,

Pastor Ryan Warne-McGraw

It was not until I had a perspective on the entire experience that I realized how I have been blessed with all the good things and people in my life, my wife, my church, my friends, wildly blessed beyond any deserving on my part.

I hope that I won’t dwell on why things in the world are the way they are. Why was I born in the USA and not in Haiti? It is not for me to know.

The spontaneous worship services that occurred had a great impact on me. It was amazing to hear familiar hymn tunes so far away. This experience has caused me to consider what my future direction and musical pursuits will be during my retirement years. I was so happy to be a part of the good things we did and the fantastic group of people and new friends we worked with.

David Dupre



David Dupre in the Pharmacy

When I look back on my trip to Haiti there is no one single moment that stands out to me. What I would like to pass on to others though is, just the gratitude, love, admiration, and thankfulness shown by the Haitian people. The conversations I shared with some of our translators I will take with me forever. The conversations were amazing, but these translators are now my friends forever. I had the pleasure to work with and get to know Makendy, Ralph Peter, Wendly, and John. All four of these translators told me several times just how much it meant to them, their families, and their people for us to be there. It left an impression on me that I know will never go away.

On our last day at the Cedan Mission, all four of these translators expressed to me how much they wanted me to stay. I had to tell them I couldn’t stay, but I promise to comeback someday to see them again. That wasn’t something I said to just make them feel better, but I truly intend to come back many more times to come. Because of this mission trip I feel God has placed on my heart to serve others all over the world. I plan to be a part of many mission trips as I get older. I want to go back to Haiti of course, but I have opened my heart to other places all over the world.

Erik Taylor



Erik Taylor with Ronaldo Francois



Clarissa Owenby in Provider Room

The trip to Haiti was so amazing, so wonderful and I thank GSLC for allowing me to come on this trip.

This was my first mission trip. I had felt a calling by God for so long and yet never put that trust in God. I said on my application that I wanted to find my way back to my “nursing core”. I did not want to look at my patients through a computer screen, a lab test or an EKG machine. I wanted to let God allow me to see a person as His child, but God showed me more than that. I have always considered nursing as God’s gift to me but He gave or taught me so much more with this trip. I saw His love in the Haitians eyes. I saw His hope for Haiti in the number of His people that came to see us, putting their trust for healing in our hands. I know now that I can do nothing without God guiding my eyes, ears and touch when I assess a patient.

There were so many moments or snapshots in my mind. The touch of the people at the church service, their beautiful hugs and voices to greet us and start our week off with God. The children laughing and playing with members of our team. The kiss of a grandmother for helping her describe and treat her aches and pains.

The one moment that stands out in my mind is a patient that came to us our third day. She was in her 20’s but her complaint was that she felt depressed for long periods of time, happy other times and just feels like she is going crazy at other times. What a humbling lesson from God for me. It was like being hit with a ton of bricks. I knew that I had no medications to help her. I knew through my interpreter that Haiti has nothing to offer her. God in His wisdom cleared my mind of all my earthly wisdom or thoughts. It was God speaking through me and asking my interpreter if we could pray with her and for her. We prayed right there for her with my interpreter laying his hands on her. I don’t know everything he said but he was asking God to heal her mind and drive out any evil spirits that were hurting her. We encouraged her after prayer to come to church and when she felt confused and “crazy” to seek out believers to pray with and for her. It was an amazing moment I do not think she will ever know what she did for my faith but I want you at GSLC to know that your prayers were holding us together and working through us. I hope you will continue to pray for this woman.

Clarissa Owenby

The Haiti medical mission trip really allowed me to witness the power of the Holy Spirit – in myself, my patients, the Haitian community, and most of all my teammates. There were times during the mission that I looked to God for calmness and clarity in deciding whether to tackle a certain procedure, knowing the limitations with which I was faced. Resources and the ability to control simple bleeding were issues that I take for granted in the United States. Judging from the joy, gratitude and relief of suffering in the patients, I know that God’s presence was helpful in my decisions.

The faith of the Haitian people continue to be a source of inspiration. Living in such desolate conditions, it is the power of prayer and faith that helps provide hope.

So many times during the week, I was blessed with the opportunity to witness the effect of Christ on my fellow team members. Seeing how God had enriched each of them with their individual experience. Finally, Pastor Ryan’s unyielding faith during the most trying circumstances strengthened my belief as well. I will never forget his ability to see Christ in the poor and unfortunate. I pray that these images will be an influence when dealing with those less fortunate.

I strongly encourage those who wish to experience a servant’s heart to participate in any type of outreach, especially globally, to spread God’s love beyond our community. A good way, I believe, is to start locally with the various projects.

Dan Ng



Dan Ng prepping Pastor Henri for a procedure on his hand

Grateful for being invited, briefly considered not going due to the death of my mother-in-law, but went and I decided mother would want me to go. Initial purpose was a time to reflect with recent death of father, time with sister, and give to those in need.

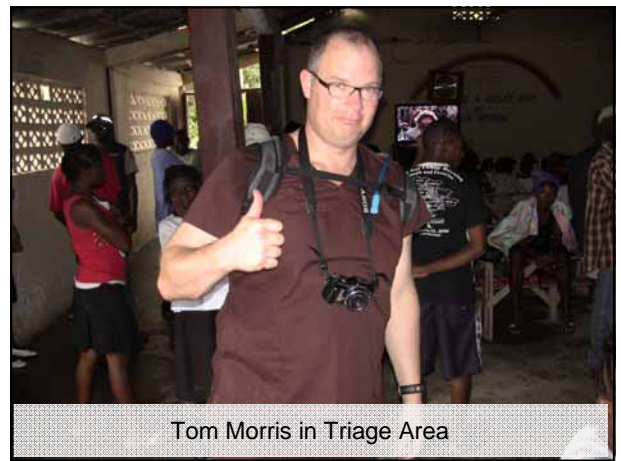
It has provided me with so much more

Grateful to have the chance to work with the team on a packing night.

To see children and parents in such utter poverty enjoy life and wear a beautiful smile.

To see how a stifling hot Haitian room of over 100 people kept entranced by the video of the Story of Christ

To see a man like Pastor Henri who loves his large flock so much he weathered himself to unhealthy levels. He wants what's best for his people.



Tom Morris in Triage Area

The trip allowed me to be in awe of my sister. Mary Sue's herculean effort on procuring the fantastic supply of drugs and Nancy's multiple blessed skills in so many levels. From sourcing Fabienne from Medical Teams International, to assigning jobs for everyone, to being a liaison with Pastor Henri; knowing when to push and when not to.

I really enjoyed being roommates with my sister Nancy and talking about the day experienced and the day ahead.

The best gift of the trip is the relationship I have developed with the whole mission team. This is a magical, kind, loving and special group of people. I know I have developed friends for life.

If I may twist the infamous words of Sally Fields is that "I really love this team, I really do."

In the end, due to this trip I feel stronger in Christ because of my time in this beautiful impoverished country but mostly because of my time spent with these lovely wonderful warriors in Christ.

God Bless and Bonjour Ben Neu

Tom Morris

The most amazing part of my trip was the genuine love I was welcomed with by the people of Haiti, and by my teammates. I tried not to have expectations coming into a foreign country, to do work I have never done before. Try as I might, however, I could not shake the assumption that I would not feel at home. This preconception could not have been further from the truth. I felt welcomed and protected, every step of the trip, and the amount of love I felt cannot be accurately expressed through words. Suffice to say, my heart is more full after this trip than it ever has been before.



Amy Owenby with Haitian Children at CEDAN

The people I met on this trip are unforgettable. From Fabienne, who commits her life to her people, to Nicholas who is the most unique and wonderful person I've ever met. And, of course, Pastor Henri whose natural exuberance and love for his people is unparalleled.

My teammates impressed me at every turn. I learned more from them in a week than I have during months of schooling. Everything from how to take a medical history to how to appropriately and compassionately care for patients.

I have seen Jesus in my heart. I have left my blood, sweat and tears; but more importantly my heart in Haiti.

Thank You.

Amy Owenby

Words cannot express how deeply fulfilled I feel, it was an amazing experience and I hope that everyone has an opportunity like this. To do something that is bigger than yourself; and experience a life beyond your own is amazing. I can only think of one word that can come close to describing it: awesome. I think that many times, awesome is over used, but visiting Haiti was truly awe-inspiring. To work with a group of people who all came together for one purpose; to share Gods' love with others through this clinic was a blessing. The connections I made with each person there is what will stay with me forever; from giving a young seamstress glasses so she could continue her work to support her family or the 92 year old man who told me about his work as a pastor; those are the things that I will take with me. I left this trip feeling energized (I was afraid I might just feel exhausted) and wanting to go back.

Sarah Gagner



Sarah Gagner in Provider Room



Sarah Nead-Rendon in Triage Area

It was so awesome on our last day when we were cleaning up at the clinic to sit around and sing praise songs and (our helpers) they knew them in Creole and sang along with us in English. Everyone was happy and laughing, it was great. The people of Haiti do not focus on what they do not have, they are so thankful for what they have and they know they are blessed.

Watching the children play their hand clapping games and singing and dancing in a circle and just laughing and smiling was so beautiful. I definitely felt the verse from Matthew 25:40 (“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’) , while helping patients in the clinic and just being there and giving them the simple hygiene kits. They were so grateful.

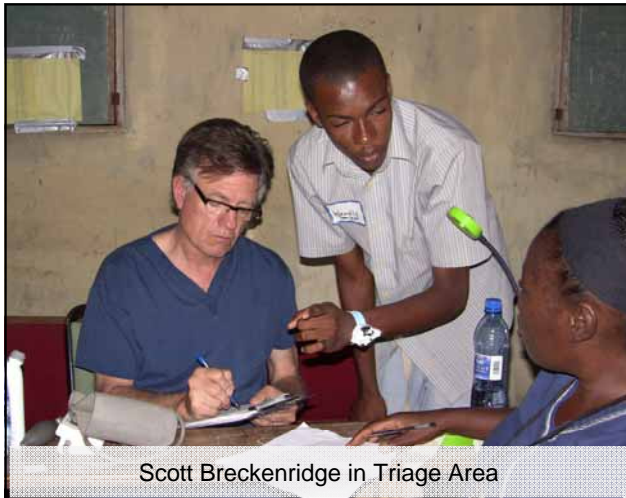
I had not given much thought to how it would feel to be in Haiti or leave. I have wanted to go on a mission trip for many years and was just excited to be able to go and help. However, I am taking away so much. Definitely a love for the people of Haiti especially Nicolas and Nerlin and their families as well as Pastor Henri and Fabienne; just amazing people!

I also have a great respect and tolerance for my family and in-laws. I understand their resourceful ways much more and can relate to their upbringing and past in a completely new and different way. Included in that are my students and their families too. I want to continue to help and serve the least so that I will keep these feelings and my new understanding. My compassion has grown along with my patience.

So many times we think we are in control of our lives and things around us, but in Haiti you definitely know God is in charge and He will provide and keep you safe and you must put all your faith and trust in him!

Thank you for this wonderful opportunity.

Sarah Nead-Rendon



Scott Breckenridge in Triage Area

My favorite memory among many is the Sunday morning we attended church at CEDAN. The women, men and children were dressed so elegantly. The men wore suits, shirts and ties and the women beautiful print dresses.

The women’s choir stepped to the front of the church and sang so proudly like angels. After the women’s choir, two men played a song with trumpet and horn. They were so humble and had obviously practiced their song many times.

Then Dr. George, Nancy and I stepped to the front and in turn told our Christian stories. I remember looking at the children’s section and telling them that I was young once and how as a 19 year old I found or was found by Jesus. I felt so honored to be a part of such a beautiful service.

Scott Breckenridge

The one memory that shaped my trip to Cap-Haitian, Haiti was the impoverished condition.

I have been fortunate to travel on medical missions to Brazil, Cuba, Laos, Peru and Port-ta-Prince. But nothing has shocked me more than the depressing piles of trash along streets, waterways and countryside. The people dispose of Styrofoam cartons, candy wrappers and plastic litter everywhere. No sanitation management or recycling centers are in place to get rid of it. Waste refuge was burned on a daily basis along the bay area. In all my travels the squalor in this city is most memorable.

Yvonne Johannessen



Yvonne Johannessen in Provider Room

Whatever we hoped to experience in Haiti, God had bigger plans for us. When we organized the trip, we hoped to get a team of at least 10-12 people. But God gave us 21! Since many of us barely knew one another, we prayed about avoiding interpersonal



Terry Fee holding a precious Haitian baby

challenges. But God gave us a loving, committed, supportive “family-like” team that ended up in friendships that will last into the future. I knew that this trip would be meaningful, but I did not expect all the fun and laughter we experienced together. It was a special, Spirit-inspired week and we quickly learned that God destined us to be in Haiti together, with this very team.

Our team ranged in ages from 21 to 70, accomplished doctors and nurses, a “mish mash” of other professions, and Pastor Ryan, who cared for us, worked with us, laughed with us, and led us in prayer and re-evaluation every night. Some of my most memorable moments are the times Pastor Ryan pulled out his guitar and led us in “spontaneous” worship services. On our last day at CEDAN, Scott Breckenridge asked for the guitar and led our Haitian translators in praise songs. We all joined in when we could and it was a high moment for all of us.

We expected to find poverty, hunger and desperation in Haiti. We found the poverty and hunger, but instead of desperation, we saw hope and spiritual contentment in the community of CEDAN. I will never forget Pastor Henri’s parting words to us. He told us to think of the people of Haiti as “rich;” rich in God’s love and rich in their unwavering trust that God would continue to provide for them. We saw their faith every day we were there. I know we served the people of CEDAN well with the medical services, medicine, and caring we provided to them. But they served us with the greatest gift of all: they strengthened our faith with theirs.

God was everywhere we turned. On our last day at CEDAN, the bus that was supposed to take us from CEDAN to our hotel never arrived. The hotel was about 45 minutes away, and safety dictated that we get back by dark. Half of us got home in a van and the rest of us rode in the open back of a pickup truck, sitting on or leaning against our medical suitcases. It was a little scary and we crammed in by draping some of our legs over our teammates or sitting on their feet. It was clear to me that God prompted each of us not to talk about our fear. Instead, we had a great time joking and laughing and teasing one another. Hours later, Scott reminded me that we could have been in danger. But he also reminded me that we were safe because we were in a “Jesus bubble” all the way home in the back of that truck. And that’s how it was every minute of our trip.

One last thought....when I left for Haiti, I tried to leave my Irvine life back in the OC. But I thought about Good Shepherd every day. I thought about how all our pastors, members and friends supported our trip, the prayers you prayed for us, and my wish that you could all see how profoundly the two communities of Good Shepherd and CEDAN affected each other. To God be the glory!

Terry Fee

Looking back over the past week, I feel my most moving experience was the final day when Pastor Henri spoke so eloquently and with so much love about the Haitian people. Despite the poverty, squalor and deprivation with which his people live, he felt they were not poor. He felt, instead, that they were rich. Their wealth lies in their faith and that they have God dwelling within their hearts. As they feed their souls with God’s Word and their faith, they trust in God to somehow feed their bodies and provide for them.

There’s a Haitian saying that says something to the effect of “Little by little, little by little, we will survive.” Their trust and their faith in God to determine their path makes them wealthy in ways I continue to strive for.

As a “control freak”, it’s hard to give total control to God as situations arrive day by day. I feel He has given me gifts/abilities that should enable me to deal with things and figure it out. So, I sometimes struggle with letting God come so completely into my life that I relinquish control and let Him determine my path. I strive to be better at living Proverbs 16:3. “Commit to God whatever you do and He will establish your plans.”

Carolou Munson



Carolou Munson giving out a Crean Lutheran Hygiene Kit

I think the most impactful thing for me throughout this entire mission process, from inception to completion was the constancy of God's promise to provide. The team he called could not have been knit together any more beautifully than it was. Diverse background, diverse skills, one calling. He provided the team.

When we started to get a grasp of how daunting the financial scope of the mission would be, God provided so many sources of funding and participation. At a fundraiser dessert (that collected less dollars than we had hoped), the last person who came was a friend of Mary Sue Saylor's from Crean Lutheran High School, Denise Loftus. She was so moved by the trip that through her and Nicole Moon of Crean, God inspired the collection and assembly of almost 2,000 hygiene kits that we could dispense to each patient we treated. Shipping was expensive and Frank Power, a business friend of my husband's, covered the cost of sending three pallets of goods to Florida. Money was raised at Crean to provide solar lamps that were used each day to provide light in the dark rooms of the clinic. Then the lights were given to the Haitian people.

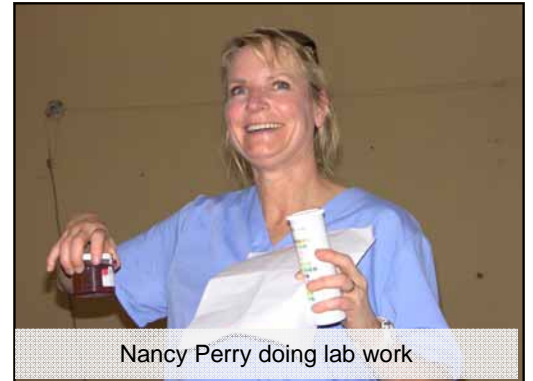
Amy Owenby brought some money that her co-workers had collected. We were able to use that to shore up our quickly depleted stock of stomach medicines. The money also purchased a medicine for skin parasites that did not arrive in our shipment and may well be on a Haitian Custom agent's shelf somewhere. We needed a dentist and were able to hire

him using some monies donated by my nieces, Tricia and Lizzie Saylor. A couple of very sick patients needed transportation to the hospital and separate donations were able to cover those costs.

A bus key mysteriously disappeared and in addition to God providing comfort to the "loser" through the kindness of team members, a new bus arrived late on a Sunday afternoon. He also provided a space of time where we could worship and praise Him while we waited for the bus. God provided safe travels in suspect transportation arenas.

And, as the ultimate testimony to God's fulfillment of His promise to provide? On the last day at Cedan Missions during our farewell ceremony, Pastor Henri said the following: Do not think of the people of Haiti as poor because we do not have as much as so many others. We are a rich people, those of us who know the Lord and trust in Him to provide for us. Well said.

Nancy Perry



Nancy Perry doing lab work

The most memorable time of the trip for me was on Friday afternoon and the times we had with Pastor Henri and his group at CEDAN. After helping to serve the team a lunch consisting of authentic Haitian food, he and Pastor Amos shared how thankful they were that we had come. Afterwards, we had the opportunity to go out and share with his group and they with us.

In all the focus of the medical clinic and serving the physical needs of the people, it was more to provide spiritual encouragement and thanks between Henri and his group and ours. It was obvious that Henri appreciated his people and us. It was also obvious that Henri had a heart for the Lord and his prayers reflected a strong conviction in God's goodness and love to all. I was impressed with all the sacrifices Henri had made and his devotion to God and the people of Haiti.

After the talks by various people, we were able to go around and hug and thank all of the people we had been with for the week. They all seemed genuinely thankful we had come and asked that we come back soon. We as well were thankful for all the helpers during the week; the translators, the security staff, the cooks, the drivers and especially Nicolas and Nerlin. It was nice to know that even though we couldn't always understand each other's language, we were all brothers and sisters in Christ and shared a common bond that transcends the different languages.

Denny Saylor



Denny Saylor blowing bubbles

The memory that most depicted the trip experience for me was the day that I was working as "quarterback" in the clinic. This meant that I was keeping track of the flow of patients coming to see the providers. One elderly woman was the next to see a provider. When I gave her my arm and escorted her to the provider, I noticed she was dressed in her best and wearing a hat. She was coming to see the American medical team. It didn't matter that she had walked through mud, waited in a hot crowded, waiting room and sat on a bench for her turn – she was getting medical care.

At that moment in time I felt God's presence and knew that I was in the right place, CEDAN Haiti and doing what I was supposed to be doing, showing respect and God's love to that elderly woman. Serving our Lord.

Mary Sue Saylor



Mary Sue helping fit Reading Glasses

Experienced Christian unity in this team as a whole with a wonderful, fulfilling effect on our purpose of mission and medical treatment in Haiti. We had virtually no interpersonal problems. Experienced this unity throughout the trip. The Haitians in the compound felt separated from the "team" most of the time, but I felt that barrier was crossed on the last day as we shared with one another how God had worked with us. That unity as brothers and sisters in Christ was very powerful.

Saw many sick and also not so sick patients as expected in a general clinic. However, most were grateful. Some conditions were treated. Some we plan to help from a distance.

General reflections:

Generally poor living conditions. Only 20% Haitians have salaried jobs. Most people were entrepreneurs, meaning they earn their living on a daily basis by buying and selling and transporting many motorcycles/cell phones. The people are clean, bathing 1-2 times a day, dress cleanly (wash clothes) and take care of children. Dressed nicely although poor. No children of children as in the Dominican Republic. The children are very well disciplined and respectful as trained by parents. They were a delight sitting quietly through clinic and church.

Although living conditions were poor; individual homes were tidy and clean, no leaves in the yard and regular sweeping. The people did what they could.

Haitian: 30-40% Christian (Catholic, Baptist and Seventh Day Adventist, non-church Haitians could be bad (lie, cheat, steel) or good. Voodoo 30%

Personal reflections:

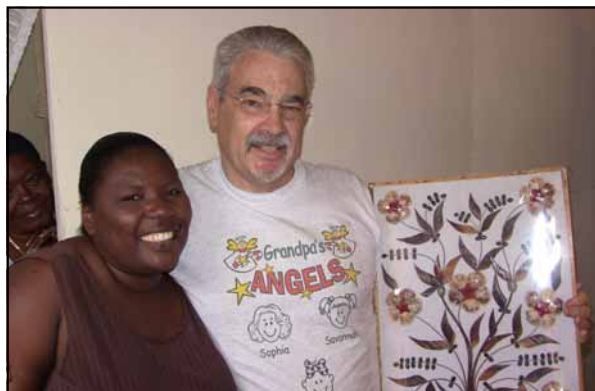
I felt a desire to understand the Haitian health and habits. As I stood in the check-in line for the airplane ride to Haiti on IBC, I met an American doctor in charge of medical education at one of the hospitals who provided much insight as well as experiences outside of Haiti. A third world country can be defined on its attitude rather than resources.

My translator for the week was a gem. An intelligent principle of a school. We had many discussions that helped me. I eventually saw her whole family and she gave me a gift as I returned. I am sure this will be an ongoing contact in my life.

Met a young man Nerlin, who asked for my help in finishing his education.

My life was enriched by my contact with the team and with the Haitians. God prompted and I responded. The obedience was satisfying, but had times of fear, tiredness and discomfort that God promptly relieved. I was disconnected from the phone/internet and in service was relieved from many distractions and self-centeredness. We participated in the unity of Christ's Spirit which rarely occurs outside such situations.

Dr. John Hoefs



John Hoefs receives a gift from his Translator

There were so many memorable moments but if I have to choose just one it would be sitting at my table in the church and observing the patients, doctors, nurses and all the support personnel hard at work, enjoying themselves in serving the Haitian people. Everyone had joy in their faces and were willing to serve in whatever capacity they were asked. Also the same scenes in the pharmacy and triage area where the conditions were more chaotic, hot and noisy but the workers seemed to be oblivious to their surroundings and were diligently and joyfully going about their assigned tasks.



George with Nerlin & Nicolas

I also enjoyed our time together after dinner in sharing together our experiences of the day and plans for the next day. It was a great spiritual bonding time thanks to your leadership and the wonderful material you put together. I know there was a lot of the time put in by yourself, Nancy, Mary Sue, Denny, Terry and my wife Mary also in the planning and preparations for the trip. What a huge, successful missions trip for a team of 21 where no one got sick or injured and everyone got along real well and diligently performed the tasks assigned to them.

It was a pleasure, joy and blessing to serve with you and the team. Hopefully we can serve together on another such trip in the future.

Your brother in Christ,

George Ricks