

Mission Trip Haiti 2016

The Team at the Airport at 4:15 AM



Our Team met at 4:15 AM at the airport in Jackson, MS. It was early, but you could tell that we all were excited about the upcoming week. We spent the remainder of that day flying to arrive in Port-au-Prince, Haiti late that afternoon. Though only 19 miles from Port-au-Prince the drive took 90 minutes to get us to our home for the next six days. We spent the following week there working at or around the Hope Center in Gallette Chambon, a mission established outside of the community of Ganthier, Haiti. The Hope Center provides a free medical clinic to the people of the surrounding communities, some people walk for as much as two days to come to this clinic. The Hope Center also sponsors three nearby schools helping over 500 kids through a sponsorship program that But God Ministries administers. They provide for every aspect of these schools. This includes building the facilities, acquiring the land, paying the teachers' salaries, paying the required government fees for report cards and tests, having the school uniforms made and provided to the children (a government requirement), and feeding the staff and students daily. But God Ministries also runs an orphanage next door to the Hope Center where 14 kids are provided for. Additionally, they are starting a separate malnutrition center mission where children will stay due to the high level of malnutrition related illnesses. Infant mortality is very high in Haiti, and it is directly related to newly born children not getting the nutrition to survive. The Hope Center is launching a business center to help train local Haitian's to learn a trade that will bring result in reliable income. They have built a community on the hill next to the Hope Center that currently has 45 houses with running water and electricity (all of which are considered luxury in Haiti). Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, with 80% of the population living under the poverty line and 54% in abject poverty. Two-thirds of all Haitians depend on the agricultural sector, mainly small-scale subsistence farming, and remain vulnerable to damage from the frequent natural disasters, exacerbated by the country's widespread deforestation.



During the week our team staffed the clinic and pharmacy providing access to Doctors, Nurses, Physical Therapist and medications. We were able to provide needed free medical services to over 400 people. Every service was provided to them with the simple witnessing message translated into their language, Haitian Creole, saying, "God sent this Doctor to you," "God sent this Nurse to you," or "God is giving you this medicine." To reinforce the most important message, "God loves you!" Our team also had women's and men's Bible studies where again the main message was "God sent us to share this with you." We gave the women five gallon buckets with lids to reduce the number of times they had to go to the community water well (only the 45 houses on the hill have running water). We gave the men seeds and a fruit bearing trees for their farms. We held Vacation Bible Schools for the local children and the children at the orphanage. We also served meals to the three sponsored schools. The one daily meal that is provided to them is the only meal they will eat that day. The Haitian people are so impoverished that I was concerned how they would react to us, but they received all of our actions with generous and glad hearts. I was warned by members of our mission team who had gone on this trip previously that Haiti will steal a part of your heart and keep it, and they were so correct. Never have I ever felt that my actions truly spoke louder than my words. The Haitian people blessed me more than they will ever know. The hope in the children's eyes fueled me during the 15 hour work days and I can honestly say, I miss them dearly and I am ready to go back tomorrow.

Each year there is a "honey do list" where some building needs to be done. This year we built railing and a wheelchair ramp for one of the houses on the hill next to the Hope Center. A young lady there has recently received a wheelchair and for the first time in four years is able to leave the house. We also bought and delivered her a real bed. Mark was able to go up to the house to help train her family on how to transfer her correctly and to safely use the ramp. He was able to witness with her while he was there. The blessings were flowing that day.

Since I have gotten home I have spent the last four days, and I am sure I will spend many more of my upcoming days, praying and dwelling on all the things I saw during my short week down in Haiti. My hope for you is that this little update and the below pictures will encourage you to listen to your little voice. I can honestly tell you that I am a better man for getting out of God's way.

Please feel free to contact me if by chance you want me to talk your ear off about my experience in Haiti, or if you would be interested in sponsoring a child from one of the schools that But God Ministries run.

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. Numbers 6:24-26.

Sincerely,

Scott