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Jeremie, Haiti

Moore News In Haiti....

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Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.

Hebrews 10: 23-24

Change...sometimes a way of life.

It seems that for the last year our lives have had one change after another. I believe it started even as my mother, Dolores, passed away on December 26, 2005. Life as we knew it would forever be different without Mom to live with us, either in Haiti or Idaho.

We knew at the beginning of 2006 that we would have several major changes in our lives. We prayed about those changes a lot and were feeling very good about them and felt secure in where God had us heading. We prayed, we planned, and in mid-August we finalized our jobs at Bonne Fin and moved home and dog to Jeremie. Not only was the physical move to a new place, but moving brought new emotions as we settled in and looked for a new church family to get involved with here in Jeremie.

As we moved into the fall months, we were feeling very established in our neighborhood, in the Baptist church downtown and in setting up the foundation for the project at Gati-neau. Not much money had been raised however for the project, nor were we getting much communication from the founder and Executive Director of the project. By December we were beginning to have some doubts and reservations about the project and the leadership with it. We had several situations and communications with other partners of the project who also had some concerns.

In January, when the Executive Director came to live in the same house with us in Jeremie, it very quickly became evident that we were very different in many ways. God made it very clear to us that it would not be possible nor pleasant to work together. Our management styles and personalities are very different and not compatible.

It has saddened us that we had to leave the project at Gati-neau. We had started to make good friends there and it was sad to leave. However, we have found much peace and happiness in our new home and in looking for a new place to work for God in Haiti. We continue to pray for the project at

Gatineau, that it may succeed and bring medical care to the people of that area.

What does the future hold for us?

We have been asked this question a lot the last couple of weeks. Ahhhh, if only we knew the future, how much easier would it be? All we know for sure is that God has brought us to Jeremie for a reason. In His time, in His way, He will let us know what we should be doing for Him.

We have been blessed for the last seven years by friendship with LifeSpring Community Church in Plainfield, Illinois. Pastor Fran Leeman first brought a team to Pierre Payen to paint a school and has brought at least eight (probably more) groups down to Haiti to visit us since then. In 2005 a team from Life-Spring came to work and together went back to their church with a vision to help one community in one area in Haiti. They wanted to make a home in that community and a bigger impact. They formed a group called New Life for Haiti. They invited other churches to partner with them and now have three other churches wanting to work together for a community in Haiti. New Life was a partner with us and Project Gatineau, however at this time they have decided to end that partnership and we look forward to working with them in an area outside of Jeremie.

Pastor Fran and four other members of New Life will be coming to visit with us March 20-26. Before they arrive we hope to have several locations or areas picked out so that when they visit we can tour and discuss areas and ideas. We know we want to impact one area by living there, by helping plant and build churches, schools and clinics, and by helping with development projects to improve water, agriculture and jobs. A huge picture, yes, but we want to impact the area to make life-long changes, not quick fixes and to bring more people to know Jesus Christ.

Until we find where God is leading us, we continue to pray, listen and wait on Him; something that we are not always good at. Why have all of these changes happened? Some of the changes have been so difficult and have hurt. However, because we are learning to trust in God and know that He has a plan for our lives, all we have to do is follow Him. Please continue to pray for us and New Life for Haiti, as we search for God's direction in our lives.

Stay tuned....we're just starting on a new adventure...and the best is yet to come.

Teaching English in Haiti

Last October, I (Joline) was approached by a young man that teaches English to a class of first graders in a Montessori school that was down the road from where we lived. He had just started a school called Wonderful Institute and wanted to know if I would teach one of the classes. I was a little hesitant to go into this 100%, so I said I would help, but not be solely responsible for the classes. He said he had students signed up for a Monday-Tuesday class, a Wednesday-Thursday class and a Friday-Saturday class. He said he also had a Haitian teacher that would help with the English classes. He was very hesitant to have me do just one class... he wanted me to do both. We finally decided that I would help on Mondays and Wednesdays and work with Patrick, the Haitian teacher.



We have had quite a fun time in class. Our classes started out larger, but now after the holidays we are down to about eight on Monday and about five on Wednesday. On Tuesdays and Thursday, Patrick does the class by himself. Haitian schools do not teach the same way that US schools do; they do rote learning and memorization along with repetition. There are very few activities and everything is written on the board and copied down. Well, you all know me and I just can't teach like that. So I have had fun introducing activities, games, fun work sheets as well as candy and life savers to the teaching process. We have had several quizzes and they are doing okay! For me, I'm not sure that learning perfect English (or even good English) is the main outcome. This is a Christian school, so we are learning praise and worship songs in English as well as The Lords Prayer and Psalms 23 together.

The classes, Patrick, and the Director, Mr. Frenel Le-granada, have been a real joy. It has been a fun learning experience for me.

Beginning on February 5, I will be going to the local MEBSh Baptist church in town and teaching the 6th grade class some English for two days a week. In Haitian schools all students begin to learn English in 7th grade. They have a curriculum for learning English, but what I have found is that it teaches them vocabulary and how to read some of it, but doesn't teach them to speak English. So most students, even after having English in school for four or five years, can't speak English. I want to help the 6th grade class get a jump start on at least hearing English and have them know some of the basic vocabulary and greetings when they enter the 7th grade. I think it will be fun and help them for the next year.

I'll keep you posted on the English classes, it is a wonderful part of our ministry and I enjoy being in the classroom, even with all of the differences!

Filling the Gap...Volunteering

During our time of transition, praying and waiting, it is nice to have something to do. There is a local organization that has been in Jeremie for about the last 15 - 20 years. Haiti Health Foundation (HHF) is a faith-based organization that has a huge clinic facility here in Jeremie, as well as a Center of Hope that houses mothers waiting to deliver their babies. HHF also has a huge Community Health program that encompasses most of the Grand Anse area around Jeremie. They have a program that is focusing on mother mortality and infant mortality as well, plus they have several agricultural programs too.

We had not had a chance to go to visit the clinic or the Center until Steve and I both got sick in November/December. After Steve's visit to the Medical Director there, I was picking up a prescription for him. I was lead to go and introduce myself to Sister Maryanne, who is the administrator of HHF. After introducing myself, I found myself asking her if she could use a volunteer (yeah, me) for several mornings a week. She said that no one ever walks in and says they have time to volunteer and she was very happy to see me. I have been going in three mornings a week and helping with data entry for statistics for them, as well as scanning reports into the computer. There have been several things that need to be organized and I have been able to help with that as well.

After finding out that Steve had not been able to start the project at Gatineau yet, and that he was an engineer, she invited him to take a look at several projects that HHF has been working on. Steve has helped her with estimates for several projects and we have traveled way into the mountains to look at a site for a new mill that they want to build.

We are again struck with how much organizations in Haiti could help each other, if we would only do so. It has been a blessing to us to be associated with HHF and we hope that we have blessed them in return. Because of our association with them, I was able to go and talk to both Sister Maryanne and Bette (the Ex. Dir. of Community Health) when we knew we needed to move out of our house quickly. They were amazing and as we brainstormed together I felt at peace for the first time that day. Bette's husband, Edwin, was able to help us find the place we are living in without much delay. Bette offered us a night of peace and quiet at her home if that is what we needed. What a blessing they both were.

So many times American organizations in Haiti do not help each other. I'm not sure if it is fear, greed or pride. I just know that God wants us to reach out and help those that we can and maybe that is one of the lessons that He wanted us to learn here. We have received more than we have given, in friendship and love and prayers and we are very grateful!

Haittian Proverb

Fòsé moun fè sa yo pa vlé fè, sé tankou éseyé plin lanmè ak ròch.

Forcing people to do what they don't want to do, is like trying to fill the ocean with rocks.

Change of Address (yes, once again!!)

Our mail carrier, Agape Flights, Inc. moved their offices and their post office pick-up to a new location. As of now, we have a new address for any mail coming to us in Haiti:

Steve & Joline Moore
Agape Flights PAP 18098
100 Airport Ave.
Venice, FL . 34285

Hopefully this will be the last change. We appreciate all of the cards and boxes that we have been getting during the holiday seasons. The rate for Agape Flights to get anything from Florida to Haiti is \$1.25/lb, so anything that is over one pound will incur a charge to our account. If you are sending care packages to us, please include the \$1.25 per pound or send it directly to Agape Flights, 100 Airport Avenue, Venice, FL 34285, with a note saying to credit the amount to our account. This will truly help the packages to be gifts to us.

Thank you!

THIS DOES NOT CHANGE OUR SUPPORT. That address remains the same with Lumiere Medical Ministries.

Kites and Jacks....they are universal!

After writing that title I realized that although they are universal they sure look different. The neighbor kids at our first house in Jeremie opened my eyes to the games that Haitian children play. I was fascinated one day to watch them play a game that resembled Jacks, but wasn't. They took five rocks and threw them on the concrete. Then they would pick one up, throw it in the air, pick up another rock from the ground and catch the one in the air before it hit the ground. They would pick up all four of them, then...if they didn't drop the rock that they threw in the air...they could keep going in the game. Next of course, they would pick up two rocks...then three rocks...then all four at once. The kids next door weren't really good, but I saw them get to three rocks at once several times.



Jacks with a ball and jacks. They had a hard time at first letting the ball bounce, but once they got it...it was magic and so much fun.

Kites are a big part of the kid culture in Haiti. Starting in February and definitely by March, you'll see tons of kites in the sky as well as stuck to trees and electric wires. However, kites here are made by the local kids with plastic bags (like vegetable bags from the grocery store). Plastic bags here are either white or black...so that is the color most of the kites are. The frames are made by pulling off bark from bushes in the yard

This, of course, made me want to get some Jacks and show them how to play. I e-mailed Cindy Lopezalles from LifeSpring Community Church in Illinois and asked her buy a couple of sets of Jacks for me and give them to Pastor Fran Leeman, who was coming to visit us. She did and I had a wonderful time showing them how to play

and tying them together in the appropriate shape with smaller strands of bark or twine if they have it. Then of course, you hope you can find a small piece of some thrown-away material to make the kite tail, scrounge around until you find some twine so you can hold onto it, and you have a kite.

Even if there isn't much wind, the kids will have someone hold it, run and then have the kite trail behind them in the air. I know that the pictures probably don't do the kites or the kids' justice, but I hope you can see what they look like.



In Port-au-Prince you can buy beautiful kites that are colorful and made with paper and better wood. However, out in the country and in most of Haiti, kites are made from plastic bags like the one pictured.

Haitian Proverbs

Men anpil, chay pa lou

Having many hands, the load is not heavy.

Se le ou nan bezwen, ou konn ki moun ki zanmi ou.

It's when you are in need, you know your best friends.

Ou pa janm jouré manman kaymen jouk ou fin n pasé dlo.

You never say bad things about the crocodile's mother if you have another river to cross.

Praises and Prayer Requests



Blessings

- Praise for finding a new home to live in and friends to help us move.
- Praise for family, friends, brothers and sisters in Christ that pray for us daily.
- Praise for new friends here in Jeremie that have been helpful in the move, in emotional support and also held us up in prayer.
- Praise for good health and peace that lets us know things are going to be okay.
- Praise for a mighty God that takes care of us in any situation and sends help through fellow Christians through prayer and support.

Prayer requests

- Prayers for strength to continue to search for what God will have us do here in Jeremie. And that God will show us where He wants us to be and what He wants us to do for His Kingdom.
- Prayers for continued physical and spiritual strength.
- Prayers for Dave Radke (Steve's son-in-law) who is currently stationed in Iraq as he serves our country.
- Prayers for our friends in New Health for Haiti as they continue to search with us for what God will have them do in Haiti.
- Prayers for Steve's mom and Joline's dad, that they may continue to be healthy and have strength.
- Prayer for the country of Haiti as it continues to struggle against violence and corruption everywhere.
- Prayers for safety, for not only ourselves, but for all missionaries in the country of Haiti as they do God's work.

New house (again, you say!)

Once again, we would like to introduce you to our new place of living. It isn't very far from our last place; in fact the back yards are only about a block apart. This place is actually a hotel that wasn't finished. The owner died about five years ago and his brother, Edwin (Bette's husband) became responsible for it. He had no money or interest in finishing it...so there it stood. When he found out that we couldn't fit into the very small, two-room Haitian house he could rent to us on the property, he showed us three rooms that are adjoined on the second floor of the hotel. There is a kitchen (yes, one with a sink!) and



two bedrooms with bathrooms. We decided that we could use the middle bedroom for a living room. There are no screens on the windows or doors, but being on the second floor is great...much more of a breeze.

However, three rooms with no closets or storage areas were not going to be enough for our house-sized amount of furniture and supplies. Edwin said we could also use a room downstairs that had stairs from our apartment. Great...we decided to use it for a sewing/computer/library room. However, there still wasn't enough storage for Steve's tools, gas cans, work team supplies, and our empty trunks and storage units. After we had been moved in for about a week, Edwin came to visit. He handed Steve the keys to a room that is on the second floor right next to our entry door and said we could use it for storage! Amazing.

So...we are getting settled. We bought a 300 gallon water tank to put on the roof and Steve has just finished plumbing it. The washing machine is outside, next to the second floor and had no water to it until the re-plumbing. Edwin got EDH out to put the wires up and when EDH is working, we are wired for lights. Our biggest challenge is not having a propane refrigerator. We do have our regular electric refrigerator, but with EDH being so sporadic, we are using a lot of gasoline for our little generator. We need to run the refrigerator at least six hours at night and another four to six hours in the daytime. When we have EDH at night, it isn't so bad, but lately EDH is not coming on. We may have to go to a propane refrigerator, but since they cost about \$1,300 US, we are not in a hurry.

Life is getting back in order, Steve is getting the physical side of the apartment in shape and things are feeling like home. Thank you to everyone that has helped us with this transition. Your prayers, love, and monetary support has been a wonderful blessing. The blessings that you have all poured out on us have been sent from God and we know how blessed we are. Thank you.



Thank You's

A gigantic *thank you* to all of you that have held us up in prayer, love and support, especially during this last month. As soon as we got the word out about our dilemma and our sudden move, we know that people began to pray for us. A special thank you to everyone for the extra donations that have helped us buy things we needed to repair this house. Your continued love, prayer and support are very important to us. Thank you for all you do.

