

Office of Disaster Relief Medical Mission to Haiti January 30 to February 3, 2012

Report & Daily Journal

Medical Team

Randy G. Vaughn
Dr. Marsha Thigpen
Matthew Thigpen
Pastor James Wall
Lorryane Wall, RN
Rev. Charlie Lewis
Donna Thomas
Bobby Simon, RN

Haitian Participants:

Dr. Ruth Delva
Dr. Dina Erserne
Dr. Michaela Najee Delva
Evelyn Joseph, Nurse
Pastor Roosevelt Mombrun
Pastor Lucien Almanord
Being Almanord

Monday, January 30, 2012

The Haiti Missionary Support Group medical team representing the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc. flew into Haiti on Monday, Jan. 30, 2012 arriving at 11:30 am.

This mission trip is 2 yrs. after the devastating earthquake that ravaged this country in 2010. The beauty of this country is very much unrivaled by many countries of the Caribbean. The majestic mountain peaks kiss the sky and the clouds paint pictures of a joyful blush.



After processing through Immigration/Customs it was off to the Ambassador of Jesus Orphanage where we made camp. We are hosted by Pastor Lucien Almanord and his staff, along with the more than 56 children who reside at the orphanage. After unpacking, the children welcomed us with a song and greetings of hugs and kisses. After a delicious supper, we enjoyed a night of much needed rest.

Tuesday, January 31, 2012

We received breakfast and made ready for the work day in our field medical clinic. We set up our clinic in Sibert, a community outside Port-Au-Prince. The population in this community is about 30,000. Our clinic consisted of a church without a roof and very little wall. Sheets and blankets were used as makeshift walls to add as much privacy as possible. The people of the community were waiting patiently for our arrival and the help we offered.

Much of what our team saw today were people with upper GI problems (worms), Hypertension, rashes, and various infections. All received the necessary medication. We served more than 275 persons in the clinic today.

NBC, USA donated the medicine to sponsor this clinic. Other items were also donated such as toothpaste, soap, baby supplies (food, clothes, ointments, etc).

The people are always grateful and thankful in receiving the help they needed.



Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Keeping up with supplies is constant when you operate in field conditions. Today, I went to the market to purchase water and much needed mosquito spray. The medical clinic went into its second day of full operation. The people were gathered early in the morning and began an unending line through the day. After lunch, exhaustion began to set in and at about 3:00 p.m. we had to call it quits. Today we saw 300 patients in the clinic. The medicine was holding and Thursday was on the way. Thank God for a smooth operation thus far.

Thursday, February 2, 2012

All of our days began with prayer and devotion. Today's ride to the clinic was long and very bumpy. The seats are only getting harder. When we arrived at the clinic site, the people were in a devotional period. The beautiful Haitian singing was very moving in the spirit and the atmosphere for praise was in the air. The clinic began with a robust spirit and a people now anxious to see the doctors. Today is the last day for the clinic. Patiently we watched the crowds grow. After a while the people became anxious as to whether or not they were going to be able to see the doctors. This was what they thought as a last chance effort. We had to exercise extreme control to keep things in order and from becoming unruly. Thanks be to God, the people cooperated and we were able to finish very exhausted closing out another clinical experience. All total for the week we saw more than 800 patients in the clinic. The miracle of watching the medicine hold out with some left over to be used in the Succour Medical Clinic. The percentage of patient breakdown was at 40% children, 35% women, and 25% men. We thank God for the team that gave itself untiringly to this mission and task as well, the National Baptist Convention USA, family for the prayers and donation of medicine that made this journey a success. God bless Dr. Scruggs and our National Family.

Interview with Dr. Marsha Thigpen

This was my first trip back to Haiti since before the 2010 earth quake, and one of the few clinics that we held in the inner city. We saw more patients in their 70s, 80s and 90s than we have seen in the past. There were five providers on this trip, and after three days of clinic work we had to turn some of the patients away. The local clinic will be open next week to see some of the patients we were



unable to see. These patients waited patiently, and were not unruly. There were many patients with Hypertension, some reported Diabetes Mellitus (although we did not have glucometers, and could not verify), rashes and other infections were also prevalent. One patient had a neck mass, but stated she could not afford the \$2,000.00 fee quoted her by a local surgeon. After consulting with Dr. Ruth Delva (a local Haitian physician) we learned of a University Hospital where she could have the surgery done for free.

One of the most gratifying aspects of the trip was sharing this experience with my 12 year old son, Matthew. He had an opportunity to see a culture drastically different from his own. My prayer is that he will grow to appreciate the opportunities afforded him, and know that it is by God's Grace that he is as fortunate as he is. He has shared that he would like to accompany me on future trips.

Phalange Oltima *(a former orphan who grew up in the Ambassador of Jesus Orphanage) now grown and making contributions by to the ministry.*

Phalange - I moved into the Orphanage when I was 6 years old. There I learned music and received my early education. I have always been around many people and have enjoyed the grace of God. My two brothers and 2 sisters grew up there also. They have now finished with their school and are now in the university. The missions ministry started by Pastor Lucien and Pastor Vaughn has meant so much for my life.

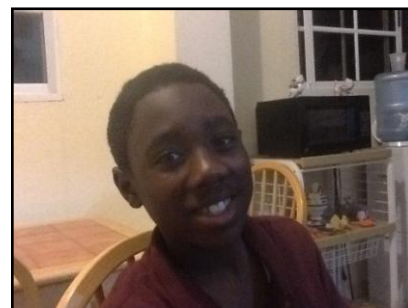
I have improved in the English language. At first, I did not like the English language, but as they continued to come I wanted very much to work with them, so I developed a love for the language, and now I am used as an interpreter. As well I have gained more knowledge of the medical field and operation. Many friends I have met and today I have a system of support.

Lizon Celisa *a community resident and recipient*

It means for me a lot of things to us to have this clinic open in our neighborhood. Many people cannot go to see a doctor and receive medicine freely. We don't have money to buy the medicine. Your traveling is very helpful for Haitian people. That is why we are going to pray for you to continue. We also pray that God will keep you in good health.

Matthew Thigpen, *age 12, 6th grade, Thomas Jefferson Middle School, Port Arthur, TX*

This is my first visit to Haiti. My mom, Dr. Marsha Thigpen, wanted me to have this experience. I am very excited about my opportunity to be here. When we got off the plane I felt scared. I had not seen conditions like this before. People were walking, sitting, riding on motor bikes, and just all over the place. Many looked to be very poor. At the Airport there were many begging for money and food. Of course, this was very different for me. On Tuesday, I worked in the clinic, my job was to make intake forms by cutting strips of paper for the medical team to treat and track all persons who came for service into the clinic. As well, I had to take pictures and I shot 3 rolls of film. I am looking forward to the rest of this trip and of course, I will come back and visit again.



Pastor James & Lorryane Wall, *Shady Grove Baptist Church, Long Branch, TX, Chairman, Missions, Texas State Missionary Baptist Convention, six year member of the Haiti Missionary Support Group.*



"I find the work that I share with Dr. Vaughn and this group one of the most challenging and fulfilling experiences that I have ever encountered.

I'll never forget my first journey to Haiti. My eyes beheld something that my mind couldn't have ever phantom. I saw a people suffering from every disease and in every way imagined. I saw poverty conditions at its worst. Two Haitian mothers came up to me with their hydrocephalus babies and asked me to pray for them. I had seen them on television, but to see it with my own eyes was almost unbearable. I prayed with them and then had to turn away because I couldn't hold back my tears. I am not a cry baby either, but I was ready to leave Haiti and never return. The medical team administered treatment to both babies, only one survived.

The medical team, led by Dr. Marsha Thigpen, saw over 1300 patients in three days. One little 9 year old boy's leg was about to rot off. It was infected with maggots, but the team administered to his leg and God saw fit to bring healing. His leg was saved.

The worship and praise services were something to experience. A people who hardly had food, poor housing conditions, little to no health facilities, no jobs available, no public schools, but yet, they were extremely grateful and proud of what they had. Their appreciation to God for the little they had showed up in their worship and praise service. They gave God the praise and the glory despite it all. Voodoo religion may be present in Haiti, but the presence of the Almighty God is flourishing also. Even witch doctors are being saved.



Three Haitian Pastors came to me and asked me was I coming back. I didn't answer them on their first approach. But the third approach, God had convicted me to the work in Haiti. I told them, 'I'll be back.' I have made as many as four trips in a years time.

The Lord has allowed me to lead the Texas State Missionary Baptist Convention, Inc. into establishing and supporting a medical clinic in LaPlane, Haiti since March 2007."

Lorryane Wall, RN Longview, TX. On my first trip to Haiti I cried for three days. I thought I had an idea of what I would see but was I shocked! As a nurse, I definitely wanted to come back and render my services. I love the people and wish I could do so

much more. I pray continually for the Haitians. I have been to Haiti now 4 different times and plan to keep coming rendering my services as God has blessed me.

Bobby Simon, RN, Nederland, TX, 7 year member of Haiti Missionary Support Group

I have been a member of this Support Group for about 6 years. I am motivated by the ability to serve people less fortunate than I am. There are many people in many places who are less fortunate, but as I see Haiti, it a place of life without hope. The people have been promised much and have received so little. Over my years of coming to Haiti, prior to the 2010 earthquake, I see little to very little improvement. What I do see is people in need of great help. I am giving myself to make the difference that I can. Even if it's one at a time.



Dr. Ruth Delva

I have been associated with the Mission for 5 years. At the time I was a Medical Student. Through this group I received assistance to complete my medical education. Now that I have completed, I work in my community. By working in the Clinic, I have more contact with the Haitian population. To know their primary needs, and to bring something to them, even if it is a little.

How do you access the health of the people in the community of Sibert?

With the clinic, I see many more needs in the population, the children - nutrition, skin, worms, respiratory disease, women - have vaginal infections, digestive troubles and other conditions.

How important is it that the people have access to medical services?

Health care is needed in every population, but in Sibert, it is very important to have good medical services that meets the needs of that particular community. The people are poor and cannot afford expensive medical services. Medical missions is a definite help and a God given blessing.

(Dr. Ruth is joined by her sister, **Dr. Michaella Najee Delva**)

How do you see Haiti 10 years from now?

We know how we would like for it to be - our dream - We would like each Haitian to have access to good medical service. The children will not have to die by the many diseases because of the disease controls that we envision will take place. We would like to see in Haiti, a program that provides family planning and a better system of birth control. A more improved water and waste system for all the people of Haiti. It is our hope to Haiti restore as the queen of the Caribbean.

Standley Dieubeni Desrosiers - 24 y.o. - Haitian

The mission offers the possibility for me to see a doctor. As well as I receive medicine at no cost for me. The mission do many things, it serve the people. Many people can't afford to see doctors and this is a great blessing for them. It is a very good work. There are many missions in Haiti, sponsored by other groups and NGO's, they serve as well, but unlike this particular mission. The others stay in the Port -Au- Prince area. This group travels all over Haiti giving hope to the many people in the mountains and other remote places. It is a sacrifice when the mission goes to the mountains. It is very difficult to go to many places. They have help me to prepare for my future, I was 6 years old when the missionaries came to Haiti and now I am 24. I was in the orphanage. They help me to go to school, now I am a musician and a technician in agronomy.



Donna Thomas

I have been a member of the Haiti Missionary Support Group before we got our name. Our first trip was in January of 1996. We were a small group following the leadership and vision of Pastor Randy G. Vaughn. Over the past 16 years I have seen many changes in the missionaries, the Haitian people and the orphanage run by Pastor Lucien Almanord.



My part as a layperson has evolved into project management on a small scale. I provide comfortable conditions for the missionaries when we are in the field including but not limited to; transportation of supplies, logistics, sanitation, domestic engineering, housekeeping and meal preparation.

Before the earthquake our presence was needed and since January 2010, our service has taken on a new vital dimension. Our efforts are commendable, however, comparable only to a bandaid. I would like to see this mission continue and grow to a larger force in a variety of ways from clinics to churches, so we can meet the needs of the Haitians with greater success.

Currently, I live in Washington, D.C. Previously I was a resident of Texas for thirty years. The Haiti Missionary Support Group means a lot to me and I am humbled and honored that they love and appreciate me enough to include me from such a distance. I look forward to many more years in this ministry.