Haiti Retreat

I was blessed to spend much of January in Haiti and want to share some highlights of that trip. The trip served two purposes: first, to lead the CVM staff at CVM Regional Mission Retreat and second, to spend some time with local staff and visit new partners we will be working with.

Isolation on the mission field can make you feel lonesome and even disconnected from the organization that you represent and churches that send you. This is especially true for CVM as we may only have one or two missionaries in a region and they may not see each other at all. In an effort to provide fellowship, encouragement, and teaching we bring our staff together regionally about every other year in different countries. Above is a picture of our Latin American CVM team that met this year in Haiti. The following are comments from our staff sharing the value they have received attending these retreats:

“Interaction with other field staff. It is personally encouraging and uplifting. It also provides opportunities to get new ideas and a different perspective on projects and ministry.”

“I particularly enjoyed the fellowship and the sharing of ministry narratives; and the opportunity to share in “mutual member care.”

“Member care and encouragement. Talking to other fieldworkers.”

“Time spent with the other CVM fieldworkers learning about their experiences and getting some insight from them.”

The Latin American Conference was held in Haiti in mid-January with staff from Bolivia, Nicaragua, and Haiti. We spent about three days of sharing, Bible study and training, and then a couple of days of playing and fellowshipping together at a local resort. One of the highlights for me was meeting near Hospital Albert Schweitzer, the very location where Keith and Jan Flanagan started service with CVM in April 1987. On Sunday, at the
beginning of the conference, we had a service in the memorial garden where Keith was buried. Jan Flanagan, Keith’s wife, who retired from mission service in Haiti last summer after 30 years with CVM, reflected on their early years. Then we reflected on how God had used Keith and Jan to affect those there. They had mentored Kelly, our current team leader. They had hosted Dr. Patricia Lyon who was with us on short term missionary almost 20 years ago as a veterinary student, and now she is getting ready to start missions full time. He had encouraged Dr. Lee Ann Fosdick as a veterinary volunteer, she is now one of our key trainers and was present that day. They had helped and mentored a young Haitian man that worked for the hospital community development project named Odelon, who is now a prominent Christian community leader and partner for CVM. They helped encourage and educate many Haitian families. Acky, a young Haitian man from one of those families is now the director and visionary for Ag Horizon Training Center, where we met and where CVM trains vet agents from all over Haiti. It was awesome to reflect how God had used Keith and Jan through the years in CVM ministry in Haiti.

Following our retreat, I traveled with Dr. Wayne Hassinger, CVM missionary in Haiti and Dr. Patricia Lyon, to the Central Plateau of Haiti to visit Haitian American Friendship Foundation (HAFF). Dr. Patricia Lyon plans to go there long term in the next year. We were fortunate to make this trip because the day we were to travel, Haiti ran out of fuel and diesel, and all the gas stations were empty. We went to church Sunday, and the pastor had some extra diesel at his house for his generator that he gave to us, and this made it possible to continue with our plans. This was an encouraging trip as Dr. Lyon had felt the call to missions over 20 years ago before going to vet school. She had not been able to respond full time but had served on over 22 short- term missions with CVM since that time, and now the Lord is opening the door for her to go full-time.

As you read this, please pray for the church and people in Haiti as the country goes through a very difficult economic and political time.

In His name,

Brad

Institute of Missions and Evangelism

Brad Frye
19303 Fremont Ave N
Seattle, WA 98133
bfrye@cvmusa.org

Contributions are solicited with the understanding that the donee organization has complete discretion and control over the use of all donated funds.