G.E.E.!
Grace, Edification, Encouragement
Haiti

April 2019

Living a Christ-centered life is truly amazing! It may not be a bed of roses, but then again don’t forget all those thorns on the branches... sure to draw a little blood if you aren’t careful. Happiness is not guaranteed, but joy unspeakable, adventures incredible, and a glorious life eternal are available if Jesus is your Savior and especially if He is also your Lord!

“So I say to you: Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. Luke 11:9-10 NIV

I had a great time in Haiti in January and am thankful for the time of spiritual refreshing with the Latin America CVM veterinarians. Last month I talked about the first half of this trip, and this prayer letter is about the remaining trip.

Dr. Brad Frye and I stayed at the resort an extra day (Saturday), after the other veterinarians and their families left for home, because of the gas shortage taking place in Haiti. It was great to catch up on reading and relaxing! On Sunday, Wayne Hassinger came to take us to his monthly church’s service at the beach. A beautiful setting, great people, and a good message from Pastor Eric mainly from the Psalms.

We enjoyed a visit afterward with Pastor Eric’s family, and he graciously gave us diesel he had stockpiled to be able to visit HAFF. We then drove down the coast to Port-au-Prince and then traveled north on Highway 3. It was quiet with very little traffic compared to normal, and while most gas stations were closed with no fuel, we were also able to find one to top off our tank and give us a margin of safety. We arrived after sunset at HAFF and were treated to a wonderful dinner. One interesting thing we saw in many towns while traveling were groups of men dressed up in fluttering white paper outfits and superhero or other masks walking alongside the road. I called them “chicken men,” but later we found out it was part of the pre Mardi Gras/Carnival celebration that occurs for weeks before Lent starts.
On Monday, we had a great day touring around HAFF with Colin (unfortunately we only saw Carla briefly as she was recovering from illness) and getting to meet Jon and Kathy deRuisher and their five children. We visited one of the morning Bible studies at the school, the various facilities including the tree farm, previous goat breeding area (now overgrown), and my home there. We met with Mellitus and Met Telius, the primary veterinary agents working with HAFF, and had a great discussion about some of their problems, needs, and desires.

On Tuesday, we left after breakfast and headed north to Pignon to visit Santos—an incredible Haitian Christian veterinarian and businessman. It was delightful for me to realize I had worked with him before (2012 CVM short-term trip). It was exciting to see all the things he has been working on including veterinary agent/technician training schools, drip irrigation agriculture, egg production, veterinary pharmacy, etc. I am hopeful we will have a close working relationship once I am in Haiti.

We then had days of traveling. First back to Deschapelles for a night at the Hassingers. Then an opportunity to splint a puppy’s broken leg (large rock broke back leg), before Patrick drove us back to Port (gas was obviously now available as we sat in traffic for a while before reaching Kelly’s home for the night). The next morning was the airport adventure and travel home.

This trip has deepened my desire to serve the people in Haiti. Initially, I have been so blessed that the initial start-up costs have been met, so now I can start thinking about special projects. Going now requires more people committing to a three-year period of monthly support—currently, I have pledges for about a third of my budget of ~$3100/month. If you know of any churches, small groups, or individuals that might like to hear about the G.E.E.! ministry, please let me know, and I would love to contact them. Thanks so much to everyone for your prayers and support to date!

My prayer requests this month include:

- Praise for an awesome trip to Haiti! Prayers for peace and resolution of the difficult challenges the Haitian people are facing.
- Praise for the generosity of the Lord’s people toward the G.E.E.! ministry!
- God’s grace, provision, and timing in moving to serve in Haiti and being able to bless and encourage the people I meet in the coming months sharing about serving the Lord in Haiti.

Blessings and prayers,
Patricia

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