

Haiti Youth Mission Team Daily Reports (July 1-July 8)

Team:

Arden Beach	Michael Chambers	Kinsley Childs	Bobby Golden
Jennifer Gray	Nasha Harris	Ryder Haustein	Lily Hicks
Eli Horton	Blake Jacobs	John Michael Jaques	Addison Johnston
Brecken Joice	Jacob Marx	Bobby Ray	Bonnie Ray
Andrew Reynolds	Sadie Reynolds	Gracie Ring	Sam Russell
Katie Tidwell	Maya Window		

Please pray for our mission team members as they go to Haiti.

7/4/23

Today was the second day of camp, and we had more children come to camp than yesterday. During the day there was one point where everyone gathered together and had a dance party. It was so much fun seeing the kids dance or do tricks in the middle of the circle. Then after camp we were able to go pray and talk with the parents of some of the kids. When we came back it started to storm like crazy, but we were having fun being out in the rain, and gathering up the fruit that dropped from the trees. After we got some of the fruit we were able to eat them, and they were delicious. The rain finally stopped, and we got to see what the compound looked like after it rained. I am so thankful to be here, and being able to love on these kids.

Maya Window

7/4/23

The second day of camp came with new experiences. A boy named Jeff, who was in my group last year, painted me a heart with my name on it during his craft time. He revealed his creation to me as he beamed with joy. Although the language barrier has been challenging, the kids and I have been able to connect through our love for soccer. I wore a soccer jersey during camp yesterday, and the kids have been calling me the name on the jersey ever since. I am grateful to be here and see different youth group members step outside their comfort zone and spread joy and the Good News to the Haitian people. We got the opportunity to pray with members of the community, and I could feel God at work. The Haitian people's joy is infectious and gives me the energy to continue with a positive attitude.

Andrew Reynolds

7/5/23

Today we began the third day of camp. In my group we had a lot more of the little campers but we had a more tedious craft. It was beautiful to see the older children helping the younger ones with their craft and showing their love for the community. I see the love of God in them more every day. Today also started our soccer world cup. My team lost today and all of the children were really upset at first but realized that they got to play again tomorrow and they were simply happy that we would be with them tomorrow. The importance of community is so much more important to them than the small things in their life. At the end of our camp day, we took some of the children home. I thoroughly enjoyed speaking with their parents and telling them how amazing their kids have been. They are so appreciative and proud even when we are seeing the condition of their homes. Lastly, we had a worship night with the community today. It was beautiful to see how many people want to worship the Lord with us and how much even the kids want to be there. I can not wait for tomorrow's water day.

Lily Hicks

7/5/23

Today was the third day of camp with the kids. Seeing as this is my first year on the Haiti team, I am still adjusting to the language barrier. Tonight after dinner we had a worship night and we had invited the kids along with their families to come for a devotional and singing. I sat with a couple of the kids from camp during the worship, and as people were still arriving, I tried to talk to the girl sitting next to me. She spoke a bit of French so we were able to communicate a little. I had a packet in my hand with lyrics to some of the songs we sing because we were going to sing the greatest command for everyone, and the girl was asking me to teach her the songs on the packet. We sat and slowly went through a couple of the songs and she tried to learn them in English with me. Hearing this little girl who doesn't know any English sing "holy holy holy" with me really reminded me of how big God is and how universal his love is. I feel so humbled and honored to be loved by the same God as all of these wonderful children. Throughout this trip God has made it clear just how connected I really am to not only everyone on the team and in our church, but also the global church. Bonnie Ray gave me something to think about last night when she told us to imagine how it will be in heaven when there is no language barrier and we are all united again.

Katie Tidwell

7/6/23

Today is Thursday which means today is the last day that I've received the blessing of spending time with these children at camp. Throughout this week there are so many different times where it was evident that the Lord's presents was there. For example, our first day in Haiti was a Sunday so we went to church. When we were on our way I didn't know what to expect. When we arrived there weren't a lot of people and I remember being told that usually church is very crowded. This surprised me, but when the church service started and the Haitians began to sing it was evident how truly powerful worship is. Their worship and voices filled the whole building and was surely heard in the streets. The emotion and volume that they sang with was truly powerful. I could feel the Holy Spirit consume the atmosphere and I worshiped. I didn't know the words to the songs or was trying to understand. I truly just stood there and took in the moment and just talked to God. It was honestly Life changing. This whole trip was life changing. I can't thank God enough for sending people to bless me financially so I could go on a trip like this. Me trying to write about just one of the multiple instances I've had with Jesus during this trip doesn't do this mission trip justice. But you seeing me come home Life changed with a whole new perspective on faith just might.

Johnmichael Jaques

7/6/23

This is our last day at camp this week and it has been long but fun. I'm grateful to everyone who helped me be able to go on this trip via giving or by working. A lot has changed throughout the week due to God touching these kids' lives. For example at the start of the week we had a shy kid in our group who wouldn't really talk or participate in events. His sister even had to look after him so she didn't even get to participate. That love is already an example of how God has touched them but there's more. By the end of the week the kid had opened up to me and rested with me today while his sister got to play soccer and enjoy water day. Another way is how Haiti's main religion is voodoo and how unnatural Christianity is. However last year, when we invited all the parents to our worship night, a whole bunch of people showed up. The change that See Him Ministries has made in the community is outstanding. The trip has also helped me a bunch. It's helped me realize that I am in fact good with kids even though I thought that I wasn't. I also didn't know what my spiritual gifts were when I first came on this trip, but the people here were able to help me find out by seeing what I do throughout the day. They helped me find out that God gave me the gift to help others as well as trying to learn about the Bible more. I think that without going on the Haiti mission trip for the last two years, I would have been a very different person.

Eli Horton

7/6/23

Finding the words to describe what this trip means to me is probably the hardest thing I would ever do. The only way to really describe it is to experience this yourself, and go meet these kids, and go love them the same way that they love you. Finding one thing to talk about, through the many instances of pure joy and love is difficult because of how much was done here. Camp for these kids is better than Disney World is for us. Through the first day to the last, these amazing kids love you for every second that they're there. Seeing genuine smiles and hearing real laughter just brings so much joy to me. There is almost never an instance where a kid is unhappy, unless it's a baby(Erica), who's crying over how white I am. What truly never ceases to amaze me is the fact that I always have a camper who is a little older than the rest, who always engages in what we're doing, whether it's coloring sheets or watching the team and I goof off on stage, attempting to act out what is supposed to be a Bible story. Even making a fool of myself, crying my eyes out because it was time for them to go, my camper gave me about 5 or more hugs, but laughing while doing it. He realizes that it doesn't matter what age you are, or what color you are, but realized that the love of Jesus is real and it is everywhere. My heart goes out to these kids and every single day I try to pour it out to them the best I can. Other than the amazing experiences I have with the campers, I love the staff of See Him more than I myself can imagine. Seeing Frantzdy and Erlan, whom I've known for years now, always put a smile on my face. God really has blessed me to meet the two kindest men I know. Always willing to serve God and us, they are a huge part of what makes this ministry and compound strong. They are where I truly see God on this trip. When we go to visit the clinic's in the morning's to see the work there, Erlan is always leading the singing. Every time it's time to let the kids in, Frantzdy is always there making sure the right kids get in and even letting some that aren't on the list in. I truly never want to leave this place. This is my second home. I want to fix everything and I want to contribute to Haiti in every possible way. It's so hard to leave and the worst part about this trip is the fact that every single day flies by so fast. If anyone wants to support me staying here for a year I am all for it :).

One thing that I remind myself every time I leave this trip is from the song by Tenth Avenue North, "By Your Side". It says, "I'll be by your side, whenever you fall, in the dead of night, whenever you call, so please don't fight, these hands that are holding you". This reminds me that God is with us, no matter the trouble's that we face or the people of Haiti face, that whenever that we call, he's gonna be there and He will take care of his people even in the worst conditions. Again, it is such a blessing to be apart of this trip and this team and I'm so excited for the years to come.

Sam Russell

Thursday July 6th Haiti!

Today was our last day of camp with the kids. I am so grateful for these kids & how God has been moving in/through them this week. Over the week I've been thinking a lot about unity. God has repeatedly presented this to me in these kids, in our group, & in the Cap-Haitien community. We've been putting on a VBS for the kids and at first, it was easy for me to underestimate the impact we were actually having. However, over the course of the week, I heard so many kids ask about people who came on the trip last year. Hearing them ask about people they hung out with a year ago, couldn't even talk to, haven't

seen since really gave me insight as to how much this means to them. That along with hearing the kids line up at the gate hours before camp, and watching 15 year olds get excited about bubbles, coloring sheets, made me really appreciate my childhood, and the huge part Clear Creek played in that. Experiencing this with others in the youth group has made us so much closer. I definitely feel closer to God in a place where His work is so apparent. Lastly I feel unity with the future Kingdom of God because I know some of the kids I met this week will be there in heaven with us.

—Katie Tidwell

I saw God in many ways this week. I think the biggest way was with the kids and in the group. The kids just showed unconditional love for people and God. When we visited their house you could tell how their parents helped with that aspect. When we visited some of their houses their parents always ~~allowed us to~~ allowed us to pray for them and you could tell how much the family loved it. The kids also loved dancing, singing, and playing football (soccer). They ~~truly~~ truly appreciated how we loved them and always helped the smaller kids. God also shined in this group. Everyone supported one another and got closer with each other. ~~They~~ This group always worked together to make camp better and would laugh and play to bring each other's energy back. God was present throughout this whole trip and His light shined.

-Addison Johnston

I saw God work in many ways this week, but definitely through Smack Em. Smack Em was our interpreter for Yellow group. It was his first year as an interpreter, but you couldn't tell. He went above and beyond what we asked of him. He came every day with a great attitude. His energy brought the group closer together. He cared about God's message we were sharing with the kids. When we walked the children home, he was friendly and outgoing with everyone in the neighborhood. He is the face that see Him should show to the community. I know God was at work through him this week.

Andrew Reynolds

Kinsley

I saw God this week in the way
the Haitians love us and one
another. Jesus is present here, and
He can be seen in the way they
care for one another. This was
evident at lunch time when older
kids would make sure the smaller
kids ate first. And even though
their team might not have
won, they all cheered one another
on. There is a level of serenity
that lays down the group here and
it comes from the cheerfulness that
comes from our camp kids. Most of
the people we see here live hard
lives far different from ours, but
they are much more grateful and
loving, just how Jesus wants
us to live.

Haiti Camp Day 4

7/6/23

God for me this week has been and came in many forms. For me I see god through the beauty of nature and love in Haiti.

Being with these kids everyday and even sometimes getting a small kiss on the cheek while being told "I love you" as they fall asleep in my arms. The unconditional love from them melts my heart and the simple smile from the kid I've never meet before is so humbling to know the lord is at work.

Everyday the camp is blessed with graceful butterflies with bright yellow wings. The lord sends them as a message of joy and lifts the hearts of the kids that when the gates open they are amazed and sparked with drive to learn about the wondrefful power of Gods love and his miracles.

LOVE ARDEN BEACH



This week I saw God in many ways. I saw Him the most in the enthusiasm and work of one of the interpreters. Even though it was his first time doing this for us, he jumped right in like he had been doing it for many years. He always was willing to help and searching for ways to spread the word of God. He has helped me to see that as humans we do not always need to know how to do everything or always have experience. All we really need is to want to do what is best for others and God will help everything else to fall into place.

- Lily Hicks

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Brecken Joice

What a major blessing this week has been! I came into this week with a lot of anxieties and just extremely exhausted and I was worried that would be my mindset. But God quickly showed me I ~~was~~ ^{am} here for so much more than I expected. I have seen the power of answered prayers more than I ever have before. If I had one word to describe this week it would be beautiful. I have seen God's beauty in the Haitian kids, they love like none other. Standing every morning watching the kids sing the songs and dance around was beautiful. I saw God's beauty through our bible stories we read and hearing the kids thoughts of what they learned. I saw God's beauty as we drove through the town to Litch on Sunday & walking the kids home. Though there was trash everywhere and their homes don't always have roofs it is beautiful to see God providing for these people. The LORD always provides regardless of where you are at, who you are, or how you live. Even then the LORD is good & constant. I also saw God's beauty this morning we visited the clinic. I stood in the back and they sang so loud, I had no clue what they were saying but it was a beautiful sound to hear them singing so proud and confidently. I have also seen his beauty through our group here, he's shown me what a pleasure it is to be apart of these moments with our students & watch them grow. What a blessing this week has been.

How have I seen God

First I have seen God through the other people on this team to Haiti. They have shown God through their love and their joy. I have seen my teammates sick, hurt, and exhausted, yet everytime I see them with the kids I see them giving their absolute best to these kids. They ignore the hurting and exhaustion so they could give the kids a fun week at camp. It was truly incredible and I knew the only reason they weren't absolutely knocked out was God. The second way was through the kids. One particular moment comes to mind when I was sitting with some of the children in the sun and some of the children had some signs they were holding and after seeing that I was in the sun they used their signs to cover my head and to give me shade. I was here to love and care for them yet they went out of their way to make sure I was okay. It was truly the love of God.

- Gracie King

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during camp I saw ~~at~~ lots of smiles
everywhere I looked even though the
kids weren't living or even seeing with
their own eyes what we would call
the normal way of living for a human
being. I saw God in the way they treated
~~each other~~ each other that it was like they
were all one big family and they treated
us the same. We were from a different
country, didn't look the same as them
or speak their language but they were
holding out hands jumping on our backs
and hugging us like we were their
brothers and sisters. When we took them
home they wanted us to meet their families
and they welcomed us into their homes
and let us play with them and were so
grateful for something as ~~small~~ small as a
playset.

- Jacob

This week I have seen God working in so many ways. The ~~first~~ first way was when we went to church on Sunday. There was not many people, but when they sang ~~at~~ their voices filled up the entire church. The next way was the kids. They were always so kind and loving. They would clean up after they colored and when they finished their craft without us telling them. Finally I saw God in our group. Everyone helped one another, and made sure everyone was okay. On this trip we really became a family, and I got to see everyone's gifts. I got to see them use these gifts for God in how they interacted with the kids and each other. This has been an amazing trip, and I am so glad to be apart of it.

- Maya Window

Coming into this trip, I was nervous about whether or not the kids would accept me because I looked like them but didn't sound or speak like them. But actually getting to experience the love and loveable ways of ~~the kids~~ in which the kids acted in, allowed me to see the way God portrayed and gave everyone their own personalities. Even though we all didn't speak the same language, we all just felt the love we had for each other. In the pentecost, God brought together many people who didn't speak the same language and gave them all the ability to understand each other.

~Nasha

Kyler

~~How~~ How I saw god this week

This week has been full of surprises and much fun.

The nations appreciate the small stuff, greatly.

despite the lack of fresh resources, they continue there faith and don't him

Where I saw Jesus

I saw Jesus in this team of students, my fellow adult leaders, the See Him staff, and in the children who came to camp. Also, four other situations stand out to me from this week in which God's presence was felt. Our interpreters were special, especially a new one named Smackam. He helped lead ALL the children at one time very effectively, and he understood the mission. When I went on home visits with him, he exuded humility and genuine love to the families in the neighborhood. Secondly, I was overwhelmed by Jesus' love as I told the story and our team acted out the parable of the lost sheep. Our team was hilarious acting like sheep, but the truth of Jesus' pursuit of each of us resonated. The children clapped, and God's presence was felt. It was a beautiful moment! And thirdly I saw Jesus in late night conversations with my small group, (Lily, Katie, and Sadie) and with Jennifer. They are all such smart beautiful young women. My fourth significant Jesus moment this week was unexpected. We asked the kids to hug us goodbye as they left on the final day of camp. I had no idea how many deep embraces I would receive! My senses were filled with sweet words and eye contact from every age child. Abundant life is found in serving God and living on mission, especially when you get to serve with these students at See Him Ministries.

Bonnie Ray

7/7/23

As we close the books on another CCYM Haiti trip, I find myself wrestling with a myriad of emotions. Ultimately, to boil it all down to a single statement, I would simply say that I am grateful. Grateful for an amazing group of students that I get to witness pouring their hearts out on this trip. Grateful for the connection to See Him ministries Clear Creek has developed over the years that has paved the way for this trip to exist. Grateful for the new co-minister I have in Brecken Joice and the ways I got to witness her gifts this week. And more than anything, I'm grateful for the powerful movement of God, and the opportunity to see him (pun intended) in a new way on this trip every year. I could fill page after page writing about how I saw God at work in each student that came on this trip. I could write for days about the memories that we made on this trip and the way I experienced God through that. But there was one moment on this trip that was different than anything we had done in years past - and what I gleaned from it I will certainly be taking home with me as we fly out tomorrow. Tonight, as we closed out with our final devotional and reflection, Bobby Ray invited Julmice - the director of See Him - to share his story with our group. I've known Julmice for 3 years now and this was the most I had ever heard him speak (as he is a man of few words). Within his story he explained his upbringing in the orphanage, his friendship with other members of the See Him staff, and ultimately his road to where he is now. As he shared the ins and outs of his life, it became clear to me that Julmice represented an excellent picture of what it looks like to live a life of saying yes to God. He mentioned a commitment he made when he was young to serve his own country. Since then God has clearly called him into a life of doing just that, and thousands of lives have been touched because he (and a few others) continued to say "yes God, I trust you". The simple yet powerful underlying message of Julmice's story is something I needed greatly in that moment and I am immensely grateful to have had the opportunity to hear his story. See Him is such a blessing to this community and it is a privilege to be a small part of it every year. Glory to God for another successful trip to Haiti

Michael Chambers

This morning, on our way to the beach, we stopped to visit the elderly men and women who live in a nursing home. The nursing home is located on the site of the orphanage that Bonnie and I stayed at for our first trip to Haiti in 1991. Just driving on to this property brought back a lot of memories from over 30 years ago now. Our team spent some time loving on these sweet, elderly people. We began by greeting them and hugging them. We then sang three songs: Greatest Command, Wonderful, Merciful Savior, and Listen to our Hearts. We then took the lotion that we brought, and rubbed it on their hands and feet and massaged their shoulders. The grand finale involved a dance party with our team dancing with the residents. We prayed over them before we left, and I couldn't help but think about how in this world, our bodies are wasting away, but one day, all of these Haitian brothers and sisters, as well as us will be dancing in heaven, with our new, redeemed, perfect bodies. Oh, what a day that will be!

Bobby Ray