

## Haiti Medical Mission Team Daily Reports (May 27-June 3)

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	<b>Erica Previl &amp; Emma</b>	<b>Caitlin Russell</b>	<b>Ray Russell</b>	<b>Addie Stone</b>
	<b>Marcus Wagner</b>			

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

Sunday Morning May 28th Cap Haitian Haiti

Members of Clear Creek,

The best practice to prepare for a mission trip is to be well rested and very organized. This, being my 23rd year of making the journey to Cap, I've not mastered this practice yet. A medical mission trip has many layers of preparation involving not only the team members but others including Shelly and the church front office, small groups, the youth group, ladies' classes, neighbors, prayer warriors, friends, and many others who have donated their time and money for the trip.

We departed from the Clear Creek property, Friday (10:30 sharp) and headed to Atlanta for an afternoon flight to Fort Lauderdale. Here we would spend the night for well needed rest. Well, I say rest.... after playing the Uber shuffle, trying to accommodate the team of 17 plus 28 suitcases, we arrived at the Crown Plaza hotel around 9PM. With a 3:45 AM departure back to the airport, sleep was at a minimum. We arrived in Cap Hattian Saturday morning and made it to SeeHim after leader Rapper Ray negotiated our entry tax, through customs. The team spent the remainder of the day Saturday preparing 1500 health bags, organizing medications, and preparing Bible stories for the children as we looked forward to the week ahead.

It's becoming a tradition for the medical team to attend Blue Hills Church of Christ on Sunday morning. Then, after services we conduct our first clinic. You may recall, Blue Hills is the congregation Clear Creek, SeeHim, and several private donors contributed to the repair and completion of the church facilities. The reoccurring statement we hear is "Of all the churches needing repair, this is truly the church to help". The partially completed building was held together with tape, wire and popsicle sticks. Brother Hakeem, the preacher at the church, asked for our help during our first visit there several years ago. To this day, he ends every service we attend with a personal thank you to the team and those involved in the process. I've developed a personal relationship with Hakeem since I was on that initial team that visited that day. This is a true example of how short-term mission trips contribute to spreading the Lord's Kingdom.

This reminds me of a passage we discussed in a recent small group meeting. God had forewarned Moses what to expect as he went before them in preparation for their invasion of Canaan. Exodus 23:28-33. "I will send the hornet ahead of you to drive the Hivites, Canaanites and Hittites out of your way. But I will not drive them out in a single year, because the land would become desolate and the wild animals too numerous for you. LITTLE BY LITTLE I will drive them out before you, until you have increased enough to take possession of the land"

This community struggled for years and was a less desirable place to live or visit. God has blessed this church and community, not only with a new facility, but the congregation has grown and they have started a school for the large number of children. God being the "hornet" leading the way, directed us to Blue Hills to hear and see the need. So, little by little, after years of struggle, God led the way to bless this

community. Many times we ask for God's blessing expecting them to occur suddenly. When we are ready to receive God's blessing he will deliver.

The clinic ran extremely well today under the direction of Rapper Ray. We treated over 100 members of the church and community. We had several children and after their visit through the clinic they were mesmerized by bible stories and song.

All members of the team were involved with bible stories, patient direction, taking blood pressures, temperatures, filling prescriptions or diagnosing patient needs. It was a great day! It's good to see Jan back!

Ken Hudgins

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In my devotions this morning, I was reminded of God's incomparable love for us. His love for us remains - regardless of our circumstances - strong, and immovable. Our love for family and friends, as strong as it is, is based on our human understanding and emotions. God's love surpasses this and is unfathomable. I asked God in my prayer to show me examples of that love as we ministered today. Before we even got to the clinic, I saw two gentlemen. One was very rough, looking, skinny, emaciated, almost. The other gentleman was washing his feet. So reminiscent of Jesus. Next I saw a mama lovingly braiding her daughter's hair. When we got to the church, we saw such love again, as we were so welcomed by the pastor and congregation. We are so blessed to be able to see these expressions of love. I realize they are all around us if we just look and listen.

Linda Frey

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Today we held the medical clinic at Don Don Church of Christ. It is the furthest distance location from See Him that we travel. We had a little delay getting there when we came upon stop traffic due to a disabled truck with a broken axle and a truck the other direction that was stuck in the mud. We didn't get there until about 11:30 so we did not get a break since people were queued up in the church for the clinic. We saw about 200 patients. About 80 of them also went to the eye clinic that was held by Dr. Lukeson. I helped the patients off the stage where the nurses and doctors analyzed their symptoms. I managed the cue to the pharmacist who provided the medicines recommended by the nurses and doctor.

I was particularly touched by a disabled man who was walking with a cane. I especially helped him leave the pharmacy through the back door that had a 2-ft step.

I was touched by the locals and the team at the clinic as we served Jesus.

It took us about an hour and 15 minutes to come back to See Him ministries.

Leonard Frey

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May 29th

We made the 2.5 hr trek to Don Don today. It's long. Dusty. Bumpy. Mountainous. It's an "uncomfortable" drive. It requires a lot of repositioning (literally), reshuffling (of bags, suitcases, backpacks and people), re-shifting of weight (to actually stay seated at times), and most importantly- re-focusing (on the purpose of why we're going). Couldn't help but think of the correlation to living here (in Haiti) and the discomfort it creates at times. The heat, the poverty, the lack of income or resources. Every day they're repositioning, reshuffling, re-shifting and re-focusing. On what's important. Their purpose.

Back home we get so distracted with material things and jobs and sports and BUSYNESS that it's a constant struggle to stay focused on our purpose. So that's the charge I've set for myself this week- and in the coming weeks once we return. Despite how uncomfortable life can become- I want to keep my focus set on what's important- sharing God's word and loving people well.

Amy Hadfield

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05/28/23

Haiti is truly an eye opening experience. As we drove back and forth to Blue Hills, we saw people smiling and waving and then there were people who gave us looks and stared us down. At Blue Hills we saw people and little children who smiled the whole time, sweat pouring off their faces. They are always so joyful no matter what the circumstance. It's so easy to be selfish and dissatisfied with what we have, I know from personal experience. We always see things that we want, never just being satisfied with the things we have. I came to Haiti and see all these people being happy and content and it opens my eyes to see that what I have is beyond spectacular, and that if these people can be happy with how little they have, I can be happy with how much I have.

Caitlin Russell

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Today we went to the Grand Basin, when we got there the people were already waiting for us. As soon as we stepped off the truck, we started setting up the clinic. My job was to take blood pressure and temperature. I loved this job so much because I got to see everyone. I also love seeing everyone so happy that we were there helping them. Even though the truck got stuck at the end, I loved seeing our team and the church come together to help push it out. Even though my mom couldn't come today it has been my favorite clinic so far.

Ruthie Hendrix

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Today was our second clinic and it was a long drive. We all rode in the tad tap up the mountain. When we got to Don Don there was already people there waiting for us. We all did our job, and it went so smoothly! All the kids were smiling, happy, and so full of joy! It was amazing to see how they were all so happy even though they don't have a lot.

Maylee Mitchell

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May 31, 2023

Today we headed to Dumas. Speeding down the roadway in our tarp-covered "tap-tap" truck, I was again struck by the raw natural beauty of Haiti, from its lush green shrubs and fruit trees to the distant smokey mountain tops. After an hour or so and a couple of wrong turns and helpful redirections from the passersby we arrived at the church. Or was it a school house. It was a gathering place nonetheless and the team quickly dismounted and sprung into action, each member working in concert to create a medical clinic and VBS were minutes before there was dirt and empty rooms. When nearly 3/4 the way through the setup the pastor announced a larger venue down the street was more suitable for the waiting crowd and clinic needs and so like ants repositioning and rebuilding their damaged hill so the team packed up and moved a block or so down the dirt road.

Today Amy was out sick and so it was up to Linda and I to see whichever amount of clinic patients God graced us with. Unlike the luck we had other days the mosquitos were plentiful there in the hot corner of the stagnant aired school house and I left quickly to douse myself in repellent, scented and with an added touch of Aloe and Vit E, that my wife so carefully selected for me before I left. Clinic began with a stream of young elementary aged patients accompanied by either their mother or grandmother who would describe the common complaint of poor appetite, trouble sleeping, and itching all over that were telltale signs of a worm infection. Today's children were especially noteworthy for the large number of skin rashes, often spread along their arms and legs but sometimes even grouped together on the face and causing patches of hair loss throughout their scalp, which I can only assume to be scabies as I have no formal way to test and only have 1-2 minutes to diagnose and assign a treatment. Ivermectin, hopefully more potent against scabies than the typical worm-killing Abendazole we give all our patients. Mom gets the same treatment, along with STD kits if she confirms symptoms as well as a few vitamins, Tylenol and Advil to top it all off. Is this practicing good

medicine? I hope. It's providing where their government and others have failed. And what a blessing it is for us to act as God's hands and feet, showing His love to the needy.

After the school kids came the older citizens of Dumas, many appearing weather-worn and well past their stated age. So many of their eyes have past their expiration date with cataracts causing blindness that no doubt has been accelerated by years of exposure to the bright Haitian sun. What a pleasure it is to be able to write "Eyes" of the prescription bag, knowing that Lukeson and the See Him vision team will soon bring this patient for cataract surgery, no matter what their financial means. This is truly a modern day miracle only Jesus himself ever previously performed, to give sight back to the blind.

We worked into the early afternoon, ultimately providing compassion and medicine to 100 patients. And yet after we packed up and started down the road, what filled my mind was "What happened to the man wearing an orange shirt with the terrible looking left eye?" He had told us he could not see out of his eye after being struck by an object a few days before. We referred him for evaluation by Lukeson and yet somehow, despite our best efforts, he had not understood the importance of staying and being seen. What will happen to him? Will he lose sight permanently? We could have helped him if he had just stayed!?! The horror of it haunts me.

God knows that horror. Jesus tells the parable of the shepherd with 100 sheep who realized one was missing and so left the 99 to find the lost one. Did we fail to save our lost sheep?

In my grief God whispers to me "This world is not your home". It is not the body but our souls that will pass from this life to the next.

So while it is my prayer that the man wearing the orange shirt finds healing for his eye, so much more I pray that he is found by Jesus, who cares for every last one of us and will not stop searching till the last sheep is found.

Marcus Wagner

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Wed., May 31

Today we drove to Dumas. I helped in the pharmacy. (According to Erica) Pharmacy is the best job because she and Ken are cool. It was a good community, and it went smoothly, but there were a log of bugs and it was hot. It was a good day because we helped 99 people. This is my first time visiting Haiti, and it's hard to see people struggling, but it's good to know we're helping.

Logan Hadfield

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May 30th

Being in Haiti is such a special and unexplainable experience, and it's so hard to prepare for the emotions you'll encounter and the things you will see. After only being to Haiti with the youth group and spending all of our time here in the See Him compound, I was excited but nervous coming into this medical trip where we go out each day to a different part of Haiti. The thing that touches my heart the closest is the amount of love the Haitian people have for each other. Being here causes us visitors to feel heartbroken and sympathetic towards these people and all that they lack, but in reality they have the most important thing that we often struggle possessing. They have a deep love for one another and a burning passion for serving. All week I have witnessed encounters between these people that have put a smile on my face because I am reminded of what this life is all about. Some of these moments include: a man washing another man's dirty feet, strangers giving their infants to other strangers with trust, a community coming together to get a vehicle out of a hole, an interpreter offering his own water to a random thirsty baby. No matter what material things we have or don't have, we are all on this earth for one purpose, and that is to love others and be a disciple. The people in this country seem to have that figured out even with their unfortunate situations. This week has been so eye opening with the things that happen and the people we encounter. Today by the end of the clinic both Jan

and I were sitting surrounded by children and their parents. This moment was beautiful because Jan had told me all week that even though we speak different languages, they know love. I saw this in action today and it served as a reminder to why Haiti is so special to me. Love is such a strong emotion I feel here and I hope I'm able to carry that over to my interactions with people back home.

Addie Stone

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May 30, 2023

Church of Christ at Grand Basin

After we circled up, sang Father God and prayed, we loaded the TapTap about 5 people shy of yesterday's very tight accommodations...“cheek to cheek” as some would say. Today we had plenty of room, the sun was shining and the drive was beautiful. We pulled up to a church/school building with approximately 50 people outside under a tarp eagerly awaiting our arrival. We quickly got inside to see how we would set up the clinic since we've not been here previously. Setup was a bit challenging in the pharmacy, but we were able to quickly improvise. The pharmacy work was very busy today as there were so many small children, but with Ken, future pharmacist Maylee, and myself, we made it just fine. As usual, the Haitians were patient and kind. The sweet little kids and babies were plentiful, and our team ran the clinic seamlessly. It was a good day.

Although I've been to Haiti, I haven't been able to join this team since 2019 and I've certainly missed it! Special thanks to GiGi for making the trip so I could go out with the team. I can't help but reminisce about my first trip to Haiti. How it changed my life & How it broke my heart. At that time I had no idea what an impact Haiti would have on my life... For my journal reading that first year, I found the quote “Pay attention to what breaks your heart, chances are that's where God wants you to serve.” No matter how many times I come, my heart still breaks for these beautiful people and it's crystal clear at this point that this is where God wants me to serve. I will never understand why I have so much, and they have so little. When we drive through the countryside like we did today, I dream of a day when Haiti will thrive— basic necessities of life (and more) will be readily available. Tourists will line up to visit this beautiful and bountiful country... but until that day, I know that all I can do is continue to love and serve these people the only way I know how. One smile, one hug, one bag of Tylenol, one hygiene kit, one day at a time.

Erica Previl

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I came across an article last night about short term missions. It talked about how sometimes short term mission trips get a bad wrap. It can very easily become a “these people need me” mentality, putting me on a pedestal and the people we serve below us. It said, “Whether or not this happens is entirely dependent on your focus. Is this trip about you feeling good about yourself for serving? Or is it about humbly walking into a cross-cultural situation as a learner, with your hands and your heart open wide to how God wants to transform you?” This is how I've seen Maylee, and the other middle school kids this week, with hearts wide open! The way that they have responded to all they're seeing and experiencing has amazed me! I can't speak for them, but I do believe God has transformed them this week. I've enjoyed coming to Haiti this time around and viewing it through Maylee's eyes. Watching her notice the girls in school uniforms who look to be her age, she points out the cute little babies and toddlers that she sees at clinics, and has enjoyed playing games and teaching the kids songs about Jesus! She's also getting a glimpse of extreme poverty, sickness and brokenness in a whole new way. But what's encouraging is that each night at devo she has been learning from Luckson and the rest of the team about the continuous work that's being done here through See Him. The long term relationships that are being made that have impacted so many lives already! Maylee and I haven't made a huge impact on the needs here in Haiti this week, but we have gotten to play a small part in this long term mission that is already present here. We have talked a lot this week about going “little by little”. Packing one hygiene pack at a time, seeing one patient at a time, one smile, one hug at a time. We have all

loved big this week, putting our hearts, soul, and sweat into this mission! I'm so thankful to have had the opportunity to come on this trip with Maylee, and for us to both see and experience all the work that is going on here!

Callie Mitchell

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What a wild ride this past week has been! As the leader of this team, I've had the pleasure (and occasional headache) of wrangling an amazing group of medical professionals, adults, and middle school students. Let me tell you, it's been a hilarious and tear-jerking adventure that I won't soon forget.

First things first, Logan, Ruthie, Maylee, Caitlin and honorary middle schooler Jan Hudgins are a lively bunch. It's like herding cats on a sugar rush! They're full of energy, curiosity, and enough enthusiasm to power a small city. I've never seen so many excited faces ready to dive into the world of medicine. And let me tell you, their excitement is contagious. It's as if they've discovered the fountain of youth and are chugging it down like there's no tomorrow.

Marcus, Lynda, and Amy, bless their hearts, are the real MVPs. They're like a group of superheroes in scrubs, swooping in to save the day one quick conversation, assessment, and medicine bag at a time. Their dedication, knowledge, and quick thinking are awe-inspiring.

Shelly, Callie, Addie, and Leonard have been stars all week jumping in wherever they were needed, directing traffic, butchering the Haitian Creole language, and loving people at the same time. I do want to spend a moment on communication as I have had a unique view of the interactions they have had with the Haitian patients. Leonard has taken the approach of grunts and pointing, avoiding attempting Creole at all while Callie has entertained the masses with her Soddy-Daisy Creole pronunciations, the laughter she has created may have been as healing for the people as the meds they have received. I have chuckled to myself more than a few times this week. But again, this groups love, and desire to serve is awe inspiring.

I can't leave out the pharmacy team of Erica and Ken, they are amazing to watch and work with as they conscientiously calculate dosages, ensure accuracy, and work to help the people of Haiti through the medicines they dispense. We do give them a hard time about the backlog and pharmacy wait times but truly appreciate their hard work.

But for all the laughs we shared, there were moments that brought tears to our eyes. The reality of the hardships faced by the people of Haiti remains gut wrenching even for this grizzled medical team leader. We continue to see families living in poverty, struggling to access even the most basic healthcare, food, and sanitation. We see young girls with diseases only transmitted through contact intended for much older and married couples but hear stories of the desperation that can lead to those behaviors. It is a sobering reminder that our mission is about more than just dispensing meds, educating on health, and providing vitamins—it is about bringing hope, healing, and God's love to those who need it most.

As the week comes to an end, our hearts are heavy with both joy and sorrow. This team of young, old, medical professionals, and laymen have formed a special bond that will never be forgotten. We have shared laughter, tears, and countless moments of growth and connection. It wasn't always easy, but it has been worth every second.

This trip has been an unforgettable journey filled with laughter and tears. We came as acquaintances, but we leave as a family bound by a shared purpose and the belief that even in the face of adversity, God's love, mercy, and compassion can make a world of difference. As we bid farewell to Haiti, I carry with me the memories, the lessons, and a heart filled with gratitude for the opportunity to lead such an extraordinary group of individuals.

Ray Russell

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As the mountains surround Cap Haitien, so the Lord surrounds his people

As you all know, this was a big trip for me. After coming to Haiti for many years in a row, this is the first time I've been to Haiti in 12 years and thrilled also to be able to make this trip with Ruthie, her first trip to Haiti is priceless.

As we have all talked about this week there is poverty, and it should break our hearts and move us to do what we can to help.

We all ask ourselves, why were these people born in Haiti & why me, why was I born in America? If you've been to Haiti with me before then you've heard me read this verse it's the only answer from God that we have to trust

Acts 17:26-"From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us."

We all see the struggle of these people's daily lives. Overall though, I see progress, I was moved to tears entering the See Him compound. I knew the dream, we prayed over this land-when it was just a field, I saw the pictures, but seeing this place with my own eyes was overwhelming. God used many people to make this a reality. I see a place where Haitians are empowered: given jobs, opportunities, and where the community near & far can come knowing they will be helped by people they can trust.

I see progress in the small community churches where they are thriving, filled with children who are learning about God. These children are the future of Haiti.

We read in Ps 34: "This poor man called, and the Lord heard him; he saved him out of all his troubles...The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are attentive to their cry; The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles...The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."

Psalms 34:6, 15, 17-18 NIV

"The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."

2 Peter 3:9 NIV

God for thousands of years has heard the cries of his people -"But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day." 2 Peter 3:8

God hears the Haitian people & our pleads on their behalf. He expects us to do our part in helping them in ways he has equipped all of us. I have no doubt that in future generations in the Haitian children, and these new young people who are here with us falling in love with Haiti-God has plans for this country that we can not see or imagine!

He is the God of this city

He is the God of these people

Shelly Hendrix