

All for Him

Sharing the love of Christ with the people of Haiti through compassionate health care, spiritual ministry and training for service.



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When you consider the ministry of the Lord Jesus, what picture comes to your mind? The fearless Messiah faithfully proclaiming the gospel of His kingdom to Israel? Do you think about the blind, lame, deaf, mute, tormented and possessed whom He healed? What about His intimate teaching to His own twelve followers, the future leaders of the Church?

In Matthew 9:35, we read "Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness." So you see, Jesus did all of these things - He taught the religious leaders about God's truth, He proclaimed the gospel of the kingdom to the poor and He healed all kinds of disease. This is verse could sum up our mission. We at Aid For Haiti (AFH) seek to glorify God in three ways:

- First, to teach and train Haitian spiritual leaders about God's truth
- Second, to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ to all Haitians who will hear
- Third, to meet pressing health needs of the Haitian people through medicine and education.

Training the ministers

The greatest needs of Haiti are spiritual. In a country where about half of the population still practices some form of voodoo, there is a great opportunity for the gospel to bring the light of Jesus Christ to a people in spiritual darkness (Isaiah 9:2). Many people attend church or are marginally religious, but even among believers, spiritual knowledge is limited. There

is an apparent lack of understanding regarding Biblical principles, even among more learned and experienced believers. We desire to have training sessions and conferences for local pastors, teachers and elders to help our brothers prepare and learn God's truth as they study and share God's Word.

Focusing on health needs

The old adage, "People don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care" rings true in Haiti. Medical clinics are a practical expression of our concern in the mountains of southern Haiti where hospitals in Port Au Prince or the central plateau are at least a day's journey away. In addition to the



The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send our workers into his harvest -Luke 10:2

terrain, the financial burden of even the most rudimentary medical care is cost-prohibitive for the majority of the mountain people. A clinic in their "backyard", at lost cost to them, is a rarity - there they have

medical needs addressed, whether basic or life threatening. Additionally, we initially were involved with research benefiting patients with goiter in the mountains of southern Haiti. We continue to address the micronutritional needs of those and other people as the major thrust of our medical operations.

Proclaiming the Gospel

We are fortunate to bring not only medicine, but the gospel to Haiti. Whether one-on-one in a clinic exam room (a curtained off corner of a bigger room), or to the waiting crowds as a whole, we have an opportunity to share the good news of Jesus Christ with many patients.

The Ministry of AFH

Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel, and healing every kind of sickness. -Matthew 9:35

Miracles and Medicine



Imagine you are on a medical team in Haiti when one of the translators tells you a child in the waiting area is about to die. When you examine the 4-year-old, you discover he is indeed seriously ill. In fact, he is dying. What started out as vomiting and diarrhea has now turned into serious dehydration and shock. You work as fast as you can to provide the best care possible, although realizing it is far from the advantages of a pediatric intensive care unit back in the United States. You gather some of the team around you and pray with the parents for the child. God intervenes, and the boy walks out of the clinic with his parents that evening in good health.

You are in another village, once again in clinic. This is your third and final day in this village. You are surprised when the patient in front of you is someone you saw two days ago. You ask her why she has returned to the clinic only to find yourself amazed at her reply. "I want to have Jesus as my Savior", she states. She said the advice and medicines we gave her helped her feel better, and that maybe what we said about Jesus being able to help her with her sin was also true! As these stories illustrate, we continue to watch the Lord perform great physical and spiritual miracles in Haiti through our opportunity to serve in medicine.

Discipling Haiti's Future

The ministry of medicine in the remote areas of Haiti has opened the door for the training of Pastors and Christian leaders. Many of those who have the responsibility of preaching and teaching in the Christian community have very little opportunity for discipleship and training themselves. The pastors, translators, and teachers who assist the medical team desire to know Christ more fully and to understand the Word more clearly. But, they lack even the most basic tools and training. Study aids and Bible schools don't exist in Haitian Creole even if the men could afford them. As a result, they are ill



equipped to disciple believers, and their people try to survive on a diet lacking the essentials for maturity and soundness of doctrine. Each trip to Haiti underlines this need. Several mature Haitian Pastors who have worked closely with AFH have urged a response. "Can you provide short, practical training seminars for our leaders?" So with the iodine and the clinics come Bible seminars. This combination sounds like the text on this page; Jesus went teaching, proclaiming, and healing. The training sessions focus on the basics of Bible study, effective teaching, and fundamental Christian doctrine. The goal in all of this is that the riches of Christ would be known and enjoyed more fully. That leaders would be equipped, thrilled, and motivated in all their labors for Him.

Iodine for Brains

It is not often you have the opportunity to do what many claim is miraculous. In Haiti, the effect of one single pill is just that. For the poor and destitute in Haiti, what we take for granted every day as iodized salt can be the difference between a life spent with crippling mental retardation and one of opportunity. In Haiti, every year, almost 30,000 children are born with severe mental retardation due to a lack of iodine. This problem also causes goiter, a large tumor-like swelling on the front of the neck.

In 2008, after identifying a previously unknown region in remote Haiti suffering from this disease, we began treatment. Since that time the miracle of preventing childhood mental retardation and watching goiters who have plagued individuals for over 30 years melt away has been astounding. As one woman suffering from a massive goiter stated, "I've had this since I was a very small girl, until you came I had no reason to hope." Although alleviating physical burden in encouraging, watching God's hand in this work has been the most rewarding aspect. As one local suffering from this disease stated, "You don't know how many years we have been praying for someone like you to come and help us, and finally you came."





The Heart of AFH

I tell you the truth, whatever you did for the least of these, you did for me.
Matthew 35:40

Many times we can feel overwhelmed with all the needs we see around us in the world. We look down at our meager resources and feel like such an inadequate gesture could not be of any significant value. There is too much to do, too much ignorance, too much poverty, too much suffering. However, the truth is that our efforts, no matter how seemingly small, do make a difference.

In the slums and streets of Haiti, thousands of homeless children make up a labor force of orphans referred to by the rest of the community as “enfants sans revs”. In Creole, this means literally “children without dreams” and these truly are children without dreams and without a future. The reasons why these children have found themselves in this situation are endless, but they all share a common destiny, hopelessness. Many work as child slaves to pay for the one meal a day that will keep them alive and face innumerable perils and hardships. Very few are able to attend school and many die alone after months of near starvation and unattended illness. There is now an estimated 300,000 of these children living in Haiti today, and three fourths of this number are believed to be girls. These children are living proof that slavery is not just a thing of the past, but is instead the stark, nightmarish reality of their everyday lives.

Meet Shadrack. Shadrack is a boy of about thirteen years old, even though his exact age cannot be determined. A few years ago, his

parents, which were storekeepers in Haiti’s capital city of Port-au-Prince, were killed before his eyes, in a botched robbery. Young Shadrack was turned out onto the street by the landlord of his parent’s house, and thus his struggle for survival began. He managed for a time in the huge crime-ridden metropolis until he met a young man from a rural village, looking to find someone to help on his parents farm while he traveled to the Dominican Republic. Shadrack agreed to come and work. For the next two years, Shadrack worked hard and received little in return besides a place to sleep, scanty meals, and regular tongue lashings.

Shadrack was living in this rural area of Patmos when our AFH team met him. He cheerfully hiked along beside the team as they brought out supplies for the clinic they were planning to have there. Those on the team were struck by his shockingly thin frame and a face that bore the absence of childhood, a face that seemed to have lived far beyond his years. After he shared his story, some of the team members began to discuss among themselves the possibility of bringing Shadrack back to Port-au-Prince. Guyteau, a young Haitian man acting as a translator, shared how he once had been a boy on the streets of Port, but had been rescued and given a second chance at life thanks to a missionary and his family who took a dedicated interest in his life. He now has a good job, plans to marry soon, and has a bright future. Shadrack’s plight touched his

heart because it was one that he could relate to so well. If possible, he wanted to give Shadrack the same opportunities that he had been given.

After discussing it among themselves, the team made arrangements with the older couple that he worked for to release him. After only a few days with a group of people that showed him genuine love and concern, the transformation was amazing. Virginia Rudolph recalls that “The little guy was dumbstruck at the change of circumstances... and it was so neat to see him open up after being so shy and reserved”. Shadrack is now living with a team member in Port-Au-Prince and plans to attend school.

Jesus tells us in Matthew chapter 24 that if you show mercy to any child, you have showed it to Him. While the task of bringing hope to the millions of children like Shadrack seems daunting, we cannot cease to make the changes that we can just because finishing the task seems impossible. We will never finish if we do not start. The vision of AFH is to touch lives like Shadrack’s with medical care and also with the gospel. Shadrack is just one life touched, and it’s true that there are uncountable others to reach, but these kind of differences are the kind that are made bit by bit, and child by child. Just as in the story of the loaves and fishes, gifts offered with a sincere heart can be multiplied beyond our wildest dreams if we place them in the supernatural hands of the Savior.

A Brief History In 2006, we received a letter from a friend telling of many Haitians living in the mountains with large growths on their necks. Interested in the condition and helping the Haitian people, we formed what was the very beginning of Aid for Haiti. We discovered the Haitian people were victims of a lack of a simple element causes devastating mental retardation in the Haitian children and large goiters in the adults. We soon realized that the people in this and other remote areas had many unmet medical and spiritual needs. Our hearts were broken, and we responded. Over the years, we have provided medical clinics in the rural mountains of Haiti, disaster relief in cities, and unique spiritual training for the rural pastors and elders.

We are a group of believers brought together for the task of making the love of Christ known to the Haitian people. We have seen needless physical suffering and spiritual bondage and have been forever touched by the people of Haiti. We are pastors, medical doctors, teachers, academic researchers, builders, mechanics, missionaries, young, old, Haitians and Americans. Most of all, we are Christians who have a passion burning our hearts to touch the lives of the Haitian people with the same life changing message of Hope in Christ that we carry in our hearts.

Leadership



Caleb Trent MD - An Emergency Medicine physician who works at Washington University in St. Louis



Elliott Tenpenny MD - An Emergency Medicine physician who works at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN



Philip Sutherland - A Family Medicine physician in Tennessee



Philip Rudolph - A pastor and businessman with missions experience in Albania and Ghana

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