

June 24, 2010:

I am so glad I came on this trip and am pleased with every experience I have had. I have learned a lot, worked hard, and hopefully made a difference in some way to some one. I love doing this work. I have always wanted to go on a mission trip and made so many excuses not to. The number one reason was definitely fear-mainly of flying.

Many people have said on this trip that there are no accidents and God puts people right where they need to be. I have always believed that but have truly seen evidence recently. About a year and a half ago I made a very good friend who is one of those rare people that you just know is good heart and soul. That would be Shelly. I remember telling her very early on that I would never go on a mission trip and had just accepted the fact that though it was disappointing I was simply too scared.

This was around the time when God began working on my mind set. I went from being terrified at the thought of flying to thinking it may not be so bad. That was a miracle in itself because my fear had been so huge. I had thought about it for a little while, then suddenly at a Chris Tomlin concert I blurted out that I wanted to go to Haiti. Shelly said there was a spot so I committed right then and there. The next few weeks involved lots of preparation and prayer and I now really understand the power of prayer because I can honestly say that I had no fear the entire 6 weeks that I was getting ready for this trip. Sure there were times when Satan would try to talk me out of going but I simply would send up a little prayer and such a peace would come over me. I know that was God telling me He was there, He would protect me, and He did not create in me a heart of fear. I know He was also telling me it was no longer about what I wanted because He wanted me to go. My fear was completely irrational, illogical, stupid and actually embarrassing. I really imagined that I would have an uncontrollable panic attack and refuse to get on the plane but God reassured me and as you all know I am here and actually did quite well.

So about Haiti: I love it. I love the people. I am so glad that God did this for me. I have seen such amazing acts of kindness and compassion from my team, the interpreters, and of course from the people of Haiti. I have seen people who have every reason in the world to complain sit quietly in the heat with a smile on their face. I have seen people who are hungry selflessly share their meal with another. I see these people with so little yet so much love for each other and for Christ.

Haiti has truly made me reevaluate what is important in life. It also has made me count my blessings. It has made me trust in God. The simple fact that I am in this country at all took a leap of faith, but the past few days I've spent here with the people of Haiti, I have seen the most humbling examples of faith. God wants us to do things His way, to trust in His will. We will never understand Him or see what His plan is until it unfolds but like I said, there are no mistakes, no accidents. God knows what He is doing and every person on this earth is in His loving hand. I love Haiti and I know God loves Haiti. I am so grateful to Him for this experience. I came here thinking I would help some people and do some good, but the people have helped me. I feel changed because of this trip and know it was completely God's plan for me to come I am so grateful to Him for that. – Ashleigh Childs

Today we went to Plain du Nord where a new church has been started for our last clinic. Plain du Nord is known for voodoo. As soon as we pulled up, we saw a tent

church building and heard a group singing hymns led by someone on a megaphone we realized it was going to be like the old days before churches were more established and people were not as patient. Much to our expectation, the crowd was a little pushy, but as usual some sweet Haitians stood out to me, and among the chaos our health care workers were able to show individuals Jesus.

One sweet Haitian mama, who Allie reached out to, had a baby with an extra finger that was about to fall off. She patiently sat all day waiting for her turn. When the clinic was almost over, Allie pointed her out to us still sitting on the other side of the rope, and Jake let her in.

There were people there who knew the Bible. One lady told Shelly her favorite verse was Exodus 14:14. A few children knew songs about Jesus. After listening to health teaching, several ladies asked me to pray for them. All are evidence of a little of God's presence in that town. I look forward to seeing great progress in the future as we have in other towns.

The Haitian I remember the most was a boy named Joshua who was about 11 years old. He had a huge boil on the back of his head. Bobby allowed him to squeeze through the cactus fence in the back and sit in a plastic chair behind the church tent. Without anesthetic Bobby and Morgan drained the huge boil full of pus while Annette, Arie (our interpreter), and I held his hands and face. He cried and cried each time Bobby would drain the infection out. Annette wiped his face with her scarf, and I gave him all the kisses I usually give to Sara Grace and Hannah at home I was encouraged with the way Arie comforted him with Creole words and held his hand. I was very impressed with the boy, Joshua. He never tried to get up and run away. He was obedient even though it was a very painful process and at the end when he gave him candy he tearfully said, "Merci." We prayed with him, hugged him and sent him away with a bag of medicines, stickers, candy, soap, and hopefully a memory of those white people who loved him and showed him Jesus. – Bonnie Ray

"Break my heart dear Lord, tear my barriers down," was my prayer Tuesday and that is exactly what God did. When I felt broken, useless, ineffective, and overwhelmed He lifted me up through the sweet love of the children of Haiti.

Surrendering to His will made yesterday's burdens seem light as I listened for His voice and looked for ways that He wanted me to serve.

Aware that it was my turn to share my journal today, I prayed that God would show me what He wanted me to say and give me the words. Like Moses, I often lack the confidence to speak my own words. So I arrived at our destination today listening and waiting for God.

Today began as expected by reading to the children about the birth of Jesus and telling them about how much God loves us. As they colored the sweetest baby girl slept in my arms. Watching Bonnie interact with the girls as they clapped and laughed I felt at peace and so blessed and honored to be able to see how wonderful and natural and loving Bonnie is with the Haitian children. At the time, I thought how inspirational she is and what a blessing she has been to so many people.

But wait-God had so much more planned for me! Somehow the self-proclaimed wimp who can't stand pain or the sight of blood ended up assisting with not just one but two very messy and bloody procedures. It was God's strength not mine that held the

boy's hand, it was His love that wiped their brows, and His courage that gave the smile they needed as wounds were cleaned of dead pus and infection.

I would never have placed me there but God did and as Bonnie and I prayed for Joshua, my only thought was how God is truly amazing. His plans far exceed mine. The courage Joshua and the other boy showed was God-given just as he gives us all the strength to overcome whatever he must do in order to make us clean and whole when we submit to Him- the greatest physician. I came to Haiti hoping to be a blessing to others but I've been exceedingly blessed by Haitian people, by the mission team, and especially by drawing closer to God. –Annette Wheeler

Where did I see Jesus throughout the week?

2 Cor. 4: 18, 2 Cor. 5: 1-10

Throughout this week the love of God has been evident through the people we came in contact with in our mobile clinics and also through the Clear Creek medical mission members. As a native of Haiti sometimes I focus on the material things and forget about the eternal the things, the things above. I dream of and hope for Haiti better roads and electricity. I hope for a Haiti of more trees and overall of better human conditions.

See, when I focus on those things, it becomes very difficult for me to see the evidence of God in the people. It is when I started to focus on things above that I can see the Love of God in the face of His people, the Haitians. Because yesterday while doing clinic in Dondon, I decided to fix my eyes on things above. I was able to see Jesus in a 70 year old skinny malnourished woman with pain all over her body, when she said that my home is not here but in heaven..

This evening I saw God in Bobby and Bonnie as they are trying to find ways to help Dieudonne, a young Haitian man to start a little business with the hope to one day become self-supported. I know that it was very difficult for them. I know that they have been praying and searching for ways to help Dieudonne for over a year now. Then I saw Jesus in Dieudonne when he decided to try the business proposal and I believe he decided to try this business proposal because he was fixing his eyes on things above.

Dear brothers and sisters of Clear Creek, in the name of all my Haitian brothers and sisters I say thank you. The teens from your church are amazing in the ways they serve the Lord by serving the Haitian people. For those of you that have family members on this trip, thank you and may God bless you.

God bless,
Luckson P.