

TUESDAY, JUNE 22, 2010

BY: Jeb Hartness

And now, stand by ... for NEWS! Not many radio announcers were better than Paul Harvey. He had a distinct sound and a distinct timing in his delivery of news over the radio airwaves for over 40 years. Dr. Jim Dobson of Focus on the Family Radio says that when he first got his start in broadcasting he listened to Paul Harvey news and commentary a lot and was greatly influenced by his style. While Paul Harvey was one of the best “news men” in the business, it is his signature piece “The Rest of the Story” that he will widely be remembered for. In this part of his show he would tell an inspiring story of great heroism, overcoming odds, or triumphs of the human spirit. All Harvey’s stories were inspirational. All his stories were true. The difference was in how he told the story. He told it with great skill, drawing in the listener by weaving in exciting details, but all the while never giving away WHO the story was about. Then, at the very end, when it seemed you just couldn’t wait any longer to hear who did these amazing things, he would reveal to the audience the name of the person he had been telling about. Paul Harvey would then with dramatic pause say...”and now, you know the rest of the story”.

And now, with all apologies to Mr. Harvey, I would like to give it a try.

There are 4 families that have greatly increased awareness for Clear Creek Missions: these families have lived in far away countries developing relationships as foreigners in foreign lands, taught others about Christ, risked their lives, worked diligently spending much of their own money, provided leadership, and have mentored others to do likewise. They have sacrificed. Some of the ones on our team they have mentored include Morgan. She was a learning assistant in the pharmacy on previous Haiti campaigns and is now a nurse at Vanderbilt so is qualified to see patients on her own. Luckson, a native Haitian who has for the past many years been our interpreter, recently graduated from Harding and has his sights set on Opthamology. He intends to practice medicine in Haiti. These four families have also provided great leadership to the group of adults on our team. They have taught by example the way we are to live for Christ. They have shown us the significance of what we are trying to do here. For those of us here with our children and grandchildren, we pray that the opportunity for a “Kingdom legacy” will continue. Then there are the teenagers of our team: The Significant Seven – Emily Ann, Caroline, Grayson, Tanner, Allie, Reagan, and Claire. They will be the ones, along with their children and grandchildren, to remember those before them and continue the journey to reach the lost, both near and far, that was begun over 20 years ago. So who are the ones who have sacrificed so dearly for the cause of Christ and the ones we are so grateful to for opening our eyes to “declare His Glory among the nations?” They are Bobby & Bonnie Ray, Jake & Shelly Hendrix, Bobby & Carol Golden, and Ken & Jan Hudgins.

And now, you know the rest of the story.

BY: Grayson Hartness

When we first got off the plane, my first thought was “The smell isn’t so bad, but then once we started driving down the street, I realized that the smell was pretty bad. I was amazed at the amount of poverty. My thoughts were that it was going to be really poor but nothing like seeing trash being burnt in the ditches, cows on the street, or the adults and children doing all kinds of jobs for money. It makes me extremely thankful for where I was born and all the people that care about me because God could’ve just as easily put me in Haiti.

Today we went back to the Manna compound and I got to see Aaron, Oz, and Jah again. I was finally able to find a football yesterday and get an opportunity to pass with some kids because the only sport they usually want to play is soccer and it’s just not my sport. At the beginning of the day, we were moving chalkboards, desks, and benches to set up for the clinic. After that I got to play soccer again. I was gettin’ schooled! After we made our way through the thick crowd back inside the compound, I was able to help with the clinic. Whenever Morgan asked for something, I would get it. Then I was able to play some basketball with the kids. Finally, a sport we can play where the Haitians don’t laugh at me every time I touch the ball! After a long hot and rainy day we made our way back to the Hotel. It still amazes me how no matter what the kids are doing or the circumstance they are in that they just keep smiling. Like today, when I was playing soccer I tried to kick the ball and missed and drilled this kid in the leg with my foot and he falls down and I’m standing above him thinking, “I just broke his leg”. But he stands back up and smiles at me and holds out his hand to give me a high-five. That is the kind of example that I want to set for others.

BY: Ed Brackett

Another day of heat, rain, fellowship and love. It started with an open truck ride through the trash, smoke, rubble and chaos of the city.

We ended at the Manna compound which is like an oasis in the desert. Partially walled, but mostly open wired fences there is enough wall to give the feeling of security but open enough to be a part of the community. In Brian's words, "he didn't want to be known as the boogeyman behind the wall".

My job today was the "bag man" - handing out, controlling, and in general keeping track of the bags that identified the patients and provided a carry home sack for any medication given to them. As bag man, I got to see all the people coming in (over 200) wonderful loving people that would respond to you if you would just acknowledge them. The day was relatively easy, physical wise, unlike yesterday when I was the "sand man" - moving sand from one place to another in a wheel barrow.

I didn't get a chance to work with many on the team, but as the workday wound down, I believe without exception, kids and adults alike were playing, taking pictures, braiding hair, and in general, sharing our love for them and their love for us.

Loving God and loving each other was in abundance today in Haiti.

BY: Brenda Brackett

Oh my, where do I begin? As I start to write, I'm already beginning to "tear up". I'm just so overwhelmed with all that has transpired in my life since I took "The Leap of Faith".

You ask, where do I or where have I seen Jesus? I think, for me, I have to go back to the very beginning and move forward. As I said in our first team meeting, I was moved by a force, Jesus, to sign up for this trip. Originally, Ed and Reagan were coming on the trip, and I was going to stay home and do whatever I thought was important at the time.

However, this was not God's plan. I remember walking out of the Walkers Class that Sunday, seeing Bobby or Jake in the hallway and asking if Ed and Reagan got signed up for the mission trip to Haiti. He said yes, that they made it in time as there were only 3 spots left. And then, the words came out of my mouth, "Sign me up!" I never had second thoughts for I knew that this was a journey the Lord intended for me to make, my "Leap of Faith".

But, moving on: I saw Jesus in our Clear Creek Family – through our Small Group who inspired us with their card, their words of encouragement, and their many prayers; through all the thoughts and prayers that were expressed to us from so many in our congregation.

I see Jesus, always, in Bonnie & Bobby, in Jake & Shelly and in their tireless work and efforts in pulling this trip together. I saw Jesus in Bobby and Carol Golden and their willingness to get us on our way. I see Jesus in every member of this team, everyday. This is truly a blessing for me to experience the love of all.

But now, to Haiti – I see Jesus in the people we have met, especially I see him in the children. They are so happy, so innocent, so expecting of our love. I thank God for giving me the opportunity to serve him and the people of Haiti in some small way.

I see Jesus in Holly, Lukeson, in Brian and Tammy. These are the ones who Jesus works through to provide now, and in the future, a better way of life to so many of God's children in Haiti.

In closing, I would just like to say that I cherish every moment of this journey to Haiti as I know that for me, it has been a journey with my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!