

High Mountain



Newsletter of Haiti Mission Connection, Inc.

Spring 2013

2013 Trip Diary

Liz Rickert

2/25 – Martha Willi and I travel to Marriott Courtyard near O'Hare airport for overnight before 7:10 AM flight to Port-au-Prince

2/26 – travel to Port-au-Prince via Ft. Lauderdale; arrange vanilla purchase at Matthew 25

2/27 – travel to Bodarie with a stop on the way to fill the Gift of Water purifier bucket replacement parts order; arrive in Bodarie approximately 3:00 PM; unload green duffels with supplies

2/28 – AM trip to Mapoo with purifier bucket replacement parts and meeting with our water technicians; PM eye clinic

3/01 – AM meeting in Grand Gosier with community groups; PM shopping trip to Thiotte for hand drills for the water technicians so they can locally adapt purifier buckets and lids

3/02 – meeting with the pastor, Fr. Charles, on HMCI goals; meeting with the St. Benoit Chapel representatives to discuss our water projects and clinic; meeting with Manigat Wesley of KOMOKOG (clean water trainer) to discuss a program to educate people about the dangers of unsafe water; PM eye clinic

3/03 – mass & comments to the St. Benedict congregation; Water Committee meeting to discuss bio-sand filters, purifier buckets, and collaboration with KOMOKOG; follow-up eye clinic; meeting with Fr. Charles regarding requested upgrades for the church building

3/04 – travel to Port-au-Prince; meeting with Lamothe of Gift of Water at Matthew 25; Haiti store shopping

3/05 – travel to Chicago/Peoria via Ft. Lauderdale

As a supporter of HMCI I thought you would enjoy this overview of our Mission trip this past February. It was a busy, exciting time. New this year was outreach to local organizations working in the area. This trip was an opportunity for us to learn from the people who live the challenge that is Haiti and understand it best.

We assured them we will take what we learned back to the US and to HMCI for study, with the goal of being the best possible partners with them. Education, health and clean water remain our focus, but opportunities exist as varied as supporting public radio in Grand Gosier to helping a farming cooperative market their fruit liqueur. Interested? We'll be getting back with you with the details!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

PLANT SALE

DATE: MAY 4TH

TIME: 8:00AM – 3:00PM

PLACE: 1216 N. MAPLEWOOD AVE, PEORIA, IL

HAITI MISSION CONNECTION WILL BE SELLING BOTH SUN AND SHADE LOVING PLANTS. WE WILL HAVE PLANTS FOR ANY YARD!

COFFEE & VANILLA SALE

DATES: MAY 12TH, MAY 19TH, MAY 26TH

TIME: AFTER 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 MASSES

PLACE: ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE
904 EAST LAKE AVE, PEORIA HEIGHTS, IL

HAITI MISSION CONNECTION WILL BE SELLING SINGING ROOSTER HAITIAN COFFEE AND VANILLA.

WINE TASTING EVENT

DATE: MAY 31ST

TIME: 5:30PM – 7:30PM

PLACE: WINE COUNTRY / FRENCH TOAST
4600 N PROSPECT RD, PEORIA HEIGHTS, IL

SEE ATTACHED FLYER FOR MORE DETAILS AND RESERVATION INFORMATION.

MOSS AVE SALE

DATE: JUNE 8TH

TIME: 8:00AM – 3:00PM

PLACE: CORNER OF MOSS AND COOPER, PEORIA, IL
HAITI MISSION CONNECTION WILL BE SELLING SINGING ROOSTER HAITIAN COFFEE, VANILLA, AND HAITIAN CRAFTS.

2013 Eye Clinic Report

Martha Willi

The primary purpose of the visit to Bodarie was to become better acquainted with the new priest and the community, but I had some time to play eye doctor. We held the eye clinic on Thursday and Saturday afternoon in the church. As usual there were people with cataracts and glaucoma among other problems. And as always our health agents dispensed glasses to those who needed them.

I saw a lot of people with eye infections. Perhaps the dry season with lack of water for cleaning had something to do with it. I saw a little girl with an eye infection that had gone on for 2 months. I made the usual inquiries about other people at home. I found out that there was another child with the same thing. When I saw her they told me there were twin babies with red eyes at home (see picture). By the time we left I had seen 7 members of that family with infection. In all likelihood they had trachoma, an infectious disease of poverty, of lack of hygiene and sanitation, in which the germs are passed around the family on fingers, on towels, on bits of clothing or rags used to wipe the matter from the eyes. We had medicines for treatment of the whole family.

On Saturday, Liz and Ausner (our translator) and I went down to the market. While we were enjoying watching the colorful life of market day, we saw a woman with her eye swollen shut and covered with sores oozing pus. At our suggestion she came up to the clinic that afternoon. She had had several styes which were infected and burst through the skin. We gave her antibiotic pills to begin the treatment and asked her to come back the next day to have the surgery needed to clear the infection out. She came to us Sunday afternoon and the minor operation was performed using the day light of the clinic doorway. She left with a huge bandage because she had to walk a long distance along dusty road and trails to reach home. She carried with her a bag of medical supplies and a lot of instructions on how to care for her eye until it was healed. It was gratifying to be able to relieve her pain and misery.

Our nurse, Ms. Jeanette LaVenture, was interested in learning more about eye problems. By the time we finished, I think she felt confident of her ability to detect and treat eye infections with the drops we left with her. She expressed her thanks for the supplies we had brought and let me know what needs were greatest for medicines. I was able to give her a Kreyole version of a book for midwives and women's health.

We talked about further training for her, perhaps a week in a refresher course for nurses in Port-au-Prince. She will investigate what is available. She is concerned that debris and dust filter in to the clinic constantly from the ceiling which is only the rough planks of the floor above. We asked her to get an estimate for this work.

Overall it was a successful clinic. Our nurse continues to learn and has a deep desire to help her fellow Haitians. HMCI is happy with her progress.



Travel to Haiti?

Haiti Mission Connection travels to Bodarie, Haiti each January.

If you are thinking of a journey to Haiti, consider coming with us. There is an opportunity for daily Mass in the parish church. There is plenty of time for meditation in the evenings and for stargazing at night. Walks through the village will introduce you to a much different and simpler way of life. You will help us in our work in the village----no expertise required. But tell us if you have some specific skill.

All volunteers raise their own money for airfare and travel expenses---approximately \$1,200. HMCI will take care of all the arrangements for you. Please call Martha at 674-4500 for more information.

Please go to our website

www.haitimissionconnection.org to find out more information about the work HMCI is doing in Bodarie, Haiti.

To join the e-newsletter, email

hmcinewsletter@gmail.com and put subscribe in the subject line.

A Wine Tasting to benefit the people of Bodarie, Haiti
Sponsored by the Haiti Mission Connection*

*Supporting a clean drinking water project, the elementary school,
and medical clinic in Bodarie, Haiti*

Friday May 31, 2013 5:30-7:30p.m.

**Wine Country • French Toast 4600 N. Prospect Rd.
Peoria Heights, IL**

Turn Wine into Water

*\$50/person includes: wine tasting, hors d'oeuvres and donation
Dinner available at French Toast immediately following the tasting
10% of all wine sales and dinner bill will also be donated to HMC*

Wine Tasting Reservation Form *a 501 (c) (3) organization

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
E-Mail _____ Phone _____



**For more information,
please contact Sheldon Schafer
at 309.682.1876 or by email**

Please pay by check & mail to: Haiti Mission Connection P.O. Box 1393 Peoria, IL 61654

Would you like to make a dinner reservation for 7:30 at French Toast? Y/N. How many? _____