



Brad's Broadcast

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Brad Milner
Project Coordinator

The Adventure Continues

Budget

This includes checks/cash that pass through my hands or JIH receives.

Special Prayer Points:

- * Praise God for a successful trip, for good friendships made, and for the work He is doing in our lives and the lives of Haitians because of the trip!
- * Pray for Pastor Brisenaunt and the New Christian Church of Tabarre as they minister in Haiti.
- * Pray that the Lord will bless plans for a trip next year and will shape it through who He calls to go and what He enables us to do.
- * Pray for the New Christian Church and School of Tabarre as they transition to their new property.

This year we had a team of 11 travel to Haiti to work with the New Christian Church of Tabarre's (NCCT) volunteers in a VBS. Rather than a new adventure, for 10 of us it continued adventures we began on previous trips. One team member began his adventure this summer. We left for Haiti on Friday, July 22 at 11:30 AM with a Delta flight out of Cincinnati. After a layover in Atlanta, we flew to Port-au-Prince, Haiti. It was my first arrival in Haiti after dark! Pastor Brisenaunt and Joseline met us outside the airport and took us to Mon Chez Moi, the guest-house where we stayed this year.

Haitian brothers and sisters in Christ despite heat and crowded conditions. We, along with the congregation, were also blessed to hear special music from their new men's group. After the service was a great time to reunite with friends made on previous trips. I was also pleasantly surprised to see Sony, a friend and adult English student from my internship at House of Hope in 2007. He was among the founders of the NCCT and is now pursuing a doctorate in Florida in the US as well as working with an elementary school in a different part of Tabarre.

After the church service we changed clothes, went out to eat, and then visited the earthquake memorial at the site of the mass grave of 250,000-300,000 Haitians. A lot of progress has been made on the memorial since our visit last year. A guard was stationed there and we were able to enter the memorial for the first time. The steel beams had been painted, inscriptions made, and quotes from Haitian celebrities and politicians about the earthquake lined part of the wall around the memorial. In the past, visiting the memorial over the mass grave has been a very sobering experience, but this time even more so. Sony had some time that day and went to the memorial

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Donations

Remaining before April 2015 newsletter - \$2,296.63
 Donations received \$20,799.99
 Returned From Joy In Haiti for Trip Expenses (or paid by JIH for expenses) \$17,078.50
 Out of Pocket \$275.05
Total \$35,856.91

Expenses

May Newsletter \$221.10
 Fundraiser Expenses \$200.46
 VBS Trip Housing \$5,500.00
 Airfare (plus extra bags) \$2,646.32
 VBS Supplies \$101.97
 Team T-shirts \$62.00
 Travel Insurance \$159.61
 Haiti Tourism Fee \$110.00
 Team Meals \$493.00
 Tips \$163.00
 Transportation \$350.00
 VBS Meals \$3,802.00
 Team Outings \$117.00
 Donated Guitar Repair \$25.15
 Volunteer Party and Gifts for Youth Retreat \$1,023.00
 Gift for Pastor Brisenaunt \$500.00
 Nursing Home (hygiene kits and funds for meals) \$1,150.00
 Gift for New Property \$5,500.00
 Overnight Check Mailing Charge -\$38.32
 Passed on to Joy In Haiti \$14,127.30
Total Expenses \$36,290.23
Amount Remaining: \$ -433.32



The team at Fort Jacques. From left: Pastor Jean-Prenor Brisenaunt, Etta Milner, Alex Kinsey, Rebecca Milner, Emma Darnell, Kim Darnell, Mary Beth Fryman, Aubrey Coppage, Danielle Shackelford, Timothy Shackelford, Andy Sherlock, and myself.

On Saturday, we traveled up the mountain to the Haiti Baptist Mission for lunch and some shopping and then a little further to visit Fort Jacques. Fort Jacques was a Haitian fort built shortly after Haiti's slave revolt to defend the fledgling nation in case the French returned. It was never used, but is now a monument to Haiti's history.

On Sunday we attended the New Christian Church of Tabarre where we were blessed to worship with our

The Adventure Continues (continued)



A view of Fort Jacques

with us. Sony had never taken the opportunity to visit the memorial before. Sony shared with us that a little girl his sister had taken in and had been raising was killed during the earthquake. While we know that our Haitian friends lived through the earthquake and that many of them lost loved ones, having Sony with us on the visit to the memorial made that fact much more real to us. Before leaving the memorial we prayed together for continued healing for the nation of Haiti and the many, many people affected by the earthquake.



The memorial to victims of the 2010 earthquake.

VBS

The VBS program at the church was Monday through Friday. Although we didn't reach the 300 kids we were asked to prepare for, the VBS went extremely well and we ended up having around 200 each day. This led to us having extra funds left over at the end of the week, as a large amount of funds had been allotted for lunch for the VBS kids. Each morning the kids gathered at the church to begin the VBS and were given breakfast. We served peanut butter and juice four of the days and cheese crackers, wafers, and juice one day. After breakfast, the kids were split into groups.

This year, there were 6 rotations and so 6 groups of kids. That also helped keep down the number of kids per group. The Haitian volunteers had also organized a room as a nursery area so the youngest children weren't part of the rotations. This year there were 3 classes.



Kids gathering for VBS to start.

Two of the classes covered the fruit of the Spirit lessons that I wrote for the VBS. 2 fruit of the Spirit were taught per day (with an introductory lesson on the Holy Spirit on the first day). I taught one class with a Haitian young adult named Chrisman and the other class was taught by Phena, a Haitian girl who grew up at House of Hope, where I did my internship. Haitian volunteers also taught a 3rd class.

Alex, Andy, Emma, Timothy and Haitian volunteers led recreation, which included soccer, water relay games, and for the younger kids playing with a kids' play parachute. Mary Beth, Aubrey, and Haitian volunteers led the music rotation, where the kids worked on learning an English Christian song. Rebecca, Etta, Kim, and Haitian volunteers led the crafts rotation. The crafts were simple and based



Kids working on a dove craft during the crafts rotation.

on the fruit of the Spirit. Danielle floated and helped where needed, including with crafts and music. The rotations typically lasted until about 1 PM.

After rotations, the kids were gathered back to the church for a closing program/review each day. These included answering questions about the classes, singing, and even dancing! At times, Haitian volunteers called groups of kids to the front to dance to different songs they played. Some of our team members even joined in the dancing (at the urging of other team members)!

By the end of the closing sessions, lunch was typically ready and volunteers started serving the kids. This year, our team chose to stay at the VBS and eat there.



Aubrey with Haitian volunteers and kids during a closing program.

New Land, a Museum, and a Nursing Home

On the weekdays we spent our afternoons doing various activities. One day we visited the new property that the NCCT has purchased and is preparing to move to. We also visited the Haitian Museum of National History, where the team was able to learn more about Haiti, the only country to be formed successfully out of a slave revolt. Taking time to visit monuments and learn about the country we visit is important, as it helps us better understand the Haitian people and their culture. On Wednesday evening, we attended a prayer service at the church, where we fellowshiped with our Haitian brothers and sisters in worship and prayer.

We also had the opportunity to visit a Haitian nursing home. The facility was government-run and housed people who had been out on the streets as well as those whose families couldn't take care of them. When we arrived at the nursing home we had to wait for another group to finish. A church group was there preparing and giving out a meal for the patients. In talking with Brisena-



The church and school's new property, with a newly finished wall around it.

we learned that churches regularly come and provide food for the nursing home patients. The patients either are not fed by the nursing home staff or are not fed enough. I know from a past visit to a hospital that families were expected to bring food in to their loved ones rather than the hospital feed them, and that may be the case with

the nursing home as well. The team chose to give some of the funds that we raised and didn't end up needing for our activities to the NCCT to organize and provide some meals at the nursing home. Brisenaault said their church had brought and served meals there before. I praise the Lord that churches have been stepping up to meet that need!

When we could go inside the nursing home, we took our hygiene kits (containing toothbrushes, toothpaste, toilet paper, crackers, and other items) and handed them out to patients. It was a very sad and depressing atmosphere inside. 10 or more people shared each large room. Some of them were curled up in balls in bed. Others were missing limbs. Bris-

enaault said they rarely receive visitors. The rooms smelled bad, likely from the chamber pots (buckets) by each bed that the patients used to relieve themselves. The nurse rushed us through each room. We quickly handed out the hygiene kits and then she moved us on, giving us little time to look around or interact with the patients. We had the feeling that the staff didn't want us to linger there. Brisenaault had managed to convince someone to let us visit without having followed the proper procedure of sending a written request for approval to bring a group three months in advance. Perhaps the staff wanted that advance notice to clean up and make the nursing home more presentable and settled instead for rushing us through. After giving hygiene kits out to all the patients on the first floor, we handed them out to the staff. Brisenaault told us if we didn't take enough for the staff as well, they would just take them from the patients. We were told by staff that all the patients on the second floor were downstairs while we were there and so we didn't need to go upstairs to hand anything out. There weren't more patients downstairs than there were beds for those patients, so that was probably not true. In any case, we weren't taken upstairs.

Fellowshipping with Haitian Believers

A major goal of these trips is to build friendships with our Haitian brothers and sisters in Christ. The activities that we do on a short-term mission trip are only temporary, but the relationships we build have the potential to last forever. As a way to help accomplish the goal of building relationships, and to encourage Haitian young adults to be involved at their church, we have been taking the Haitian VBS volunteers with us on a Saturday reward trip. The two previ-

ous years, we went to a beach resort. This year, Brisenaault asked that some of the funds for that trip be given to the youth instead to help them pay for a retreat coming up that would be on the beach and during which he would have classes with them. We decided helping with that was better than doing a



Pool party at Mon Chez Moi guest house!

big trip with us. However, we did make arrangements to use the pool at the guesthouse where we were staying and for the guesthouse staff to prepare a meal and invited the VBS volunteers over.

Friendships are continuing to grow between our team members and the Haitians and we are

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**Brad Milner, Project
Coordinator
Joy in Haiti**

Brad Milner
4048 HWY 27 S
Falmouth, KY 41040
bradmil2004@yahoo.com
(1-859) 556-0052

To learn more about JIH's ministries and opportunities to help, such as child sponsorship, check out:
www.joyinhaiti.org.

Fellowshipping with Haitian believers (continued)

more comfortable with each other. Everyone enjoyed the pool party and there was a lot more interaction between Americans and Haitians than in the two previous years on the beach trips. It was also less expensive than the beach trip we had planned.

On our second Sunday we attended church in the morning, ate lunch, and then went back to the church for a discussion group with the young adults of the church. As in the last two years, it was a good time of asking and answering questions through translators to learn more about one another. This year a lot of the discussion was on young adults leaving the church in the US and why and how the church in Haiti faced problems similar to ours with lack of real relationships with God and selfishness, and on proper dating relationships between young men and women.

New Property and Project Cornerstone Updates

As I shared before, the New Christian Church of Tabarre has been on the same rented property since 2005 and soon must move off the property. With funds raised by the church and by Joy In Haiti, new property has been purchased, a wall built around it, and a well drilled! Soon the church and school will be transitioning to the new property. The church leadership's goal has been to move the school to the new property before school begins in September, though it is uncertain whether even temporary facilities will be ready by that time. Before even a temporary structure can be built, they needed to purchase a gate for the property, an electrical transformer (in Haiti the landowners own their transformer rather than the electric company), and gravel to level off and prepare for a building. With funds we had above what we needed for our trip, and with a further gift from another Joy In Haiti team, the \$6,000 for those needs has been raised! This allows them to be one step closer to moving to the new property, but a lot of funding is still needed for construction of temporary facilities (wood and tin) and permanent facilities.

The second Project Cornerstone house is finished, minus a door and stucco. Pastor Brisenaault assured me that it is alright to leave these finishing touches for the family to pay for to make contribute to their own house and that the family is very grateful for the home. A family for a third Cornerstone house has not yet been chosen by the church leadership.



To Give:

To give, please make checks payable to **Joy In Haiti**. In the memo line, write the name of the project you wish to give toward. To give toward the new property development, write **Church Property** in the memo line. To give toward the home building project, write **Project Cornerstone** in the memo line. I intend to lead another mission trip next year. To give to that fund, write **KY Group** in the memo line. Please mail checks to me at:

Joy In Haiti
c/o Brad Milner
4048 US HWY 27 S
Falmouth, KY 41040

I cannot cash checks made out to Joy In Haiti. I record your gifts for my records, send a thank-you note, and pass them on to JIH. On occasion, some people choose to give to me personally for expenses such



as the cost of these newsletters. Those are the only checks I deposit and the use of those funds is included in the financial report on the front of these newsletters.

A design plan for the new school and church buildings to be constructed on the new property.

Let God take care of you!