

Beyond the Fence Newsletter - September 2018

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SEPTEMBER 2018 - GRATITUDE

This is the 4th September our family has spent in Haiti. It is so hard to believe that we are in our 4th year living and serving here. Where does the time go?

We aren't always as good as we would like at saying "THANK YOU" to all of the people who have joined us on this journey. But we are so very grateful for your support and encouragement and prayers. Thank you for listening to us and hearing us. Thank you for reaching out to us and sharing your lives with us as well. We love hearing from you.

We have learned so much about ourselves and about God during the past 3 years. There have been moments of personal pain. There have also been moments of unbelievable joy. We still have so much learning to do before we can say we are truly thriving in this world and not just surviving. We have more growing to do before we

are completely walking in God's love and grace and we are not stuck in the strongholds of this world.

We covet your prayers. And we look forward to the coming year and God's movement in our lives and in our community.



SCHOOL WOES

Almost every school in Haiti is privately funded which means the students have to pay fees in order to attend. Tuition, exam fees, uniforms, books, and school supplies add up quickly. Every September families are scrambling to find enough funds to enroll their children. Often, funds are depleted before the kids are able to purchase the required school books for the school year. This means the kids are in school but don't have a math book to work from. Or reading books to learn to read. You can imagine how hard it would be for kids to learn.

The children of Quest Church in St Louis decided to tackle this need for the families of WISH. They raised enough money this summer to pay for all of the school books and supplies for the children whose parents work for WISH. This was a win-win for us all.



SEPTEMBER TEAMS

Teresa & Leona Kolb are no strangers to WISH. They have been coming at least once a year for many years. The goal this year was to work on the ceiling of our house. It was replaced in the spring, but it still needed to be painted. Teresa spent each day on the scaffolding with brush and paint, often in uncomfortable positions. Once the primer coat was on, the room immediately brightened. I'm so excited and thankful for the progress made. The Kolb family is also known for their generosity with chocolate. Many happy smiles from the staff who have gotten to know and love the Kolbs.

Rob Francis visited WISH for the first time in March 2016. At that time he told us he would be back to work with the youth in the area of carpentry. Sure enough, this September he spent 2 weeks with us in the newly renovated Youth Center Training Facility. He held a morning class and an afternoon class and focused on teaching the youth joinery. Because of the exposure Rob gave the young people, they are very anxious to continue developing their skills in woodworking. We are thankful for Rob's gift of teaching and invite anybody who has an interest in teaching a woodworking class to the youth of Anse-à-Galets to contact us.



KURT

Kurt is not a stranger to many of our WISH and Wesleyan visitors. He lives and works in California but comes to Haiti every 3 months for 3 months and volunteers his time and talents. He fixes generators, refrigerators, solar systems, plumbing, electrical, water systems, and so on. You name it, I think Kurt can fix it. After a busy September fixing anything and everything on La Gonave, Kurt is travelling back to California to work for money so that he can come back to Haiti in January and volunteer for free. We are thankful for his gift of friendship and his gift of talents. We will miss him but look forward to his next trip to Haiti.

WISH BOARD MEETING UPDATES

WISH held its fall board meeting in Fishers, Indiana at the Wesleyan Church Headquarters building. The all-volunteer board spent 2 days discussing the work of WISH in Haiti and casting vision for the future. We are all excited for the coming year and two big projects; completion of phase 1 of the Solar Project and the start of the refurbishment of the waterline. The Solar Committee has worked hard to make the solar system as efficient, simple, and durable as possible. This is an exciting time but there's also an awareness that WISH needs to be completely reliant on God for the provision of funding and resources.

LIGHT OF THE WORLD

When we first arrived in Haiti we quickly saw the presence of Voodoo in everyday life. Vendors selling voodoo items. Voodoo flags dotted throughout the countryside. A Voodoo priestess chanting and walking along the waterline. The all night Rara bands celebrating the power of Satan and disrupting those who stand for Jesus.

It is real but the power of God is also real. This September we saw in a tangible way the hold that Voodoo has on lives. We were witnesses to two very different funerals. The first funeral was for a young man with family and friends who worked to appease the spirits of Voodoo and manifestations of the spirits were seen. This was hard to witness. We laid awake all night listening and knowing that people are trapped. Satan has a stronghold in their lives.

The second funeral was for a pastor in the community. His family and friends came and celebrated his life and all that he had done to serve God. There was honor and dignity and love as the community came together to remember him.

Two men. From the same town. One living in bondage. One walking in freedom. A complete contrast. Our prayer for our community is that we all would know the freedom of walking with Jesus Christ.

Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life." John 8:12 (NLT)

PRAISE

- Thankful for the WISH Board and a productive fall meeting.
- Thankful for Haitian staff who encourage us and pray for us.
- Thankful for an abundance of rain over the past 2 months.
- Thankful for a Prayer Session at Wellsprings of Freedom In Illinois for both of

US.

PRAYER

- Pray for the solar project field as work continues.
- Pray for political elements around the WISH waterline as we navigate local leadership desires and needs.
- Pray for continued stability in the country. There is much uncertainty after the riots of the summer.
- Pray that our family would find moments of rest in the midst of chaotic days.

Sign up : FAITH PROMISE or PRAYER PARTNER

Filling out the faith promise form or signing up to be a prayer partner helps us to know who is on our team and how to connect. Thank you.

American Financial Gifts

Canadian Financial Gifts

Thank you for your financial gifts to our ministry. If you make a donation through CanadaHelps, please make sure to put your name in the message field. We would like to know who is on our team and how to connect. Thanks.

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