

Local lake where we swim

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Haiti 3

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Photos of Haiti are on facebook:

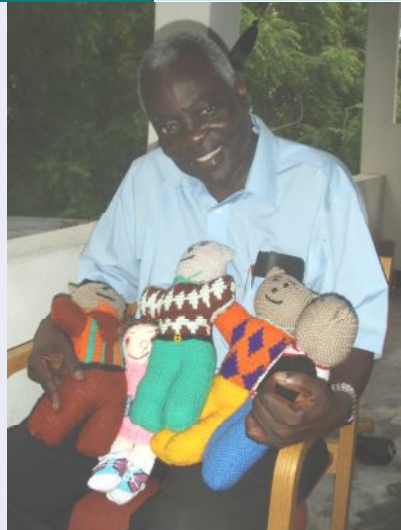
[Cay Merritt - Albums Haiti 2010](#)

Prayer Points:

- \$7,000 for rent for the Orphans for 1 year
- For contacts who can provide ongoing help for 100 orphans
- Somewhere for Lisa to live as her rented house has recently been sold
- Change of heart for gov't re food distribution to hungry people

• Praise Points:

- Great work happening at HCM
- Meeting many lovely people
- Continued prayer & support from friends & family



Pastor Etienne from HCM receives trauma teddies:

A week after I arrived in Port au Prince, I popped in to see Ps Etienne from Haitian Christian Mission before he flew to the States for a double cataract operation. Although in good spirits, he did state that at 70 yrs of age he is feeling tired & would like to retire from the mission to spend time writing. He is an easy going fellow with a good sense of humour. He shared how the little village of

Fonds Parisien was a tiny strip before the mission was built some 35 yrs ago. After the building of the mission, many families felt encouraged to come to Fonds Parisien as they knew there was a good school, a reliable clinic & a vibrant church. These days Fonds Parisien is a thriving, little, metropolis adjacent to a beautiful lake & on the way to Dominican Republic - the border being only 13 kms away. The air is clean & the life style is less complicated than in Port au Prince; although people are still very poor & they live a h& to mouth subsistence.

Steve & Debbie Rasmussen, a couple of Aussies from Ballarat who adopted 3 Haitian babies 25yrs ago, have long been involved with HCM & know Ps Etienne, well. They were given many trauma teddies, most handmade to hand out to children who were victims of the January earthquake. Ps Etienne was delighted with the donation & thanks the donors, very much. Some of these teddies have already gone to children & we hope to have some photos in a later newsletter. One example of a lad that I gave a trauma teddy to was a little boy who was the son of one of our waiters. At 4 yrs of age - he was able to speak quite well, but, after the earthquake, he has developed a huge stutter. Many people are trying to help with the spiritual & physical needs of the Haitians, however, not much, if anything is being done to help them deal with their loss & grief. If you know of counselors or psychologists who may be interested in serving in Haiti please share about the situation with them. Please continue to pray for Haitians.

Verse for Haiti:

Pr 29:4 "By justice a king gives a country stability, but one who is greedy for bribes tears is down."

Pray for wisdom for the Haitian government especially with respect to the storehouses of food they refuse to distribute while their people are starving.

"In every community there is work to be done. In every nation there are wounds to heal.

In every heart there is the power to do it." Unknown



Lisa - the mad, motorcycle, mid-wife arrives in Haiti:

After a day of travel (consisting of more than 40 hours) “the Clarke” - as she is also affectionately known, arrived in Port au Prince (PaP). Pretty exhausted as you can imagine, we spent a couple of days in the hotel for Lisa to become de-jet lagged before heading to the town of Fonds Parisien, where the Haitian Christian Mission is located.

The supplies that Lisa brought with her were greatly appreciated & we send a HUGE thank you to Carmel, the Sydney Adventist Hospital, to the home groups from Hughes Baptist Church, & the many individuals who purchased supplies for the mission.

Lisa worked in the Clinic within the first couple of days & was treating a little boy with a bad ear infection. Can you believe that there were NO eardrops to be found. We searched high & low in the pharmacy & also the depot. Then I remembered the

bag of goods Lis had brought from Australia & I knew that I had written eardrops on the list of needs. I don't know who bought them - but a huge thank you - you, along with some antibiotics, improved the life of one little boy who was in immense pain. All the medications & resources donated are greatly appreciated, & I know that most of them have been used in one way or another.

Another Religion - Football: They are football mad here: of course I mean real FOOTball. With the world cup in progress there is much animated discussion. We told them Australia would win.. but alas!



Dubinski - the miracle baby:

About 10 days ago a mum arrived at the “Christ pour tous” (Christ for all) Clinic, here, at HCM distressed about her little baby not gaining weight. Dubinski was born on the 22nd of April at 28 weeks & weighed 3 lbs (1363gms) at just over 6 weeks of age. On birth he was admitted to neonatal intensive care for 2 weeks & then discharged without follow-up. Two months had passed & poor little Dubinski had hardly gained any weight & was not a happy chappy. On seeing the little fellow we knew that he was grossly underweight. The visiting US team put in a naso-gastric tube to give Dubinski some instant nutrition, however, we knew

this would not be enough. We contacted a nearby organization called “Love a Child” to ask whether he could be admitted to their feeding program for malnourished children & Dr Mardy agreed.

When we arrived at “Love a Child” Dr Mardy looked at little Dubinski & said that he could not do anything for him at the moment as the child was too sick. The Dr said that he was very anaemic - on testing, Dubinski had an Hb of 6.5 whereas he needed to be around 16. The Dr said that he must get a blood transfusion asap if he was to have any chance of survival. Our epic journey commenced - into Port au Prince, convince a hospital to admit Dubinski - then off to find blood as the hospital does not carry any. The events would fill a book so I will cut it short - Dubinski is now in the feeding program after having a transfusion & his mum & dad will be educated about good nutrition & how to feed Dubinski properly reassuring them that breast is best.

Pr 25:25 Like cold water to a weary soul is good news from a distant land.

Health Clinics: Static & Mobile



We have assisted with clinics here at 'Christ pour Tous' & also a few clinics out to villages. There are always plenty of people to see when the word goes out that the *peau blancs* (white skins) are here. Conditions seen range from the usual scabies, fungal skin conditions, malaria to huge goiters & scrotal hydrocoeles & inguinal hernias. Lots of chest infections & a few pneumonias... I'm getting better at listening to lungs! Our last mobile clinic was to Port Plume on the other side of the lake which meant an exciting sailing boat trip. We always take bags of rice to distribute to the people as well. It is a little known fact world wide but

much of the food sent is stuck in warehouses due to the government's policy that the people should get back to work & not take h& outs. Problem is there are not many jobs to be had & the people meanwhile are starving.

I have used my midwifery skills a few times. Here at the hospital I have mainly assisted the local midwives who do a good job, but last Tuesday morning around 6 one of the nurses came & said "Venez" (come). I was wandering vaguely in my pj's & sipping my coffee. I pulled some scrubs out & she insisted "venez" so I went in my pj's with scrubs in hand to find a woman on the table with a bulging *Poche d'eau* (pocket of waters). An easy delivery: screaming baby & intact peri (for you other sage femme-midwives). The local midwives arrived during the birth which was just as well as another woman arrived & delivered on the trolley within 10 minutes of the first (both boys). A visiting US midwife was assisting with a long labour a couple of days before & the outcome was not so good. The woman had CPD & was pushing for close to 4 hours & what the family did not tell them till later was she had been pushing at home for a long time before coming, & had lost her previous baby. This baby needed resuscitation & had apgars of 1,1, 1, & 2 from what she told me.

In my 2nd week here I was asked to go down the road a few kms to a tent city where a 5 day old baby was not feeding well. With Cay bravely translating & rivers of sweat rolling down my face & chest I sat in a hot little tent & helped this first time mum to breast feed & then express her milk for the baby. I also dressed the umbilicus as it was raw & moist. We returned the next day with a mossie net & nappies, & baby clothes. The baby seemed a bit better & less jaundiced & the aunt reported she fed better. We had another session & said we would return 1.5 days later. Next day we heard she had gone to the 'Love a Child' feeding program so we didn't return. However, when we took Dubinski to 'Love a Child' I learned she had ABO incompatibility & they sent her to PaP & they didn't hold much hope for her.





When Dubinski first arrived I helped his mum express while the US nurses put in an NG tube. She had stopped breast feeding after being told by the 'leaf' (traditional) doctor that her milk was too salty & no good for her baby. We gave him the 15mls I worked hard to get...:Be proud of me you 3 LCs at the SAN! When she returned to us after Dubinski was transfused we continued to help her over the weekend & she seemed much happier to feed her baby, offering him the breast first each time. When we took him back to 'Love a Child' feeding program he had gained .8 of a pound in less than a week so Cay & I felt extremely happy having been very fearful that we would lose him the day we took him to PaP.

Fonds Parisien - a village we call "home" for a month.

Our home for the past weeks has been in the town of Fonds Parisien on the shore of Lake Azeui. The weather has been very hot & humid with the imminent wet season not arriving. Consequently most people leave their rooms & seek the verandah or the roof for sleeping. Cay & I have tried every option with the roof winning out. I had rejected it earlier due to the symphony of roosters, dogs & truck horns. I am now adjusted & sleep peacefully through most of it. But with the winds picking up in last couple of days (there is a hurricane around) a few tents lifted off yesterday so our numbers are dwindling up there. I have thought that perhaps Cay was flying by when I heard her tent flapping madly in the night. The winds have brought a cool change so we are really enjoying the 'cool'.

Also some blessed relief comes in swimming excursions to the lake. The Americans were all paying to enter the lake. Squatters saw their chance to make a quick few bucks. The rude Aussies, however, have not paid a cent. Cay has collected a following of kids who she endeavours to teach to swim or at least float.

Final Word from **Lisa**: Have really enjoyed meeting heaps of great people here... even the Americans!!!! The tent cities are an eye opener... imagine living in tents permanently with little food and rain every day: the wet arrives soon! We have had bad colds and Bali belly and we live in good conditions.

Final word from **Cay**: I have been away for close to 2 months now and missing everyone - thank you for your continued prayers. Next is visit to Dom Republic to sponsored children and then north Haiti to help the orphans move house. Continue praying please that we can get everything in order for them.

Love Cay & Lisa

