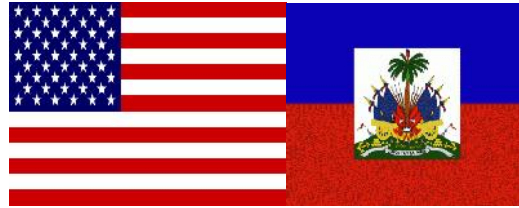


In Brief: CHOIDS Updates



Hello Friends,

It's a pleasure to be back to be able to share some of my experiences about the recent trip to Haiti with you. My intent is to keep information brief in this correspondence. Please feel free to contact me for further details on anything you think you need to know more. On another note, I'm looking forward to going back to Haiti in late November with a group from Wisconsin, if you are interested in going with us; please contact me as soon as you can.

- This was my first trip to Haiti for the first time after the January 12, 2010 Earthquake.
- As the plane got close to the ground in Haiti, I saw the many blue tents. It was a great contrast coming from Miami, Florida. As the plane ascended, I saw blue squares, which were pools, but in Haiti they were tent cities.
- It took longer than expected to leave the *Toussaint L'Ouverture Airport*. I visited the children the day after my arrival.
- We (my brother and I) got to the house around 7 o'clock on Thursday morning. The younger children were getting ready to go to school. The children who knew me ran toward me, while those who came after December 2008 stood there trying to figure out who I was. I hugged and kissed each child and the two live-in caretakers.
- I got busy assisting the moms with getting the children ready for school. In this picture Clara was helping me unraid Gerline's hair so that I can comb it before Clara would walk Gerline to school. Clara is among the older children who help with the younger ones. I'm not sure how many hair I combed that day, but it was fun spending my time doing my girls hair. I fixed Clara's hair later that day before she was off to school.



- **Alexandra L’Orseille** is one of the two children who came from a tent situation after the January 12th 2010 earthquake. I combed Alexandra’s hair several times during my stay. While I was doing her hair I noticed she had a big gash in the middle and a large scar on her forehead. I asked her what happened. Alexandra told me that she was injured during the “*goo doope goo doope*, the way most Haitian describe the earthquake.” The gash in the middle of her head healed into a bald spot where she will never grow hair in that spot.
 - **Alexandra** is a bright and polite child who smiles a lot. She’s very excited about school. She’s very friendly. When I was there, she just loved to hang out around me.

- One of the two tutors came over around 10 o’clock to tutor the older children before they go to school. He comes twice a week and spends all day working with both groups of children. The school bell rang at 12 o’clock. Clara went to the school across the street to pick up the little ones. The first picture is a picture of Alexandra and Harold being tutored. While the second picture was taken after the children had lunch and finish their home work. The dark stuff you see on the walls in the pictures is mold. The house was painted in mid-March by a group of volunteers and supporters from Wisconsin. Michelle, the leader of the group told me that the walls looked even worse before they painted them.
 (see more pictures below)



- One thing that was painful to see around the house was the mold. The only room in the house without mold was the living room, which is at the main entrance. It pained me to leave the children living in that house. The 6-month rent on the property is due in June 26th. I know that we must relocate the children.



- On my second day visiting the children, I spent some time talking with the older children asking them what the perfect home looked like to them. Here's what they told me the perfect house looked like, a house with --
 - a courtyard (*currently the kids have no place to play*),
 - a tree (*there's no tree where they live now*),
 - water faucet (*right now the water is from a reservoir that is directly in front of the entrance of the house*),
 - Gate with a garage so that when visitors come they can drive their cars into it (*the current house is very close to the main street; therefore, there's no privacy*)
 - No mold, because the humidity it made them cough (*two of the pictures I took of the mold is above*)
 - **Just a very nice house :)**
- Little did they know that I had already planned to go see a house that fit that description. My brother, Julie and I went to see a house in *Delmas 33* (not too far from Grace

Children's Hospital located in *Demas 31*, where the children receive medical care). The cost for this home is \$7,500 for one year.

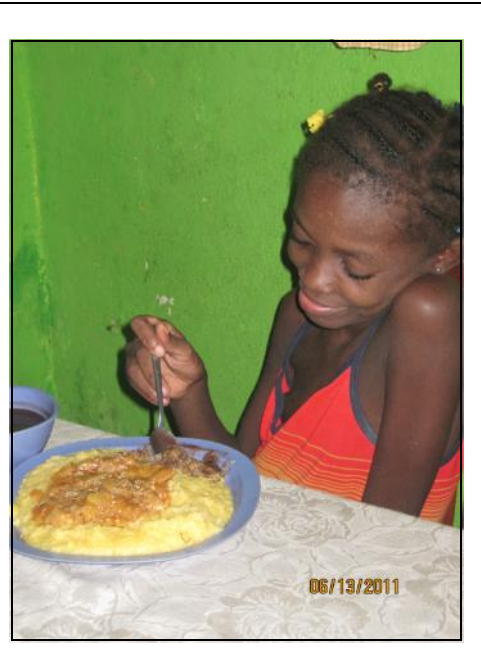
- Saturday hair washing day – the girls was so excited to have their hair washed. I washed all 10 girls' hair and combed 9 of them. Venise helped me by doing Clara's hair. In the meantime, the 4 boys were standing around watching the ambiance. My brother created a makeshift razor to do their hair. He even 'line them up.' Not sure if you know what 'line up' means. It's the line that is often shaped or drawn to accentuate a haircut.



- The kids gave me their wish lists for Christmas (I will share that with you on the CHO AIDS website under “2011 Wish List”)
- All 14 children are happy to be living at the CHO AIDS home. When I asked them why (individual conversations) I learned the reasons why they were happy – it is simply because they are well-fed, they are with people who care for them, and they have other kids to play with.

Our oldest girl, **Venise Louis** was very sick before I traveled to Haiti. She missed the rest of the school year. I brought a lot of vitamins and supplements including high calorie protein to Haiti for the children. Venise started to take the supplements and protein as soon as I got there. The chronic cough started to disappear and her entire outlook started to change. This picture was taken one week after I got there.

It was unfortunate to hear that she got sick again. I'm not sure what her health is like at this time, but I hope and pray she will recover from this bout of illness. All we can do is pray and leave the rest to God. Venise is a child who loves school and would love to be well enough to help around the house. Unfortunately, her health has not allowed her to do what she loves to do. Please help us pray for our little girl.





A tribute to our CHOAIDS staff:

Without these 5 people, these 14 HIV+ children would not have the life that they currently have. **Gislene, Chantale, Carmelle, Julie and Fanfan** are the people who make sure that the kids get adequate food to eat; get to school; get to their monthly doctors' appointments (Gislene and Carmelle take turns in alternate months); take them to the hospital for any medical emergencies; make sure they take their ARV medications, vitamins and supplements on time; and make sure their living situation is safe. Gislene and Carmelle are the two live-in caretakers. They are women who are living with HIV. As women living with HIV, they have to take care of themselves as well as taking care of these 14 children. I commend these two women for choosing to take on the role to nurture these 14 HIV+ children.

Please, think of supporting us financially. **ALL financial contribution you give, go to benefit the children directly.** As the project's founder and director, I do not make a salary from this mission. My only satisfaction is to see that these HIV+ abandoned children are loved and receive decent care. That's the reason for being selective in who I hire to provide direct care to them. Please, make your voices heard, by supporting CHOAIDS financial. This organization is so small that any amount you give can make a difference. So, just give. Jesus will thank you.

Mission statement

To enhance the quality of life for HIV-positive orphan children and women through education and care in a family-centered environment.

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