

Living Hope Mission Ministries, Inc.



Wilbert and Meg Merzilus

"Offering Haiti Living Hope in Christ, the Hope of the World"

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Hello Dear Friends and Family,

May, 2008

Thanks again for your continued support to our work in Haiti! We appreciate all the prayer and concern that was expressed by many of you who wrote asking about our safety during the last period of rioting in April. We were safe and only inconvenienced by the shortage of fuel in Cap that came as a result of the unrest in Port au Prince that was a result of the rapidly rising food and fuel prices. The government has made some changes and is working with business people to try to bring the prices down, and at the same is focusing efforts on local food production. Things have been calm recently and we have been able to go about our work.

We were saddened by the suffering of many people around us though. The poor around us, especially families with young children and the elderly are beginning to show signs of malnutrition. The agriculture program of Living Hope Mission is more critical now than ever to help people grow more and better food. At the same time, we feel the need to make food aid available to some of the partnering Haitian churches to help people through the long hot summer months. If you would like to help, a gift to LHM's benevolence fund will help. It takes about \$21.46 to provide rice, beans and oil for a family of six for a week.



Our family is doing well. We will be traveling to Pennsylvania in late May to attend Katie's high school graduation. She plans to study nursing next year at the University of Pittsburgh. Her mailing address is c/o 3485 Conestoga Road, Glenmoore, PA 19343. We will stay in Pennsylvania for our annual Living Hope Mission Board meeting in June. We ask your prayers as we seek the Lord's guidance and plan our work in Haiti for the next year.

We send our best greetings and love to you all!

Wilbert and Meg

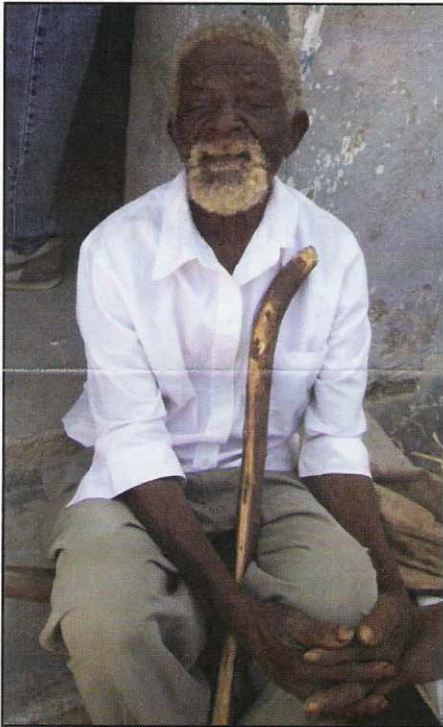
LHM and VOSH (Volunteer Optometry Services to Humanity), Pa Work Together

It had been a long day. We had risen early to organize supplies and pack them into the van and truck. The diverse team had several volunteer optometrists from VOSH, Pennsylvania, four optometry students from the Pennsylvania School of Optometry's chapter of VOSH, a team of five Haitian interpreters, two LHM drivers and me. We traveled for 1 and ½ hours on good roads, bumpy roads, through rivers, and even on a cow path.

We had seen about one hundred patients when an elderly man came through the line. His face was peaceful and he was very polite and a little hard of hearing. He said that he couldn't see well, everything looked blurry, (troubled in Creole). Dr. Lori Sportelli was taking special care with checking the health of his eyes, but she was distracted. He had

other health concerns, it seemed. His legs and bare feet were extremely swollen. His toes seemed to bulge from his skin. According to his chart, he was 88 years old.

The health check revealed cataracts in both eyes. Because of what appeared to be a heart problem, however, the doctors said that the surgeons would not want to work on him. Sadly, I sat down to talk to him. He smiled at me. I asked him if he had anyone with him, who might be able to take him to the hospital for the swelling in his legs. No, he had come by himself. Gently I explained that the doctors said he did have cataracts, but that the problem with his swollen legs would need to get better before they could refer him for surgery.



He accepted the news with calmness. Dr. McPhillips said that we could offer him some glasses that might help with his eyes a bit in the meantime. And of course, what he wanted most was a baseball cap to shield his eyes from the sun. Quickly, I slipped him a small amount of money, enough for a few trips to the hospital and some food. He was surprised and beamed at me again, "Mesi Petit Mwen! Mesi Petit Mwen", (Thank you, my child!) Then, he was off and I was asked to talk to another patient. I didn't even have a chance to ask his name.

Several hours later, we headed down the winding road back to Cap-Haitien. We crested a hill and saw someone hobbling along on the road ahead. It was my friend, slowly and painfully making his way on the rough road. Doudou, our driver, already knew what to do. STOP! Robert, the young student who was riding up front with us in the truck jumped out quickly and we settled our friend in the front seat. Again, "Mesi Petit Mwen, Mesi!" On we traveled down the road, many more miles before we dropped him in the next town. He shook our hands as he got out and told us "have a safe trip!"

My heart was strangely touched and honored by the time spent with this sweet man with his kind spirit and humble acceptance of his hard life. I felt ashamed of all the times I complain and grumble about minor discomforts or small pains. I thought of the wonderful promise of God that one day those who love him will be given a glorified body in our heavenly home. And I felt grateful to my friend, for reminding me of that. (Meg)

Vacation Bible School Planned

Every summer we try to hold a Vacation Bible School at Hope Center, inviting kids from our neighborhood as well as from nearby Blue Hill. This year, we are counting on a group of volunteers from World Servants to come and join our local volunteers as counselors to host over 100 children during the week of July 5-12. We always need supplies and any of you who would like to contribute to the fun, are welcome to send any of the following items:

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|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Water balloons | Prizes like calculators |
| Face paint | Bars of soap |
| Crayola crayons | Hair barrettes |
| Bible themed coloring books | Combs |
| Small zip lock bags | Match box cars, etc. |
| Kool-Aid packets | |

Please pray with us that this will be a time of fun, and spiritual growth for both the kids and the counselors! (The supplies may be sent directly to the field address through Ft. Pierce, FL that is listed at the top of the first page.) Thank you!