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MISSIONMATTERS

Allegany Region Missions provides a multi-denominational Christian mission ministry to the needy of the world, through a focus on mission projects and programs in medical care, surgery, construction and education.

Was Dead and is Now Alive

A story of salvation in Haiti by Michele Harms

This is a story of a Haitian gentleman who found Jesus as his Savior during his trip to a mobile medical clinic in Haiti. God used a faithful team of 20 from the US in ways they never expected or planned.

To grasp the amazing plans of our Lord, a little background is needed... When a mission team returned from Jamaica in January, one of the members shared that devotions were held at lunchtime with whomever from the community was around the worksite. With an upcoming trip to Haiti, lunchtime devotions during our mobile medical clinics sounded like a great idea. Children's sermons fit the bill; something short and clear to understand that would apply to the culture and have a Good News message. Armed with a small box of visual aids and a dozen different sermon possibilities, I was ready for some fun.

With a measuring cup and mini-tape measure, Monday's topic was Measuring God's Love. Through an interpreter, the people were very receptive and interactive as we discussed being able to measure God's love. The take-home message: His love is too high, wide and deep for us to measure (Ephesians 3:18-19).

Tuesday was God's day to overwhelm all of us with His mighty miracles. I didn't feel good and wasn't looking forward to doing a lesson at lunchtime, but with His grace we began. The lesson was on "The Greatest Gift of All" and the visual aid was a small blue gift box. Through FanFan as interpreter, I asked the crowd if they liked receiving gifts—it was a unanimous 'yes!' There were lots of answers when asked what is the greatest gift they have ever received; one man replied "money" to which I responded, "the gift I am going to talk about is even better than

money." In the moments that followed, FanFan and I explained about the gift of eternal life given to all of us who accept Jesus as our Savior. We know the price of the gift—it took God's only Son's life to pay the price (John 3:16). My box was empty, but we explained that God's gift was full—full of love, full of forgiveness and full of eternal life. FanFan then took time to re-explain the message and asked if anyone wanted to accept Jesus as their Savior. Four young ladies came forward to pray! How awesome is our Lord! Something as simple as a children's sermon spoken in a foreign language is translated into a God-saving message for eternal purpose!

The story doesn't end there.... As the day continued with seeing more people in the mobile medical clinic, a gentleman named Wisblin came through with quite a large wound on the top of his foot. The wound would need special attention with debridement and bandaging, so I had him wait on the bench right next to me in the triage area. When there was a lull in the patient flow, my triage interpreter, Wilson, told me that Wisblin wanted to talk. Through Wilson, I learned that Wisblin wanted to give his life to Jesus, but he knew that God would want him to leave where he lives because he lives with evil people who practice voodoo. With his advancing years, his bad foot, and no family to take care of him, these 'friends' were his only support. We talked about how if God takes care of a little sparrow, He will take care of him; and God has already been speaking to Wisblin's heart. I asked him "Do you want to accept Jesus into your heart?" This stoic Haitian gentleman, with tears forming in his eyes, nodded his head "yes" and with the help of Wayne Emory and our interpreter, prayed the sinner's prayer. We also

prayed for his 'friends' and for God to care for his needs and to heal his foot. After we began to Praise our Lord and rejoice with Wisblin, someone noticed the T-shirt he was wearing—it said "I used up all my sick days, so I called in dead." This resulted in Wisblin's new nickname, Lazarus — the man who was once dead is now alive in Christ! Praise our loving Lord!



Wisblin returned each day to have his foot bandaged. Posing here with Jeannie Haglund, RN.

Keep Wisblin Desilmé, a.k.a. Lazarus, in your prayers!

Team Leaders Needed

Plans for 2009 season to begin

Is your church interested in a mission trip in 2009? Are you interested in being a Team Leader for a mission trip? Are you concerned because you don't know how to begin or what to do? ARM can help. With years of cooperative experience with the mission organizations CSI and TEAMS, a past team leader is available for mentoring, idea-sharing and more. Contact ARM! Don't wait! The need is great!

My Mission Experience

by Zack Williams, 17 yrs old, Sherman, NY

When we first arrived in Haiti (April) and were sitting in the truck waiting to leave for the mission compound, a teenage boy about my age came up and asked us if we had any food - I knew right away things would be very different in Haiti than what we are used to as Americans. I was amazed with the city, how many people there were, how dirty it was on the streets, and how everyone was staring and yelling things at us that we could not understand as we traveled by. The trip made me realize how much we take for granted in the US just in our everyday lives in having water to drink, food to eat and a house to sleep in.



The author with one of the HOPE orphanage girls

One of the friends I made while in Haiti was Velnor. Velnor was the Haitian man who mixed cement for the church building project that we worked on. I could see God at work on a daily basis - although we spoke different languages—we were still able to communicate with even the youngest Haitian's. I really enjoyed the time spent with the Haitian kids - even though we had a language barrier we had fun teaching and playing games with them. We even taught them how to play football!

During this trip God proved to me the reasons why it is so very important to help less fortunate people. I would encourage other youth to go on a mission trip. It certainly will give you a new perspective on many different things in your life.

This mission trip was a very positive experience for me and I think that I would like to go again.

— 3rd Annual —

FALL MISSION DINNER

Saturday, September 20th

Keynote speakers

Harold and Teri Nichols, missionaries in Jamaica with TEAMS for Medical Missions. The Nichols are from Randolph, NY and have an exciting and growing ministry of miracles and blessings to share.

The night will also include an update on the **Teacher Sponsorship** program in Gallette, Haiti, and the work of the **Empowerment Project** as they build and support teacher development. **Bert and Roberta Anderson** (from Sherman, NY), will also share a brief review of their first year in Haiti as new missionaries with Christian Service International.

Saturday September 20, 2008

Radisson (Holiday Inn) in Jamestown, NY
Cost is \$25.00 per person (includes tax & tip)
6:30 PM → Hors d'oeuvres & Fellowship
7:00 PM → Buffet Dinner & Presentations

Reservations required by Monday 9/15/08

Pre-payment encouraged, please send check to ARM (address below) or call (716)-358-9126 or e-mail. Questions, contact Mary Rappole 483-3572 (office).

Evangelistic Mission Team to Haiti in 2009

The team focus will be evangelism - including: praise music, worship service, home visits and more. The team would leave the US on a Saturday, spend the week in ministry to the Haitians, culminating in a crusade-like service on Friday night in the new church being build by CSI in the Croix-des-Bouquet area. Return to the US - Sat. or Sun. Dates for the trip are yet to be finalized and will be based on availability of accommodations in Haiti and team preference.

COME for an informational meeting at Panama United Methodist Church on Tuesday, 7/15/08 at 7:00pm

For questions before the meeting, contact Mary Rappole at RoRap@madbbs.com



ARM

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Praise be to the Lord, for He has heard my cry for mercy. The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him, and I am helped. My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to Him in song. Psalm 28:6-7