



Volume 7, Issue 1 Winter 2009

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.

2009 ARM Mission Trips

Your Prayers of Coveted — Thank you for Praying

March 2—11

~ Brazil ~

Christian Service International (CSI) and ARM are jointly sponsoring a Christian medical ministry trip to the Amazon River area in Brazil. A team of 11 from western New York and north-western Pennsylvania and 6 from CSI will be traveling the Amazon River and its tributaries providing basic medical and dental care to the native inhabitants that have no access or limited access to health care. The team will also be spreading the Word and providing an example of God's love in action to children and adults who may never have heard of Jesus, obeying the great commission to "Go and make disciples of all nations" (Matt 28:19)

ARM Team Members

Maureen Lindberg, RN	Anita Taylor, RN
Charles Lindberg	Judith Turner
Lynn Dunham, Pediatrician	Michael VanVlack
Jean Haglund, RN	David Wilcox, Pharmacist
Judith Messinger	Dori Wilcox, Pharm Assistant
Jerry Stimson	

CSI Team Members

Jim Todd	Barry Stitt, Dentist
Brian Dow	Jeanette Thomas
Russell Sterling	Jeffrey Thomas

March 28—April 4

~ Haiti ~

The team of 20, lead by Mary Rappole, will be providing five worship services at the newly built church in Croix-des-Bouquet, *Premiere Eglise Chretienne de Noailles*, with Pasteur Fritz Jeune. Services will be from 5 to 8. Pastor Steve Wiggers will lead the service assisted by Pasteur Fritz. A special children's service will be led by Linda Ferrie.

The team is taking a sound system for the Praise Team which they will leave for the new church. They are looking for **donations of musical instruments, keyboard, guitars, conga drums, tambourines, etc.** They will also be taking suitcases full of candles and artificial flowers for the women of the church to use to decorate and celebrate God's blessings on this new congregation. Please contact Panama United Methodist Church at 782-4031 if you have donations.

TEAM MEMBERS

Bert and Mary Rappole
 Steve and Melissa Wiggers
 Brenda, Jeff and Devan Ireland
 Jessica Ireland (niece of Jeff)
 Jean Edwards (mother of Brenda)
 John and Donna Ireland (brother of Jeff)
 Pauline Edsall
 Linda Ferrie
 Molly and Tabitha Butler (mom / daughter)
 Sam Catanese
 Joe Osborne
 Howie and Jan Wheeler
 Kathy Peck

April 11—18

~ Haiti ~

The ARM team of 6 may be small, but are praying their impact for Christ is huge. Three of the team members will be joining a team from Oneida, NY, to put on an exciting vacation Bible school for the children of Gallette, Haiti. The rest of the ARM team will be joining a physician from Oneida, NY to form a 'walking medical' team. This team will be traveling from home-to-home in Gallette and surrounding villages providing medical checkups and care as needed. "Being invited into homes will be a new experience for teams from our area who are used to setting up clinics in a local church," Michele states. "We know He has great things in store for us as we share in this up close and personal way the real reason we have come to serve—Jesus is the reason and is our hope."

TEAM MEMBERS

Michele Harms
 Jeannie Haglund, RN
 Tammy Ormond
 Chaz Ormond
 Amelia Lindquist

A Call To Serve

Come Learn about ARM and Follow His Call

Open ARM Board of Directors Meeting

April 28, 2009 at 7:00pm

Christ First United Methodist Church
 (corner of Buffalo St. and Prendergast Ave.)

Is God calling you to take an active role in a dynamic mission organization? Come and see what an active mission board is like and pray about joining the ARM Board. Making a difference for Christ, together.



Surgical Team, Haiti, January 2009

by Deborah Chase, RN

In January 2009, Dr. Bert Rappole and team leader, Sharon Gustafson, from the Jamestown area led a surgical team from Western New York, Western PA, and North Carolina to Haiti. Members of the team were: Dr. Bert Rappole; Sharon Gustafson, surgery RN; Mary Brooks, Nurse Anesthetist; Janice Wheeler, surgery RN; Karen Lake, surgical tech; Deborah Chase, RN recovery room; Cherry McIntyre, central supply; April Beane, EMT recovery room; Kimberly Stuart, student nurse anesthetist.

Preparations for this trip started back in January 2008 with collecting the needed surgical supplies from many different sources, including by donation and by fundraising with a spaghetti dinner as our major project. Then all the surgical supplies were wrapped and packed into 22 suitcases.

The week in Haiti was very busy and consisted of a total of 30 surgical cases. Surgeries ranged from removal of all types of lumps to hernias, circumcisions to skin grafts. We were merely instruments which God used to hopefully draw more of His children into the Kingdom. "Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:16

We all try to figure out why God sends us, for what reason; was there something specific He wants us to do, see, or learn from this experience. This year we felt that we were sent to care for a young man, 14 years old, named Feyel. He lives in a Haitian orphanage and has been there since he was very young. He had been scalded by boiling water over his chest and arm. His arm was so severely burned that it formed scar tissue that fused his arm so that he could not move it either to bend farther, or straighten. He was so sad looking. We tried to make him smile, but we did not succeed. Dr Rappole did surgery to release the scar tissue, after which it required a full thickness skin graft which came from his thigh. Both areas were very sore looking. He never cried or expressed that it hurt even when asked through an interpreter.



After surgery, he went back to the orphanage and returned at the end of the week for Dr. Rappole to check the healing process of the surgical and graft sites. Everything looked good and healthy. After being seen by Dr Rappole, Feyel had to wait while other children were being seen in the clinic. I got the opportunity to sit and talk with Feyel through an interpreter. It was after this conversation that I managed to get him to smile. I reminded him that after it was healed he would be able to have fun and do things that the other boys could do, like throwing a ball. I also reminded him that it was God who would heal his arm and who would see him through this healing process. I know Feyel was the reason God sent us. It truly was a blessing to care for and talk with him. His smile was great to see that day. We continue to get updates on his healing from Bert & Roberta, missionaries at the Haiti clinic. So far, everything continues to look good.

We would like to thank Bert and Roberta for opening their home for us. It truly felt like home. God gave the two of them the gift of hospitality and having them there was truly a blessing. The whole team came back with many blessings. Thanks for a wonderful experience. We will be back!

Women's Health Team to Haiti January 2009

by Mary Rappole,

The Women's Health Team was comprised of Mary Rappole, CWHNP and Tammy Sherrard. We worked with Augustine, a wonderful young Haitian college graduate who translated for us, as well as led small teaching groups. We also had high-school girls from Quisqueya School assisting. Each morning we met with 6-7 ladies of various ages and discussed basic anatomy, physiology, self-examination, and family planning options. Following the group teaching session each woman would have an opportunity to meet privately with Tammy and I for an examination. We encouraged each one to share with us their individual concerns. Tammy and I felt blessed to have this unique experience. Once again God gave us all the resources we needed. I was very happy to see five of the ladies return that I had seen in previous years. Their smile of recognition when they saw me was a gift. They know that there is a women "from the states" who cares about this intimate part of their life.



Team teaching women's health



ARM

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Cast all your anxiety on Him because
He cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7