



Making God Real in a Broken World



God Moving Through Short-Term Missions



Since the middle of December, MH4H has been busy hosting many short-term teams in Haiti, accomplishing a variety of God-anointed works in the Pignon area. With over 90 trip participants from the middle of December to the end of March, we have been blessed with great people coming to serve with our Haitian staff. Each team has had unique personalities and skills, but one thing is constant – God meets them where they are and brings them to where He wants them to be. And it is incredible to watch.

In December, we had the opportunity to host 5 college and high school students, who gave up Christmas break to serve in Haiti. One of them happened to be Michael Gabhart, Christi and Craig Gabhart's son, who hasn't seen as much of his parents since they committed full time to our work in Haiti. Michael commented, "Our group's motto is 'Pray and Love Others'. If we do these things, we have the ability to be true servants of God in Haiti."

When the college team was dropped off, we picked up the Eagle Scout team from the Ottumwa, IA area. Truly a remarkable story (see page 3 for more details), this team served over the New Year's holiday. From Timothy Shoemaker, a first time participant to Haiti, "I suppose my favorite was the concrete floors. I absolutely loved interacting with the Haitians, both with work by our bucket brigade and then with trying to speak Creole. It was fun and hard work to mix the concrete, but the Haitians are quite experts in their craft. It is amazing 'how' they do this work. The final product is amazing and very well done. Impressive."

On the day the Eagle Scout team left, the Pella Christian Winterim team arrived via MFI plane, led by Keith and Jill Anderson. Courtney Nikkel and Laura Nicholson wrote, "[One day] we split up into two teams, each with a Haitian translator, to spread God's word to those in the area of Silvain. We also were able to bless the families with bags of rice, beans, bouillon cubes, tomato paste, spaghetti, and cooking oil. Along with the food bags, we handed out dolls, diapers, and dresses. It was *bon* (great) to see how the faces of each family lit up when we asked them about Jesus Christ and church. We prayed with each family, asking for prayer requests, assisted by our phenomenal translators, Ebens and Wilkin."

After some individual staff members, including Liz Clarke, Sara Anderson, and Tim Van Maanen, we had a new group from The Way Church in Newton, IA, led by Carol and Glen DeZwarte. The team did many different things, including helping complete a newly built house for a widowed family, nurses working at the hospital, putting in a cement floor and garden, but what will have the most lasting impact was the Pastors' Training, conducted by Pastor Steve Heerema. Twenty-one pastors attended, with most of them leading very small churches and few having much training. Pastor Steve noted, "[At the end of the conference], the pastors all formed a circle around us and began singing 'How Great Thou Art' in Creole. It was the most beautiful rendition I have ever heard. It sounded like a choir of angels! I have not been that moved by the Holy Spirit in a long time. The presence of God overwhelmed both Glen and me. Then, the pastors recited the Apostle's Creed in unison, prayed for us, and blessed us with a benediction. It was beautiful."

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New Faces



Board Treasurer

Bryan Nikkel and his wife Cindy brought their two children, Courtney and Caleb, to Haiti in 2012 and have since been actively involved with MH4H. Bryan has thoroughly enjoyed being a part of projects both in Haiti and back in Iowa. He was instrumental in the renovation of the Pella Mango Tree and helped develop the drip irrigation for garden projects in Haiti.



Board Member

After graduating from UNI, Donna Van Ee married Eric and settled down to life on their farm near Otley, IA, where they home schooled their three children. Currently, she is a special ed associate at Jefferson Intermediate school. She has been to Haiti twice and desires to partner with God in serving the Haitian people.



Admin and Marketing Assistant

Andrea Mathes previously spent 13 years serving individuals with disabilities in various capacities. She has a passion for people and is excited to be able to serve both God and His children through her work with MH4H! Andrea is originally from the Sioux City area and now resides in Pella with her husband, Kirk.

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full! They wanted to express to us that they appreciated our coming to Haiti, wanted us to thank our church, and let our members know that they will be praying for them."



After a brief window of rest, the team of 22 from Cumberland University came to town. Led by Dr. Josh Hayden, this was a mixture of graduate and post-graduate students, along with professors from the university in Lebanon, TN, as part of their Leadership Academy Service Initiative. The center of the week was a leadership seminar for 75 Haitians, created, organized, and led by the students in the class. The leadership seminar included a time of feet washing, many group hands-on activities, and a time of worship. During the conference, 3 people came to Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. To summarize, Dr. Hayden said, "The trip was far more than I could have imagined! Incredible time with students. Love Craig, Christi, Appolon, Ebens, Woody, Claudin and Burns. God is moving in Pignon!"

Over spring break, the Third Church CORE youth team of 20 descended upon Pignon, led by Ali Cranmer and Lucia Van Maanen. The team told Bible stories at both Pella Christian School and the deaf school in Bohoc, as well as planted a garden, installed a cement floor, held a VBS in Silvain, and assisted in the monthly Thrive distribution and health checks in Savanette. "The stories that came from the week are of God and have Jesus written all over them. The works of God have been more and more evident, and it is only by the grace of God that I am able to say, the Holy Spirit is working in the hearts of the Haitians and in the hearts of my friends on this trip," declared Carter Terpstra.

God has been faithful to the teams and the work of MH4H. Over the next 4 months, we have 7 more teams with around 90 trip participants, with teams from Knoxville, TN, Davenport, West Des Moines, and Wayland, IA. Be in prayer for these teams, as we continue to make God real in a broken world, both in the US and in Haiti.



Team Lead Education Programs

Sara Anderson has been involved in Haiti since 2011. Sara received her B.A. from UNI in Elementary Education and her Masters of Science from Drake in Elementary School Counseling. Sara is responsible for carrying out education-based community development in Haiti. Sara and her husband, Dave, have three children: Reece, Pierce, and Grace. Sara lives in Johnston, IA.



Education Program Manager

After four months back in his hometown of Gonaives, we are excited Woody Cadet has joined MH4H full-time in Pignon, Haiti, as Educational Programs Manager. Woody brings a dedicated servant-heart to serve our children and families through education. Woody is living at the dormitory near the airport.

Eagle Scout Earns his Wings in Haiti



After Christmas, some kids return to class with new iPhones ... but not Nathanael Shoemaker. Shoemaker, age 15, led a group of 8 to Haiti with MH4H, as part of his Eagle Scout project. And boy, did he have an impact.

Last January, Shoemaker and his mother, Veronique, were part of the Liberty E-Free team from Pella, IA, that traveled to Haiti with MH4H. Shoemaker was changed by the trip and wanted to do more upon his arrival. As his final project to become an Eagle Scout, Shoemaker approached his scout leaders about leading a trip of other Eagle Scouts to install cement floors, distribute bags of rice, and give out school supplies. The scout leaders thought it was too ambitious and asked Nathanael if he wanted to scale back the project. Nathanael refused and stuck to his original plans: put in 2 cement floors, feed 25 families, and give out 100 bags of school supplies.



Shoemaker and his younger brother raised all their own funds, holding pancake breakfasts, going door to door and collecting pop cans, and other unique fundraisers. When all was said and done, Shoemaker and company raised enough support to not only pay for their trip, but they surpassed the original project goals. When the project was completed in Haiti, the team installed 3 cement floors, distributed 111 55-pound bags of rice (over 3 tons), 30 55-pound bags of beans, 600 spaghetti packages, 150 tomato pastes, 150 gallons of oil, 6000 bouillon cubes and 110

The Mango Tree to Open in Oskaloosa

After one-year under its belt in Pella, IA, the Mango Tree looks to grow a bit more by opening a new store in Oskaloosa, IA. The Mango Tree is a frozen-yogurt store for good, as 100% of the profits go to benefit Many Hands for Haiti. Currently, the store has one full-time paid staff member, Liz Clarke, with the rest of the store being run by volunteers. In 2014, Clarke had around 70 volunteers work at the store in Pella.

The store in Oskaloosa will be located on the corner of A Avenue West and North K Street. Construction began in late March, with a target opening date of late May. Tim Brand, executive leader of MH4H, hopes to not only support the work in Haiti but to give a portion of the profits to local non-profits in Oskaloosa.

"Through this store, we not only want to make God real in a broken world in Haiti, but also right in our own communities. Our plan is to select some local non-profits working in Oskaloosa, help promote the good works they are doing through informational space in our store, as well as donate a portion of the profits to them. It truly can be a win/win, with support going globally and locally," commented Brand.

As with the store in Pella, our hope is to operate this store primarily through volunteers.

Calling for Volunteers!

If you are interested,
Please contact Liz Clarke:
lclarke@mh4h.org
or call the MH4H office:
641-629-6633



— frozen yogurt for good —

backpacks with school supplies in them. They even had money left over to crepe the walls of 2 homes!

Reflecting on the project, Shoemaker commented, "This was such a life changing experience, even for the second time being in Haiti. I give full glory to God! I was only a tool in His tool box. My Eagle project may have been great, but the needs are so much greater. We touched hundreds of lives, and yet, did not make a dent in the town we were in! There is so much work to be done and Many Hands for Haiti is doing a great job."





New Land Purchase in Silvain

As we've been praying for God to open and close doors for us in Haiti, God led us right to where He wanted us--a tract of 3.2 acres of land in the community of Silvain. We have been confirmed over and over on this piece of ground and that God wants us to go narrow and deep into this community now and moving forward.

Silvain is located just to the south of Pignon, past the airport on the way to Port-au-Prince. The piece of ground we have purchased is about a ¼ mile off the main National Route #3. The immediate plan for the ground is to be used in our two main focus areas for the organization - agriculture and youth development. Claudin Augustin, MH4H agronomist, will lead the charge in agriculture, turning a portion of the land into a commercial banana farm and model garden to do community trainings. Woody Cadet, MH4H education programs manager, will first establish a new Thrive for 5 center, with the possibilities of a new

school down the road. We expect both of these projects to be up and running by the fall of 2015.

Over the past few months, many of our short-term teams have been doing work projects in the community of Silvain. We also have been in conversation with many of the community leaders and families in this community and believe God has given us a firm foundation to build upon. Please be in prayer for the work to be done in this community, as we do not want to take even one step without God's leading.



Firm Foundations

By Tim Brand, Executive Leader

Earlier this month, I preached on the power of praise in ALL circumstances as we overcome evil in this world through Christ who gives us strength. Many times, it is difficult for us to praise God while we are in the storm, and sometimes we question if God was even with us at all. But, as we stand on the word of the Bible, we cling to passages such as 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18 and Romans 8:28, as God is revealing Himself to us. He doesn't tell us we will understand, but He requires us to have faith and put our trust in Him. And with this kind of faith, God can be glorified and do more than we can ask or imagine (Ephesians 3:20).

It is with this faith we can boldly proclaim that our God is good and

continues to do work through us. As our legal proceedings to retain the campus in Savanette have proven to be futile, we turn our eyes to the community God has repeatedly led us to, the community of Silvain. We know God has revealed to us a model vision in how we work in the US and in Haiti, but there are times when the tactics and strategies need to change based upon circumstances. We walk in faith as God presents the next step in His plan.

With that, one of my areas of focus for the remainder of 2015 is to share this God-anointed vision and direction for our organization to communities and churches. We know God is calling more individuals, churches, and communities to walk alongside with Him in our work to make God real in a broken world. We need to

be faithful in proclaiming the good news to all who are willing to hear. Grace and peace to you in the name of our risen King, Jesus Christ.

If your church or community would like for me to come and share the good news of what God is doing through MH4H, please get ahold of me.

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