

**Tim Brand**

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To: Prayer Partners

Greetings to you all in the name of Christ!

On Sunday, November 16th, through Thursday, November 20th, I am asking for special prayer requests for a specific trip for Stacy and Jared Nikkel and me. After much prayer and discernment, in November of '07, the Nikkels and their family, Will (6 years old) and Natalie (4 years old), said yes to Jesus Christ's call on their life to move to Haiti to serve Him in whatever capacity He asked. Since saying yes, it has been a whirlwind of an adventure, with doors opening and closing and emotional peaks and valleys. The good news is that we (the "launch" team) can see Christ behind it all, moving us in the direction He wants us to go for His plans. Praise the Lord that we didn't do some of the initial plans we had, as they would have "crashed and burned".

Within the last couple of months, we felt very called to take a "fact finding" trip to Haiti to listen to local leaders, listen to God, and see what doors He opens while in the country. So, tomorrow, Nov. 16th, we leave for the Pignon area of Haiti for a three day trip, to do what God is asking - understand the current situation, listen to local leaders, and partner with His plans. During this time, I've attached some specific prayer requests that I would like for each of you to send up to God to make sure we are covered. I believe this is God-ordained and He has some very specific things in store for Stacey, Jared, Will, and Natalie - as well as for each of us, our groups, and all the other work going on in Haiti. We aren't asking that He reveal His whole plan, just the next step for us.

In closing, I leave you with this Franciscan blessing, not only for us and this trip, but for you and your life as well. God has a plan for all of us that we are to live out - I know for me, it is easy to forget in my fast-paced, day-to-day life.

*"May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half truths, and superficial relationships, so that you may live deep within your heart.*

*May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom, and peace.*

*May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, and war, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy.*

*And may God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done."*

May God bless you this week and thank you for your prayer support.

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Tim Brand  
Iowa Group