

Welcome to the First Edition of the Servants for Haiti Newsletter!

This is the premier edition of what we hope will be a quarterly newsletter informing you of the work of

Servants for Haiti (SFH). We plan to keep you updated with all the latest information coming from our various programs in Haiti and from the nation in general.

Some of the news you will find in this and future issues include trip reports (there are two in this issue!), coming events, Haiti news, program updates, profiles of our Haitian friends and a few surprises. We hope you will find the information helps you to stay connected with us and with the children and adults you sponsor. If you have ideas for the newsletter or just want to ask a question, please feel free to contact us at any time at info@servantsforhaiti.org.



Your Email Address Helps Us!

This first Servants for Haiti newsletter is being sent by U.S. mail to many of you. If we had your email address, we could email the next issue to you and save the postage. Every penny we save goes to help children in Haiti. Please send your email address to us at any of the "How To Reach Us" locations shown on page 3 and you'll get the next issue via email! It's an easy way to help!



Program Updates:

Medical program

Our medical program is off to a great start. A medical team led by Judy Evans in March saw all the children and set up their charts. Although we still need a number of sponsors, we have been able to meet the

children's medical needs to date. A nurse named Kelose has accepted our offer of a position at the orphanage. She comes once a week to check the children. She will also be on call to accompany Mimose (the primary care giver) if she needs to take children to the hospital. Kelose will be able to keep the children's medical records up to date by recording the medical attention they receive.

We have worked out a schedule for Ed Amos, a Physician Assistant from New Hampshire who is now a full time missionary in Haiti. (See Judy's trip report on page 2 for more about Ed and his work.) Dr. Ed, as he is known, will check the children on the first Tuesday of every month and be on call if Kelose has questions. We thank Dr. Ed for his willingness to help Servants for Haiti as we continue in the startup phase of the medical program.

Feeding program

The feeding program is going well and the children are all looking very healthy. Look for photos of the children from the orphanage in future issues of the SFH newsletter.

🌟 News Flash: We're Official! 🌟

Servants for Haiti has officially received approval for 501(c)(3) status. All checks can now be written out directly to SFH. Additionally, all checks that have previously been written to SFH will be accepted as tax deductible for the 2006 tax year. If you are aware of any companies that are willing to contribute to 501(c)(3) charities, please let us know.

Richards Family Trip Report

[Howard and Laurae Richards, along with their children, Zachary (15), Melissa (12) and Elijah (8) were in Haiti this past spring from April 18- 28. This is a report from that trip, written by Laurae, president of SFH.]

My family and I recently traveled to Haiti for ten days on a family mission trip. We stayed with Pastor Rigaud Antoine and spent time with the children of the Kingdom Kids orphanage, which is in his home.

All of us spent time playing with, holding and having fun with the children. We also were able to do a couple of craft projects with them, one making funny glasses and another personalizing Frisbees. As a family, we spent time painting the dining area, the upstairs sitting area and one of the older girls' rooms.

Because of a donation from a friend who wanted us to by junk food for the kids, we had a French fry party (Rigaud's suggestion) and we made brownies, which none of the kids had ever had.

I also had an opportunity to meet with the women's ministry at Rigaud's church at which time we prayed, sang and did a craft. The craft part of this time has become a tradition that the women look forward to on my trips. The craft ideas are hard to come up with because there is no electricity and they are usually done while sitting on the church's pew benches. This time I was able to take advantage of some great sales back home. I bought small baskets and silk flowers so the women could make little arrangements. They were very nice.

One day my children were able to help with the feeding program over at the school while I had a number of meetings for Servants for Haiti. They helped serve the food and did lots of dishes by hand.

It was a great time. Thank you for your willingness to help these children. They are all precious gifts from God.

Medical Mission Trip Report

[From March 7-16, 2006, SFH board member Judy Evans led a medical mission trip to Haiti. This is her report.]

This past March a medical team of eight went to Haiti to work with Ed Amos, P.A., a full time missionary in Haiti. Four team members were "providers" and four were support staff. During the time we spent there, we saw well over 700 patients at 6 different clinics. The medical team came from NH, VT and TN. We met in Miami, FL and flew into Port-au-Prince together. When we arrived in PAP we were met by our host Ed, along with Karl & Ann Olsson (local missionaries) and Rigaud Antoine. Praise God all our luggage with medical supplies cleared customs with no questions asked.

Our first clinic was at a Christian school called Christian Light Ministries, in Port-au-Prince, www.christianlighthaiti.org. At Christian Light Ministries we saw about 200 patients. It was a challenging but fun day, being our first. Our team was divided into groups: the intake team who took blood pressures, temperatures and documented the patients' symptoms, the providers who performed medical procedures and made diagnoses and the pharmacy team who filled prescriptions and gave directions for use. Each team was assisted by Haitian translators. Our providers were monitored by Ed and given his expert advice when needed. Ed visits Christian Light Ministries on a weekly basis.

Our next day was spent in a fishing village named LeTan, 25 miles outside of Port-au-Prince. The journey took two hours and to call it "scenic" does not do it justice. We traveled through the city, then villages and into the mountains. Small groupings of mud huts seemed to define the communities. When we arrived we opened our clinic and pharmacy, which are all portable. This day we saw 200 patients. At the end of the day we took a walk down by the lake where we could see fishing boats in the distance and people enjoying the water.

(continued on page 3)

Medical Mission Trip Report – continued

Several days later we returned to LeTan to have our second clinic in the area. Ed and his pharmacist Ann Olsson visit this clinic twice weekly.

Our third clinic was at Pastor Rigaud's school in Village Solidarite. Our goal here was to see the staff of the "College Jean Rigaud Antoine" and Bethlehem Evangelical Baptist Church. With Ed's support once again, we saw about 150 patients. One of our providers removed a cyst from a 14 year old boy's back. He lay perfectly still while the cyst was cut from his back with only a local anesthesia. He never once flinched, but was very thankful to have it gone.

We spent Saturday sightseeing.

Sunday was a busy day for the team. Up at 4:45, we left Ed's house at 5:30 for the 6AM service at the Bethlehem Evangelical Baptist Church with Pastor Rigaud Antoine. This was a highlight for our team – many of whom were “first-timers” – spending time worshipping with the Haitians. We left that service to travel back to Ed's home and then to attend church at Quisqueya Chapel where the sermon was given by Pastor Karl Olsson. His congregation is a mix of Haitians and missionaries.

After the service we had a short water break at Ed's and then headed over to Michelle and Louise Charboneau's feeding station which was already in progress. Check out their website at www.haitiministries.com. The children who come live in the nearby ravine. They come twice a week for a church service and then are fed. Ed visits weekly on Sunday afternoons and sees patients. There are about 1500 children who attend regularly. Church was over when we arrived so what we saw was the children lined up and waiting for their turn at a table. As soon as a table emptied, the dishes, cups, bowls and spoons were collected, ready for another group to sit down. While this was taking place, Ed and the “providers” were seeing patients from the area.

One of the last cases of the day was a mom with triplets. She and her husband had six children in all. The dad had lost his job and the mom didn't have enough milk for all three. They were malnourished and badly dehydrated. Ed made a phone call and the mom and infants climbed into Ed's truck with us. We took the triplets to a woman named Dorothy Pearce whose mission is to nurse infants back to health. We finished our busy Sunday with a dinner out.

Our last day was spent at an orphanage for handicapped children called Notre Maison (www.notremaison.us) doing the yearly physicals on the children there. From there we went to the home of Pastor Rigaud Antoine and Kingdom Kids Orphanage. We spent the afternoon there giving the 26 orphans physicals and starting dossiers on each child as well as their caregivers.

The team spent the week at Ed's house but on our last night, after working with the children of Kingdom Kids Orphanage, we spent the night there at Pastor Rigaud's. We left for the airport the next day.

Coming Events

July 16, 2006 – Lowell Kiwanis Triathlon, all proceeds to be donated to Servants for Haiti.

October 25, 2006 – The first Servants for Haiti Charity dinner auction. We are looking for donations for auction items. Contact local businesses to ask for help!

November 6-16, 2006 – The first SFH sponsored mission trip to Haiti.

Please mark your calendars for these important events! Contact SFH for more information.

How to reach us

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Thank You, Applebee's

We would like to express our appreciation to the people at the new Applebee's in Chelmsford, MA. They donated an entire case of children's cups to Servants For Haiti to be used at the school feeding program and the Kingdom Kids orphanage. Don't forget to say "Thank you" when you stop there to eat!

Haiti News

It seems like Haiti is only in the news when there is trouble and violence. With things calming down, the local media has lost interest. You can still get the latest news about Haiti via the Internet. Here are a few examples of what's happening:

Newly elected president Rene Preval has been seeking debt relief and preferential trade terms from the U.S. A bill called the Haitian Hemispheric Opportunity Through Partnership Encouragement (HOPE) Act is working its way through Congress. Some speculate it could create as many as 20,000 new jobs in Haiti where the unemployment rate has been measured as high as 70%. Preval traveled to Washington in March (accompanied by the brother of one of his opponents in the recent elections!) in an effort "to send a clear signal that Haiti is back open for business."

From the "Did You Know?" department:

Haiti competes in the Davis Cup, an international tennis competition. Their record in 2006 was 2-3, having defeated both Costa Rica and Trinidad and Tobago.

Opera in Haiti? Check out this article:

http://www.berkshireagle.com/ci_3966804

(apologies if the page has expired)

Creole lesson of the day

Interested in learning some Creole to help communicate with our Haitian friends? SFH wants to help. We'll give you something to learn in each issue.

Creole can be an easy language to learn since there is very little grammar. Tenses, conjugations and other grammatical issues are simplified or nonexistent. Unfortunately, this means that much depends on context.

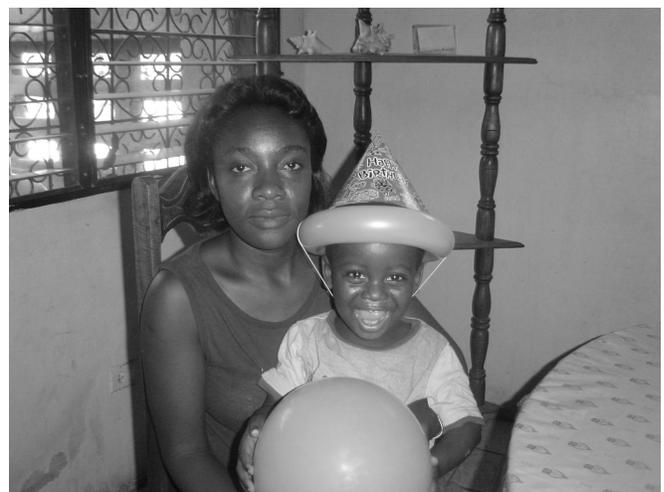
Another hazard in learning Creole is that it is not really a written language. (Hence the reason that French is the official language. Creating legal documents in a language that has no written standard is a practice fraught with problems.) There are different spellings depending on where in the country you are and which dictionary you believe! Generally it's safe to spell phonetically.

Today's word is: **mwen**. This word, which means "me", "I" or "my" depending on the context, is pronounced "mweh".

Today's phrase is:

"Mwen renmen ou" - I love you

pronounced: "mweh rehmen oo"



Thank you for your support of Servants for Haiti. You are making a difference, one child at a time.