

June 18, 2017, 2nd Sunday After Pentecost

Dr. Chuck Borum
Report and Reflections on Haiti Medical Mission Trip

Old Testament: Psalm 96 - New Testament: Matthew 25:31-46

Report on our medical mission to Haiti .

Mission dates: June 4- 11

Team members:

Dr. Chuck Borum, Dr. Lee England, Jonathan Borum as pharmacist, Judy Moody R.N., Michelle Mayfield, EMT, Tony Haines from Madison, MS, Vince Saia and his 18 yr. old daughter Annabelle from Memphis, TN, Matt Goddard from Boston, Massachusetts. (Joyce Borum had planned to go but developed appendicitis the week before departure). Our team also included Haitian translators and other workers and a nurse on the God's Promise staff named Betty Joseph.

Main objective: Provide general medical care to patients in Cite Soleil, Haiti clinic sponsored by Haiti Outreach Ministries. Also provide care in the very first week of clinic in a new facility in the community of Germaine, Haiti sponsored by a new nonprofit called God's Promise in Haiti (organized by Tony Haines).

We treated 50-70 patients each morning in Cite Soleil and 30-40 patients each afternoon in Germaine. Total of 521 patients in 5 days. Based on typical visit to a physician and pharmacy in USA a value of about \$200 per patient or \$100,000 total. That's what your efforts and donations helped to provide to the very poor people that we served. We saw children and adults. Conditions ranged from minor to life threatening. Coughs, joint pains, intestinal and skin parasites and infections, hypertension and diabetes to name a few common conditions.

Also each morning at the God's Promise compound in Germaine, VBS was provided for over 100 children and over 1500 meals were served.

We were housed and fed at the Eucalyptus Guest House. Expenses for that were raised and donated by Tony Haines in his annual round trip bike ride from Madison, MS to Natchez by way of the Natchez Trace.

We did enjoy some evenings out to enjoy some Haitian meals in Port au Prince and of course a Saturday at Wahoo Bay Beach. Team members paid their own way for those treats as well as most of the cost of their own airplane fare.

As a medical team we don't directly preach the Gospel. But we consider that we are showing and living the Gospel as we provide care. The medical care is provided in the context of the churches supported by the organization Haiti Outreach Ministries and the Vacation Bible School supported by the organization God's Promise in Haiti.

We stayed safe and healthy for the most part. We did have one mentionable incident: Dr. England was greeted one morning by one of the brown guard dogs they let out to patrol the grounds at night. He was bitten on the leg. He was fortunately able to force the dog to back off by using his hard bound golfing book as a makeshift weapon. No broken skin.

We all had good adventures in Haiti and all made it home tired but safe.

So that's the report of what was done.

Reflections and observations:

Ernso Jean-Louis is the owner of the guest house where we stayed. He is a businessman as well as a pastor. One morning at breakfast I overheard a conversation that he was having with Tony Haines. Tony was describing a situation he had had buying several large tents for the God's Promise compound. He had gotten shorted a number of tent poles and the manager of the business where the tent was sold was reluctant to quickly supply the missing poles or to refund the money. Tony had had to have a very serious talk with him and threaten to go to the owner. The problem was finally resolved after tense negotiations. Ernso confirmed that doing business in Haiti was often like that and even as a pastor he had had to use rough tactics to take care of business exchanges in the past. He explained that many businessmen in Haiti were only concerned with the profit margin. In other words they had no "kingdom vision". That's not just in Haiti.

"Kingdom vision"

That term really struck me that morning.

Jesus preached a lot about “the Kingdom of God”. I googled that term and found a list of 63 verses.

N.T. Wright says in his book “Surprised by Hope” “What you do in the present—by painting, preaching, singing, sewing, praying, teaching, building hospitals, digging wells, campaigning for justice, writing poems, caring for the needy, loving your neighbor as yourself—will last into God’s future. These activities are not simply ways of making the present life a little less beastly, a little more bearable, until the day when we leave it behind altogether. They are part of what we may call building for God’s kingdom.”

Tim Keller: “Only if you are part of a community of believers seeking to resemble, serve, and love Jesus will you ever get to know him and grow into his likeness.”

Matthew 26: 37 Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink?..... 40 And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family,[g] you did it to me.’

As reformed believers, we understand that we are “Sanctified by God’s grace through faith alone. But it is a faith that is not alone.”

James 2: 26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

All of this refers to “building the Kingdom of God”. In other words “having Kingdom vision”.

Charles Spurgeon , the great Baptist preacher from England said: “Every Christian is either a missionary or an imposter.”

Our mission field is not just places like Haiti. Our mission field starts right here where we worship together. We are part of the priesthood of believers. We minister first to each other. Then our next mission field starts as soon as we exit these doors. With our family, in our work, in our pastimes and hobbies. In the community of Natchez. We “follow Christ and serve everyone.” This can only happen when we are reading and studying the Word. This happens when we are in community with each other.

Please continue to take part in this church's activities, bible studies and worship services. Our Mission unit has plans to engage all members in Mission activities. Find something that you are called to do. Develop your Kingdom Vision.

Amen