

HAITI NEEDS YOU DECEMBER 2013 NEWSLETTER



“PLEASE TAKE MY CHILD!” While we are working in the medical clinic, these are the hardest words to hear from a mother begging us to take her child. These were also hard words to hear coming from a father whose wife died in childbirth. We first met the Messenge family in 2011. The father of four children could not care for them and asked for help. Of course help was made available for him and his children. Due to the poor living conditions, life expectancy in Haiti is well below ours here in the USA. Unfortunately in May of 2013, the father



also died leaving four orphaned children. Despite the difficulty of providing for their own families, the Haitian people are always willing to help each other out. So Madame Sinclair offered to take the children

in and care for them as her own. With your support, we can continue to help those in need.

Blog entry of Jim Cwengros: *“A big event for Rita and me was meeting a farmer, Messenge (which means “Thank you God”), who brought his 11-month old son and 8 year old daughter in for care. They were malnourished and had terrible diaper rash and fungal infections. He was lost on what to do. We learned that Messenge’s wife died 3 days after giving birth to the baby, leaving Messenge and 4 children. He had to pull the children out of school because he had to use the money to bury his wife. Needless to say, Rita and I have adopted this family – they will become part of our extended family. We visited his corn-stalk home on the way down the mountain and can’t wait to visit him when we return.”*



Jim and Rita Cwengros with the Messenge Family

October, 2013, Dental Mission to Fond Parisien

This was the second annual dental clinic to Fond Parisien and was very successful. The people were excited to see the dentists and very grateful for the care. The dental team was able to assist over 300 patients. Next year we hope to move our mobile dental clinic up the mountain to help those in more remote areas of Fond Parisien.



January, 2014, Dental Mission to Seguin

This joint effort of Haiti Needs You and Holy Spirit Parish will be a dental team and water project. A dental team will work with the school children and others in the Seguin community. We have seen great progress during our past eight years of dental missions. In the beginning we needed to pull many teeth even from children. Now after years of doing dental education, the children's teeth are much better. A representative from Gift of Water will be coming with us to assist the technicians and to make recommendations as to what might benefit the community as a whole in the quest for clean water. We have been working with Gift of Water for seven years now and have set up 800 water filters. Also while there, we will check on the progress of the second year of having a high school in the Seguin community which we hear the students and parents are so very grateful for. Without this opportunity, these young students would continue to remain at home because this is the only high school in the area.

February, 2014, New Mission in Orangers

Our Lady of Consolation Parish from Rockford, Michigan, is looking to twin with the parish in Orangers de Bainet near Jacmal. From our initial Haitian sources, this parish is similar to the Seguin parish when Holy Spirit Parish started there 15 years ago. The members of Our Lady of Consolation Parish are looking forward to meeting the new parish and getting an idea of ways to help with ideas such as water projects, sanitation, education, dental hygiene, and medical missions.



Home in Orangers

April, 2014, West Catholic/Catholic Central High School Mission Trip

A group of 15 students and adults will be traveling to Seguin. During this time they will meet the children, put tarps on cornstalk houses, check water filters, build latrines, and pass out gift bags with school and hygiene supplies for the children. Typically for the students this is quite an eye-opening experience which has a positive and profound impact.

Listen to the words of Anna Duemler from her 2012 trip: *"Throughout my entire trip I have noticed one common expression in all the Haitian people. Happiness. Even though these people are living in absolute poverty, they find a way to smile. The kids are ALWAYS laughing and surrounding you wanting to play and dance. For a country that has been through hell and back, I have never seen a bigger sign of heaven. I am blessed to have been a part of their lives and will remember every moment."*



If your church or organization would like to twin with a parish or assist in small or big projects, there are many opportunities available.

**As always, we thank you for your support
in brightening the lives
of our brothers and sisters in Haiti!**

Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Tim Ryan

President, Haiti Needs You

616-430-9875

1011 Arianna NW

Grand Rapids, MI 49504

www.haitineedsyou.com