

STAN AND GLORIA'S MISSION UPDATE

June 2010



Dear Friends,

We sat down to write this letter and realized that you've not heard from us in nearly six months! We first want to apologize for dropping the ball and not keeping you informed of all that has happened since January. This prayer letter may be extra long, so feel free to get comfortable!

As you all know, a 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck Haiti on January 12, 2010. This was just one of many quakes to shake Port-Au-Prince, and other areas, over the coming days and weeks. Many, many lives were lost and homes destroyed. I've heard it said recently that Haiti is now a Fifth World Country. Rather than focus on the devastation (you've seen all that on CNN) we'd like to take this opportunity to share with you how God brought so many of His people together to help show His love to these devastated people.

For those who don't know, Stan was actually leading a team out of Haiti on the day of the earthquake. We were in the air and didn't hear what was going on until we went through Customs in Florida. We started asking how to help and God laid it on our hearts that containers would be needed. MFI would take care of the immediate needs of the people (by the way, you have to visit their website to see all they did, there's not enough space here!) and we would look more at long-term sustainability.

By the time we arrived in Indiana, the money had already been donated to pay for the first two containers. Churches started having food drives, people called to see what was needed, volunteers stepped up, and in record time the first container was loaded and on its way! God worked out so many details, from the right people being available and willing to help, to companies donating supplies, warehouse space, and even trucks. God's provisions never ceased to amaze us, though I don't know why, He promises in Philippians to supply ALL our needs...and these were definite needs!

Let me back up just a little...the team that was in Haiti was there to help unload and distribute Christmas Bags as well as help with a second container that was sitting at the docks. Things in Haiti tend to run very slowly, and apparently unloading those two

containers was not in God's plan for us on this trip. In Haiti, when a container is delayed (even if it isn't our fault) the government charges a daily fee. I bring up that point to show God's amazing grace yet again. Those two containers were delayed and cost a LOT of money to get released. By God's grace, the next two containers were not delayed nearly as long and cost a LOT less to be released. God is good all the time!

We have heard stories time and time again of how God kept so many of our family and friends safe. Don't get me wrong, many Christians lost their lives, but many are still alive today because of what others might call coincidences...we call them miracles...things like having to go outside a building to use the bathroom or meet someone just before the earthquake struck. Twelve of the kids from EBAC orphanage were in Port when the earthquake hit. Not one of them lost their life! For this we give God all the glory!

February in Haiti is a time of Mardi Gras. Many people will travel for miles and days to celebrate and practice voodoo. This year, a group of pastors asked the President if, instead of Mardi Gras, they could have three days of prayer and fasting. The president told them no, there would be five days! So for five days, worship music replaced voodoo drums. The Holy Spirit replaced the evil spirits. Hearts were touched, lives were saved, people rejoiced. We have heard from several pastors (Saintil, Paul, St. Ange, and TiLouis to name a few) of revivals in the churches and hundreds of lives being saved. The people of Haiti humbled themselves and prayed. They sought God's face. He forgave their sins and, as the Gospel spreads, is restoring their country, just as He promised thousands of years ago in 2 Chronicles 7:14. God's Word truly changes lives!

Since the earthquake, Stan has made six trips to Haiti with medical, dental, and construction teams. Two containers have been received with food, hygiene items, and God's life changing Word. Two more are in transit. Time and time again your generosity completely overwhelmed us! In this economy, we would have never dreamed that enough would be given to fill one container, let alone four! God is truly working in and through His people. None of this would have been possible without all of you.

Whether you gave time, money, or one jar of peanut butter, you have been an integral part of helping us help the Haitian people. Showing God's love by meeting physical needs, so that the Gospel can then be shared to meet their Spiritual needs and introduce them to God's saving grace.

One other blessing that came of this tragedy. You may or may not know this, but for years the way the containers have been loaded is with Stan and several volunteers hand loading every box in a gravel parking lot at Seedline. No dock, one forklift, in rain, sleet, snow...they've been more faithful than the mailman! After the earthquake in Haiti, when all eyes were focused there and people were wondering how to help, first Sodrel Truck Lines in Indianapolis, and then Dixie Chopper in Greencastle, donated to us warehouse space to use to collect items and load trucks! What an amazing blessing that was! Through this, Seedline has now rented space from Dixie Chopper and are allowing us, at a very reduced rate, to rent space from them so that we can still get the donations ready to ship and load the trucks in record time. Once again, God supplied all our needs, and we are truly grateful!

Seedline continues to provide Scriptures for us to send to Haiti. They also have several projects going on around the world and are working hard to spread the Gospel to every nation. Please keep their director, Brother Keith Davidson, in your prayers. Their 15th Annual Harvest Conference is September 19-23. Evangelist Randy Bane will be the speaker and we'll be blessed with music from the Rochesters and Lindley Creek. This is a time of worship, prayer, hearing God's Word, and raising support for Seedline. You won't want to miss it. You can find out more on their website.

So, what's next? Well, as far as Haiti is concerned, Stan will be going in with a team from Pennsylvania in August who will be holding a VBS of sorts for kids who live out by the IDADEE orphanage site. They already have 500 children registered! This will be something brand new and we can't wait to see what God has in store! In September, a new church from Pennsylvania will be visiting the country to see how they can partner with churches, pastors, orphanages, and teachers. Stan and Gloria both will be going into Haiti in October for a couple of weeks. Gloria will be teaching kids at the EBAC orphanage for both weeks. Stan will do everything Stan does for the first week, and the other week will be spent with another new church going in for the

first time to see what God would have them do. In the middle of all that, we will be spending a lot of time promoting Christmas Bags, helping at the Seedline conference, and filling containers.

Don't think its all work and no play though...in May, we were able to take a much-needed vacation to Myrtle Beach where we had a great time golfing, eating, walking the beach, and just enjoying God's amazing creation. We also attended the graduation of Brandon, Gloria's grandson, in May.



The last part of June we'll be visiting Dena and her family and spending time with the grandkids in Wisconsin. And, we'll also find time to play with our first GREAT grandbaby!

Amber gave birth to little Bella Rose on May 30. She was 8 lbs 10 oz, and 21 inches long. Both mom and baby (and dad) are healthy and happy.



That's the last six months in a nutshell. Now its time to get geared up for Christmas Bags for Haiti. With this newsletter we've included the new Christmas Bags brochure. Please take a few moments to look it over and then prayerfully consider how you might help. Many of the orphanages we work with have taken in more kids since the earthquake and will need more Christmas bags. Last year we sent in over 10,000 and we could easily distribute twice that if they were available. We praise God for each bag, and make them stretch as far as possible. If you need more brochures for your church, need more information, or would like to see this year's CBH video, please visit our website. If you don't find what you need there, contact us, and we'll make sure you get it.

Once again we humbly thank you for your prayers, generosity, and faithfulness. May God richly bless you as you serve Him.

For His Glory
Stan and Gloria Curtis

I thank my God upon every remembrance of you. Phil 1:3