

Haiti Mission Trip - November 10-13, 2017



Wayne Fritze (Roland Park Presbyterian Church) Joyce and Ted Kruse arrived in Port au Prince Friday afternoon after an uneventful flight. The typical chaos at the airport upon our arrival subdued as soon as we saw the smiling face of Sem, the owner of the guest house where we were staying. He was waiting for us outside the gate. The rain that had been pelting Port-au-Prince every day prior to our visit gave way to sun on Saturday morning.

When we arrived at Kay Papa Nou, everyone came out one-by-one to greet us. Our initial impression was how much they had grown since we last saw them. There are around 25 girls that stay at KPN, and 12 boys at Unity House. We distributed supplies collected by Govans and Roland Park - clothing, a saxophone, notebooks, school supplies and many other items that were greatly needed.

Six of the "children" have completed high school and are attending higher education: two in medical school to become Haitian doctors, two in a Science Development to prepare them for work with NGO's or government, one in electrical contracting trade school, and one rethinking her curriculum from architecture. With high school graduation rates below 10%, these young adults will most definitely have the best opportunity for a promising future in a country that has been mired in poverty for decades.

On Sunday, we worshipped with them in Canaan, where Unity House is located. Worship continues for about three hours, beginning with Bible education classes for all ages led by the young adults from KPN, an addition to Sunday worship. We estimated over 100 people worshipping, many from the surrounding neighborhood. It is quite uplifting, with song, clapping, and dancing in their praise of God.

We had a good opportunity to talk with David. He greatly appreciates the financial support he receives from. We send a monthly wire, which he relies on for basic needs and education. This support is from the generosity of Govans-Woodbrook, Roland Park, Joyce and Ted's

Foundation, Neighbors Near and Far. Many NGO's have left Haiti thus support from them has gone as well. Another reliable source of financial support is in was suspended with the tragic death of a Canadian construction worker, Cole Brown, who was killed in a plane crash flying between the Dominican Republic and Haiti one year ago. The \$500 per month from an estate in Bermuda has also been fully dispersed over a the last several years. To save money, David considered many strategies to cope with declining revenue including reducing the number of children. This would have required many of the children being sent back to their previous surroundings. David couldn't do it.

His faith in God to continue his calling for these children is unwavering. We wonder how he will be able to continue to carry this burden but we have wondered this ever since we began our mission with them in 2008!

We look forward to talking about our trip more with you, but wanted you to get this quick summary of the trip and a few pictures. Thank you for everything you do for these children. We know our lives have been enriched since meeting the children almost ten years ago. We pray all who support the children share in feeling God's spirit in caring for His children in the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere.

Ted, Joyce & Wayne