



DAYSRING MINISTRIES

Walking Hand in Hand with the people of the Light & Peace Missions in Haiti

Dayspring West Arrives Home Safely

November 2008

Just as planned, the **Dayspring West mission team**, led by Joan Burkett, arrived home safe and sound after a week of awesome ministry in Haiti. Besides visiting the local hot spots in Bon Repos—the Light & Peace Mission, the L&P Christian School, the L&P Medical Clinic, My Father's House Orphanage, and My Mother's House nursing home—the seven ladies and four gentlemen made the trip over Goat Mountain to visit a Mission church in Grand Beauchamp. Two amazing things happened there.



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My Mother's House
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First it was the trip itself—30 miles in 3 hours. Wow!

Second was the miraculous surgery performed by Dr. Steve Atchley on a 13 year old boy who had an avocado-sized tumor on his head that was protruding over his eyebrow. After setting up his sterile field and anesthetizing the area, Dr. Steve sliced open the growth and cleaned out its bloody contents. He sewed up the scalp and bandaged the head and hopefully our young friend is full recovered. What an awesome experience for all who were involved!

Dr. Steve was also able to answer the prayers of young Max Selphin who has been awaiting heart surgery for several years. Plans are for him to have the surgery in Denver.

Another highlight of the trip was the **First Annual Light & Peace Business Conference**. Joan and the team made wonderful plans to start small businesses that will help sustain families by employing workers from the Mission. The conference included the 11 team members and about 14



Haitian men and women who were interested in starting their own businesses. Micro loans will be provided to those who present good business plans.

Dayspring East Prepares to Leave

Twenty-six 50 lb duffle bags are packed and ready to go. The 13 member team is psyched! Well, most of them are. I'm actually a little apprehensive about my first-ever camping experience. I've never slept in a tent before, and I'm not sure my first time should be on a rainy mountainside in a remote village in Haiti. Trois Mats is actually on the map of Haiti, but I'm not sure even a GPS system could find us!

After visiting family and friends in Bon Repos, Dr. Judy will bring her medical skills to the people in Trois Mats. The little Mission church was washed away in the storm along with the pastor's house and many others. So, the cozy cottage we stayed in last year is now just a pleasant memory. I hope our tenting experience will be just as pleasant.

School Collapses In Haiti's Capital

A Christian school in the slums below Petionville, a well-to-do town on the hillside behind Haiti's capital in **Port-au-Prince**, collapsed, covering approximately 500 of its students with tons of concrete and debris. Recent reports estimated that over 90 students and teachers were killed and over 150 seriously wounded.

Initially, local rescuers and police rushed in, pulling out bleeding students with their bare hands. Then **Doctors Without Borders** arrived and helped rescue 85 people from the wreckage, half of whom had life-threatening injuries. Eventually, the **United Nations peacekeepers** gave assistance to military engineers from **Brazil, Chile, Ecuador**, and **Martinique** along with others from the **Dominican Republic** and the **United States**.

At the scene, frantic and anguished parents searched desperately for their children. The voices of trapped children could be heard crying out for their parents. The area around the school became so crowded with people looking for loved ones that some rescuers had to be brought in by helicopter.

President Rene Preval made several visits to the area and said the disaster was due to government instability and a general disregard for laws, in this case, construction codes. Neighbors said that the school had partially collapsed eight years ago and that the third story was still under construction. The owner of the school and church, **Fortin Augustin**, said that he had built the school himself and that he didn't need an engineer because he had good knowledge of construction. He has since been arrested and charged with involuntary manslaughter for which he could face up to life imprisonment.



News and Notes Around the Mission

The Haiti Relief Fund is still at work, providing cement, sheet metal, food, blankets, seeds and other basic necessities to the people and villages that were washed away in the hurricanes. So far, nine Mission churches have received aid. At least **six churches were completely destroyed and 32 homes were washed away**. Pastor Ronald wrote, "We gave priority to the churches that were completely destroyed, not to rebuild right away, but to give them tents and some animals so they wouldn't be discouraged. The people in the countryside like to have animals. When they have strangers or missionaries visit, they love to kill their best animals to show their happiness." An unbelievable **\$18,672** has been donated by **Dayspring supporters** from across the United States.

May our loving and compassionate God bless all of you who gave so generously.

A **28 ft trailer** is ready to sail with Caribbean Transport Lines to St. Marc, Haiti from Staten Island, NY. It's filled with donated items ranging from rice and beans to a playground set ready to be assembled in the backyard of the new orphanage. The trailer also contains relief goods for the storm victims.

Prayers are needed for Deacon Jacques who holds the keys to every door and closet at the Mission. He has so many keys attached to his belt that he has a hard time holding his pants up! Unfortunately, Brother Jacques has had pneumonia for quite a while and is still recovering from it. The Mission needs him for their Wednesday night Bible Study and for the host of other things that he regularly tends to. Please pray for his swift recovery.

My Mother's House Nursing Home is home to two special widows that are in need of special care. Pastor Ronald said, "In just a short time we see a big difference in the widows at **My Mother's House**. When we took them in they were sick and unhappy, but now when we see them they have a smile on their face and they look very well."
