

Haiti Happenings

“The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him.”

Lamentations 3:25

Shaina Ascone
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Please continue to pray:

- 1. Protection over our people as they serve in Haiti during a time of great instability.**
- 2. For peace and hope as Wilckly and Dee wait for the door to open for them to return to Haiti.**
- 3. For wisdom, clarity, health, energy, and peace for them and all under their leadership.**
- 4. For the means to continue providing for all those under their care in Haiti.**
- 5. For peace for Haiti and its people.**

Dear Family,

Last month I shared some lessons I have been learning on waiting...in essence the lesson of using our waiting time well. Of *doing* something while waiting...not in a frantic, have-to-make-something-work way, but in a hopeful, anticipating-the-best-outcome-no-matter-what way. Believing that God always wants and plans the best for us can help us to keep trusting Him even when something we are deeply desiring has not yet come to fruition. One of the ways we can keep believing is by remembering what He has done for us in the past. In order to give you an opportunity to participate in this new-ish discipline of mine I have chosen to begin sharing some of those remembrances with you all one update at a time. I hope your heart will be touched, and encouraged, as you read my stories of God's work among the people of Haiti in the not-so-distant past... (see next page for Fenando's story)

Continued lessons on waiting...

As I was recently teaching my Sunday School lesson on David I was struck with a new realization...David was given the marvelous gift of knowing his calling at a very young age, yet the enormous burden of being unable to undertake it for many, many years. Talk about waiting!! David has been such a familiar Bible character to me that I haven't often taken the time to examine his life and heart, though his Psalms have been some of my bulwarks in times of distress and despair. This time the acknowledgment of his incredible patience...of waiting on God's timing...deeply convicted me.

For even when we have received what we were so desiring there is always going to be something else we are waiting on. Or, as our human nature often inclines, we are not satisfied with the answer we think we have been waiting for...it is so good that we just keep wanting more. This can happen with even the best gifts...even the gifts we know are directly from God. It happens when we, again, take our focus off the Giver and place it on the gift.

I believe this is what kept David from taking matters into his own hands and trying to speed up the process. He kept his focus on the *Lord*, the *Giver*, and not what was going to be given. Oh, how I long to have that heart of faith and trust...to learn to live out a gratefulness for what I have been given in the present balanced by an attitude of anticipation and hope for the future. May we all learn how to pattern our lives as people after God's own heart.





Fenando

I was only a few weeks into teaching Sunday School in a language I could barely speak. That day a new family came: two little boys and their mother. The youngest boy, from the second he sat in the pew, tried to pick a fight with every other kid in the class, and the most profane words I had ever heard in Creole spewed out of his mouth every other breath. I was beyond overwhelmed, at a loss...he was disrupting the entire class. The next Sunday I came prepared with the only resource I had: stickers. I started handing them out, randomly, sporadically, to every child who was listening, behaving and participating. This little boy, Fenando, wanted a sticker so badly he practically sat on his hands to keep from punching his classmates so he could earn one...just one. I was flabbergasted. It was only a sticker. I soon discovered his deep need for affection and attention when I learned from Dee that his father was a violent alcoholic who regularly beat his mother. He was so angry that they were coming to church that during our revival he gashed her arm with a broken bottle. I began doing all I could to show these two little boys, and their mom, as much love as I possibly could.

When, a few months into them attending our church she asked to be baptized, and then only weeks later the father came asking for permission to marry her and offering to prove he was willing to change we were skeptical, but tried to show mercy. Wilckly gave him a time frame and we waited and watched. The father, Disa, got a job and held it. He stopped drinking. He stopped hanging out with his usual crowd and in the usual places of temptation. He began coming to church, even playing the drums for us at times. I began noticing a change in the entire family. They became, in fact, the first intact family from Carries to attend our church (a least since I joined the mission): father, mother and children all coming together.

In time the church leadership agreed to perform a ceremony. I think most, if not all, of Carries came to the wedding. Everyone was in raptures. The biggest smile of all that night, however, was on Fenando's precious face. His usually dour expression was radically changed. His mommy and daddy were getting married. Their family was complete. This was possibly the first, and certainly the youngest, couple in the village to make the decision to be legally married. They were, and remain, a powerful example of changed hearts and lives.

*With Love in Christ,
Shaina Ascone*

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