

Haití Happenings

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“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God...”

Ephesians 2:19

Dear Family,

Immigration and visas and passports used to be common terms and practices for me. I knew what it was like to be a foreigner, and I knew what it felt like to be completely out of my element, overwhelmed in the beginning by a different language, climate, diet, and way of life. And yet, I also knew the embrace of a people welcoming me into their home and culture, striving to make me feel as comfortable and accepted as possible.

Things in Haiti have not gotten better. In fact, they seem to be worsening. That means the way we do ministry there has shifted significantly, and it also means many people are leaving. The ministry in Haiti continues, but has broadened to include Haitian refugees in the U.S. and the Dominican Republic. Wilckly and Dee and others have been helping some of our people who were in the greatest danger (including some of whose names were actually put on gang “hit lists”) to get to safety. Some of them are even right there in Iowa with the Dorces now!

It has been such a blessing to see them here, safe, and even to reunite with some of them. A little disorienting as well, for I had always only gone to them and their country, not the other way around. Now *they* are the ones out of their element, needing comfort and welcome. Knowing what this feels like has made me much more sympathetic to their plight. However, there is a huge difference in our situations. I left an affluent, developing nation to move their way...they were fleeing a country in chaos, where basic needs were not being met and their lives were directly in peril. We here in the U.S. have no idea what that is like. To *live* in those conditions. To wake every morning unsure if we are going to make it through another day.

Not only should these realizations, that there are people who have suffered through that, now here on our soil finally able to breathe, make us grateful for our own situations, but they should open our eyes and our hearts to a willingness to do something. I am still praying about what that might look like for me, besides simply raising awareness, but it's something to mull over. Gratefulness is vital, but over and over God calls his people throughout Scripture to care for the poor, the orphans, the widows. God sees their plight and He calls us to care, too. To care *actively*. What would that look like in our everyday lives?

If you want more specifics on how you can partner with us as we strive to minister to the Haitian refugees in the U.S. and the D.R. please let me know!

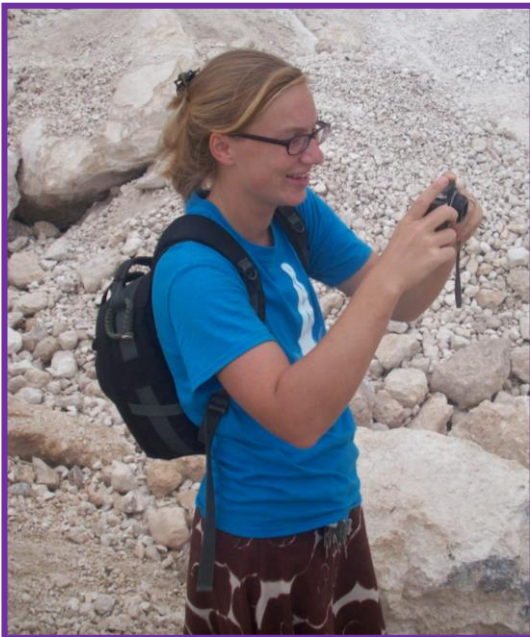
Please continue to pray:

1. Protection over our people as they serve in Haiti during a time of great instability.
2. For open hearts and good relationships established as the ministry grows in the Dominican Republic.
3. For wisdom and clarity as decision are made for people in both ministry locations.
4. For the means to continue providing for all those under their care in Haiti and the DR.
5. For peace for Haiti and its people.



Above: Visiting some of our dearest ones from Haiti who made it here safely after a harrowing journey to escape. Both girls were ones I helped raise/teach while I lived there in Haiti. Right: One of the girls in the above photo when she was much tinier and before she had children of her own!

Below: Remembering what much of my job used to consist of and looking forward to possibly adding it back in in the future! I will be sending out another update soon with more details about what I keep hinting at!



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