

AWAKENHAITI NEWSLETTER

awareness • action • hope



FROM THE HEART OF THE MINISTRY ...

Bonjou from all of us at **AWAKENHAITI!** WOW what a summer! So much has been happening and we thank you for allowing God to use you to support the work of **AWAKENHAITI.**

We have had a jam-packed trip schedule. God has been Good. As you will read, so much has been done in and through the teams of people that have joined us in Haiti.

And our kids are doing great! Our focus continues to be helping them move from surviving to thriving! The definition of thrive, according to thefreedictionary.com, is to make steady progress; prosper and to grow vigorously; flourish. This conveys our passion for these kids. As we look to the not-so-distant future, we are working to establish plans for our older children to give them an opportunity to transition into independent and successful Haitian young adults.

The tent city of Canaan has been another exciting area of focus for **AWAKENHAITI.** A multi-purpose building and a church/school/community center were constructed this summer. As you look across the Canaan area from afar, you can't miss the church building and its wooden cross, standing tall as a monument to our God and an object of hope for the community. **AWAKENHAITI's** activity and vision for Canaan goes far beyond just buildings. Join us on Nov. 20, 2011, to hear more about all that is happening and that is planned for Canaan.

Speaking of Nov. 20 . . . **CONSIDER YOURSELF INVITED and BRING YOUR FRIENDS!** Please join us in Carlisle Brethren in Christ's Auditorium for **AWAKENHAITI's** 2011 Celebration & Benefit. It will be a powerful afternoon of experiencing God through story, video and music! Check out page 7 for details.

Thank you again for your continued support and Joining the Journey!

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DREW KALBACH JOINS AWAKENHAITI IN-COUNTRY TEAM

After spending the summer in Haiti as an **AWAKENHAITI** intern, Drew Kalbach joined the **AWAKENHAITI** team as the Good Samaritan Boys' Home Coordinator through August 2012.

Drew took his first trip to Haiti in July 2010. God started working on him right away, which led him to **AWAKENHAITI's** internship program. Now as the Boys' Home Coordinator, Drew hopes to establish sustainable programming for the boys living in the home. He teaches a computer class once a week in the new computer lab at the home. He also got the boys enrolled in a soccer academy so they can release some of their energy while playing a game they love.

Drew is 22 years old and the youngest of four children. He put his college education on hold to come to Haiti. He has three semesters left to get a degree in business administration from Flagler College in St. Augustine, FL. In the states, Drew enjoys kayaking and playing beach volleyball. In Haiti he loves spending time with the Good Sam boys, and Canaan is one of his favorite places. He also is learning to enjoy running in the smog in Haiti.

We are very thankful to have Drew as part of our team!





HAITI OPERATIONS

Short-term teams
making a significant
impact on many lives

VISION OF AWAKENHAITI COMES TO LIFE

Since opening the **AWAKENHAITI** Guesthouse in December 2010, we have hosted 11 teams serving in Haiti. We have asked these teams to work beside us in fulfilling our purpose; making a significant impact in the lives of those to whom we minister. We have had the privilege of witnessing the vision God gave **AWAKENHAITI** become real.

The 11 teams have:

- Completed yard cleanup at the Good Samaritan Girls' Home
- Completed light construction at the Good Samaritan Girls' Home
- Installed an electrical system at the Good Samaritan Girls' Home
- Completed yard cleanup and improvements at the Good Samaritan Boys' Home
- Completed light construction at the Good Samaritan Boys' Home
- Completed bi-annual medical checkups on the Good Samaritan children
- Completed yard cleanup at Freedom House Bethesda Orphanage
- Planted a garden at Freedom House Bethesda Orphanage
- Completed bi-annual medical checkups on the girls at Freedom House Bethesda Orphanage
- Completed light construction at Freedom House Grace Orphanage
- Completed yard clean up at Freedom House Grace Orphanage
- Completed annual medical screenings on the children at Freedom House Grace Orphanage
- Encouraged, loved and played with the boys and girls in all four homes
- Painted shelters in Canaan
- Distributed rice and beans to families in Canaan
- Distributed hygiene kits to families in Canaan
- Played games with and loved the kids in our Canaan community
- Built a storage and office building in Canaan
- Conducted medical clinics in Canaan
- Taught six medical/health education classes in Canaan
- Visited and prayed with individuals and families in Canaan
- Built a church/school in Canaan
- Painted exterior of church/school building in Canaan
- Built church/school benches in Canaan
- Built an outdoor kitchen for Bethanie School in Canaan
- Hung siding on exterior of Bethanie Church/School building in Canaan
- Ran a children's program at Loving Hands Kindergarten
- Distributed hygiene kits to families from Loving Hands Kindergarten

These are tangible, material things people have done for Haitians. These projects will continue and are good, but more than that, we have witnessed love and encouragement being shown to many people. We have seen relationships being built. We have also observed God moving in a big way in those coming to serve. He has broken people. He has begun molding people. He has healed people. He has **AWAKENED** people to live beyond **SELF** and to begin living for those around them wherever they are. This is really what we are about, changing lives in Haiti and in North America.



Top, future site of Bethanie Church/School in Canaan. Above, Bethanie Church/School almost finished. Right, one teams that worked at Good Samaritan Boys' Home.



GOOD SAMARITAN MINISTRIES UPDATE

The theme for Good Samaritan Ministries is "Surviving to Thriving." The Good Samaritan kids were surviving when we met them several years ago, but thanks to help from sponsors and **AWAKENHAITI's** partnership with Max and Margarett Cazeau, the kids are starting to thrive – and we want that to continue.

At the end of the summer, we unveiled our new sponsorship program for Good Samaritan. Because we want to increase our financial contributions and expand the sponsorship family, we now offer four areas of sponsorship for every child living in one of the Good Sam homes – Food & Water (\$50/month), Daily Living (\$40/month), Schooling (\$35/month) and Transition (\$25/month). We have been very encouraged by the response of our current sponsors, and are excited to welcome a number of new sponsors into the family. The kids are very excited about the opportunity to build relationships with even more people – the more connections for them the better!

Three of our older children began professional school this fall. Phaline started a two-year sub-nursing program, and her twin sister, Phara, is enrolled in a two-year medical lab program. Dania began a one-year cosmetology program – living in a home with 24 other girls provides her many opportunities to practice!

Over the past few months several children have joined our girls' and boys' homes. Chelda, Marlineda, Ketia, Lens and twins Loubens and Loubenson all are doing well in their new environments. We are excited to get to know them better.

Drew Kalbach is the Good Samaritan Boys' Home Coordinator. He is doing a great job building relationships with the boys and they absolutely love him! He has gotten the boys enrolled in a soccer academy. They could school most people on a rocky dirt field in their bare feet; just imagine what they can do playing on grass with cleats! Thank you to the Carlisle Family YMCA for donating many of the cleats for the boys. Drew also set up a computer lab in the boys' home, thanks to some generous donations.

Jeff and Deb Denlinger hold movie nights and monthly birthday parties. Many of the older children are getting involved in ministry, serving with teams when they come. Some of the boys are getting the chance to learn carpentry skills working alongside Jeff, and Deb is teaching the older kids basic computer skills.

It is an exciting time of learning and growth within Good Samaritan Ministries, and we look forward to joining God in whatever he has in store for these amazing children and young adults!



Lens playing soccer.



FREEDOM HOUSE BETHESDA UPDATE



Tremendous growth has occurred at Freedom House Bethesda since the arrival of those first beautiful little girls in October 2006. This growth has taken many forms in the last few months, some that can be seen, but others that can only be felt.

Growth has been practical and concrete in the expansion of the second story and improvements to the property for more courtyard and play areas. But the building expansion is also a direct result of growing partnerships between Dave Lock's Canadian group, **AWAKENHAITI**, Jeff and Deb Denlinger, Matt Reichard and Freedom House Bethesda's many sponsors. Construction, like everything in Haiti, takes more time and work, but with partnering, prayer and patience, the second story is now finished, furnished and waiting for 12 new girls. Hopefully soon, 12 more girls will be rescued from lives of abuse, neglect, abandonment and loneliness. Four of these girls will be chosen by the government, and eight will be chosen by Pastor Martinez Jovin. Not only will the number of girls in the home almost double, new staff will be added as well to meet the growing demands of caring for them.

The new girls will be between ages 4 and 8 years, the same age range the current 13 girls were when they arrived. Obviously, the current girls have grown physically in the past 4 ½ years. However, beyond the physical growth, they have developed a sense of confidence and self, each very different and unique from the other. The girls have also grown as a family. In fact, the sisterly bonds that they now have may be as strong, if not stronger, than their biological family ties.

In Haiti, relationships are valued over many other things. Most importantly, the girls have grown in their relationships with God. Their faith is a direct reflection of the way in which Carma, the house mother, and her staff are godly mentors for the girls. Among their daily routines are prayers for their sponsors and their families. Relationship building has been the main focus for Freedom House Bethesda sponsors in recent months. The teams hosted by the Denlingers have visited Freedom House Bethesda regularly. In addition to helping with medical and dental clinics, painting and other finishing touches to the second story, they have been an awesome conduit for written correspondence between the girls and their sponsors. Through these letters, all of the girls have come to know details of their sponsors and their families. They are thrilled to receive letters and pictures, which they immediately store away in their personalized albums. The girls recently sent letters back to sponsors, taking great pride and enthusiasm to write more than they ever had before...a true testimony to the relationships that have been built.

As all of this growth is taking place, these 13 young ladies are becoming something they never would have imagined 4 ½ years ago. This assortment of neglected, abandoned and lonely little girls has grown into a loving family...within their own home and within the hearts of their sponsors and their families.



Freedom House Bethesda girls in 2006.

FREEDOM HOUSE GRACE UPDATE



So many wonderful things have happened since the last newsletter for the children at Freedom House Grace in Jacmel. We added six boys to our boys' home, now bringing us to 12, and another girl to our girls' home, bringing that total to 27.

Diakon Wilderness Center Flight Program donated bunk beds for the girls. A special thanks to Rob Kivlan and Tom Kemper who flew to Haiti to put together all the beds!

A well has been drilled at the new orphanage, and a filtration system is in place. Thank you to a wonderful non-profit organization, Water for Life, for giving Pastor Abraham, his family and these children the gift of running water. What a wonderful thought to know that clean, fresh drinking water will be readily available to those smiling faces!

In April, a group of special individuals from Canada visited both our girls' and boys' orphanages and performed dental checkups on each of the children. The children were instructed on the importance of cleaning and taking care of their teeth. What a blessing to have a dentist and his assistant visit and love the children for a few days.

One of the little girls, Rebecca, was taken to the hospital in Port-au-Prince on May 31, and on June 5 she had the first of three surgeries. The second was performed Oct. 11, and the third will occur in the next 3-6 months. Healthcare in Haiti is administered in a much different way than in the U.S. and can be rather frustrating at times. God was in control and was watching over this precious little girl, and He had His hand in every step of the process. Please pray for her as her body continues to heal, and for the house mothers who will continue to care for her in this long process.

Team October had a wonderful week building relationships with the girls and boys. While they were there, they also did physicals on all 39 children and built tables, benches and shelves for the newly rented boys' home. They also screened in the windows and doors at the girls' home, installed ceiling fans and put in an inverter system. Now the girls have power 24 hours a day.

So many positive things have been happening in Jacmel. God has continued to bless the ministry, and we are sure He has more great things to come!



View on the way to Jacmel.

AWAKENHAITI TRIP EXPERIENCE

Nicole Grant



BECOMING A SERVANT OF GOD'S HEART, NOT MY OWN

For years I had felt called to Haiti, so much so that I felt something sinking inside of me when I heard about the devastation, the children and the teams that were sacrificing to be the hands and feet of Christ. But, prior to that moment when everything fell, Haiti hadn't fit into my plan. How could I keep things moving if I took unpaid time from work, and dipped into my wedding savings (now, no longer needed when he came to me one day and said he didn't think he ever loved me)? Now that all of that was gone, God had a real "come-to-Jesus" meeting with me; it was a real honest, dirty look at my life. This whole life I created revolved around me performing, trying to be perfect, and it still was not enough. That was an "oh wow. . ." moment for me. I could not perform enough to be loved.

It was just after Christmas 2010 when I heard about a trip to Haiti. I could feel that same pit in my stomach each time I heard about the trip, knowing God was calling me. And then, the trip filled. In the weeks that followed, a spot opened up for the chance to serve in Haiti, and here I was, clueless as to what was going on, stripped of my comforts and committing to an experience with a tent city and orphanages of Haiti. Now, take a step back for a minute – You know I was feeling completely ill-prepared, and a little crazy; I was hearing God's voice, paying for my trip with money I had set aside for another life and committing to a trip that I knew would amplify all of the change that needed to be done in my heart.

It required a constant effort to lay down my walls, be vulnerable to the experiences God had created for me and really work through it in a way that would give purpose to the cleansing fire I had just walked through. He was making me new, and I wanted it. It was like breathing for the first time, feeling warmth for the first time, when I would cut barbed wire from the orphans play space and watch them dance in that space after school, or hug Judith, a young woman at the girls' home.

I began to see that God really loves me, that it's not a one-way street. He wants me to feel joy, He wants me to live out loud and He wants to give me the worthy desires of my heart. I learned that anytime there is growth towards God, there will be resistance. Sometimes that resistance is from us, fighting the fears we could never really change, never really give up our dreams. Sometimes it's the darkness of the enemy, having us doubt that where we will end this journey is better for the sacrifices that we make along the way. Either way, I came home from that week in Haiti feeling suffocated, sick and torn from the inside out.

Before I left, I saw holes; holes in everything – work life, car rides, prayer time, Bible devotions and evenings of magazines and TV at home. I was OK with a lifeless routine because it gave me comfort in what I had lost, a false feeling of joy that I could have a new, just-as-regimented schedule by myself. There were things that weren't right about each part of my life. Either I wasn't really present while completing those tasks, or I saw them as just that: tasks. My life was a to-do list of what was next, only coming after what was checked off as accomplished. I made lists on little post-its of things I had already done on extra rough days.

After crying the whole way to work, I realized I wasn't crying solely out of a longing to be on a gated truck, riding the potholes to the orphanage, shoveling stones and painting cubby holes. I was crying for the life God allowed me to see there, for Haitian life, the changing lives of my team members and the transforming life in myself. Sure, I miss the sun (minus the burns), the community of my greatest friends and new family, the singing, the truck rides and the meals of fellowship together. But these things all represent something so much greater. This wasn't a trip. This wasn't an eight-day short-term solution for my short-term desires. I did not go to feel good or to rack it up on my list of places traveled, to come back with pictures and return to pre-trip "normal."

People in my life have said, "But it was just a week. You always feel funny getting back into your life after vacation." But I didn't feel "funny," I felt ROCKED. My life changed, a long-term change that I still can't take complete inventory of. I asked for that, and God was faithful. I asked that He break my heart for what breaks His. I am broken. I think I was crying partially out of praise; celebration in the promise that He will never lie and He will never run. This was not just a trip, but it became part of me, part of my walk and part of my eternal story (what will get my heart from this life to eternal life).

I'm still not quite sure what to do with ALL of this. I think that's part of God's desire for my heart – that I give up my plans for things, seeking His guidance and His will, because I am created as a child of God, and a servant of His heart, not my own.



AWAKENHAITI strives to be the hands and feet of Christ by serving those in need. It is our passion to transform lives by providing true hope for today and eternity.

We hope to transform lives by awakening people to a broader perspective of faith. **AWAKENHAITI** also strives to break the cycle of poverty in Haiti by providing relief, spiritual support, education, skills training, employment opportunities, and small business start-up support to the country's orphans and impoverished population. We seek to accomplish this by promoting awareness, inspiring and enabling action, and providing true hope.

Our entire U.S.-based team serves on strictly a volunteer basis. **AWAKENHAITI** employs a full-time in-country missionary family to lead and provide oversight of our operations there.

There are many ways for individuals, families, and businesses to get involved. If you would like information about ways to partner with us, or if you are interested learning more about organizing a trip to Haiti, please visit our website www.awakenhaiti.org, e-mail us at info@awakenhaiti.org, or send written correspondence to P.O. Box 951, Carlisle, PA 17013. All gifts are tax deductible.

*Join the journey...
it just might change your life!*

Jeff & Deb Denlinger, Operations Directors – Haiti

Doug & GERALYN Denlinger, Operations Directors – United States

Jeff & Michelle Bell, Directors of Sponsor Relations – Good Samaritan Ministries

Tony & Cindy Brandt, Directors of Trips

Marv & Kelly Diller, Directors of Construction & Special Projects

Bryan & Amy Gobin, Directors of Finance

Matt & Julie Reichard, Directors of Sponsor Relations – Freedom House Bethesda, Freedom House Grace & PWH

Robin Richardson, Director of Ministry Development

CONTACT US AT

P.O. Box 951
Carlisle, PA 17013
E-mail: info@awakenhaiti.org

VISIT US ONLINE AT

www.awakenhaiti.org



AWAKENHAITI
CELEBRATION
& BENEFIT

Carlisle BIC Auditorium

1155 Walnut Bottom Road, Carlisle PA

11 20 2011

3-5PM

**You & your family & friends are invited
to celebrate AWAKENHAITI's
year of ministry in Haiti**

Be inspired, encouraged & challenged
by the stories of what God is doing through AWAKENHAITI

Live performances by
Carlisle BIC worship teams

Please join us for a reception immediately following the program. Enjoy light hors d'oeuvres & talk with AWAKENHAITI's in-country staff – Jeff and Deb Denlinger, Vanessa Brandt & Drew Kalbach.

A special offering will be collected, and we will share various ways you can further support the ongoing mission of AWAKENHAITI.

100% of donations are tax deductible
and will directly benefit the various ministries of AWAKENHAITI.