



"If you begin to live life looking for the God that is all around you, every moment becomes a prayer" ~Frank Bianco

# Hope & Haiti

November 2012

Here in Haiti time has it's own way of being measured. In many ways each day can feel extremely long like you feel each and every single second passing by. And yet at the same time it goes incredibly quickly. Rarely does an event or church service start on time and by that it isn't abnormal at all for something to start hours late. I feel like I've just blinked and it is already November. When and how did that happen?! My initial goal of sending a newsletter every 3-4 months, well, perhaps I'm becoming more Haitian than I thought! I keep telling myself that getting something sent late is better than not sending it at all!

I was blessed to spend some time in Indiana this Fall and LOVED getting to experience some of the Fall activities and foods. Living on a Caribbean Island is amazing when I see facebook posts about snow and ice, but missing out on carmel apples, apple cider, pumpkin carving, and just lots of time with family are much harder to handle. I was able to spend time with my newest niece Ava Eileen (just in case you need help connecting the dots..my full name is Brooke Eileen..), went to Beaver Dam preschool with my niece Caitlin, went to volleyball games, and joined my oldest niece for lunch at school. Having no specific schedule and time to just go and do whatever my family was doing was *amazing*. Being able to step back and relax—was much needed.

I love living and serving in Haiti-but at times it is overwhelming. The last several months have seemed to be more emotionally hard. The patients in the clinic have been sicker than normal, the children smaller than even I could think possible, and I've just seen and felt how unjust so many things are for my friends. The more I sit, watch,



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and become a part of their lives the more I realize just how hard, strong, and resilient my friends are. They have literally nothing (by the world's standards) and yet they are happy. They have not enough for today and nothing for tomorrow and yet they choose to have faith in Him. They choose to sing praises to Him as they wash by hand each piece of clothing and as they carry each bucket of water back and forth to the well. They choose to remain devoted and connected in their relationship with Christ because they "get it." They truly get that they don't just "need" Him, but that they *need* Him. When I'm in the States I feel like everything around me is happening at such a crazy speed—it's honestly a lot for my head to keep up with. Taking time to step back, reflect, and refuel is much needed for my soul but there is also nothing better than returning home to Haiti and knowing that God has called me to love and serve here.

One of my top quotes of 2012 has been "If you begin to live life looking for the God that is all around you, every moment becomes a prayer." This is my prayer for you. That as the "crazy" of the Holiday season begins you will choose to look for the God that is literally all around you. That instead of getting caught up in the latest item the media has you convinced you need, you will look for those around you that are truly in *need* and perhaps start some new family traditions. I can't thank you enough for the prayers and financial support you give me. There are so many days when I'm walking the road to the village that I just stop and think, this person has never even stepped foot in Haiti and yet s/he is here and is truly making an impact. Thank you for loving me and allowing me to follow this call-- Love, Brooke



### Back to School!

October 1<sup>st</sup> was the first day for the 2012/2013 school year in Haiti! The children here *love* school. Most of the children will say they wish they had school on Saturday's too...sort of different from the students in the U.S.! At school each child is given personal attention—s/he is poured into and loved on. They receive a hot meal each school day and are also taught that it is ok to have hopes and dreams. They learn math, history, science, French, bible, and SO much more. School is about and for the children—it is a space that is dedicated to truly raising up a generation of leaders, nurses, teachers, and the list goes on and on. I LOVE when the first day of school starts and the campus is brought back to life by lots of energetic kiddos! Thank you for praying for each of these children as they start another school year!

**Thank you for both your prayer and financial support! Below are ways to financially partner with me as I'm living in Haiti—every amount helps no matter how big or small. Thank you for making it possible for me to live and serve here!**



**-One-time gift:** Please write all checks to: **Nehemiah Vision Ministries** (tax deductible). In the memo line write **Intern 3** (my name can NOT be anywhere on the check) and mail to: Debra Smalley 7014 West Yant St., Silver Lake, IN. 46982. To make a one time gift online, please read below (monthly support) and follow the directions but instead of selecting monthly you will have the option of selecting one time gift.

**-Monthly support:** I am committed to serving here with NVM for the next year, but also know that I will remain wherever God calls me until He redirects my path. If you are interested in supporting me financially on a monthly basis please go to the following website (<http://www.nehemiahvisionministries.org/donationtype.aspx?t=missionaries>) and follow the steps. Or you can go to [www.nehemiahvisionministries.org](http://www.nehemiahvisionministries.org) and click (top left of screen) "donate now" and then select "missionary support" from here you will be able to select my name and fill in the remainder of the information. If you have any questions please let me know.