



"We must be willing to let go of the life we have planned so as to have the life that is waiting for us."
-E.M. Forster

Hope & Haiti

November 2017

Hello! In so many ways I can't get passed the idea that I have now lived in Haiti for six years. It has been six years of living in translation. Six years of learning culture only to realize I have SO much more to learn. Six years of living off of financial support from so many of you. Six years of knowing the day to day of this life really isn't possible without each and every single prayer from you. It has been filled with tears of laughter and tears of pure brokenness. In many ways I feel like the Lord broke me down and has slowly used each and every momma, child, story, and moment to slowly but surely reshape my relationship with Him.

I have the complete privilege of partnering with the mothers of the children in the malnutrition program. Day after day I hear their stories which are filled with so much brokenness and yet also so much hope. I have learned what it means to listen to more than just the words that are being said and actually hear what the heart of the story is. I have had to learn the fine line of when to hold a mother accountable versus when that momma might just need someone to embrace her and tell her she is truly worthy and that I am honored to join her on this journey of fighting for her sweet child. I have the privilege of watching mommas redefine themselves as they grow in confidence. I get to walk this broken and oh so muddy road with them and it's not a spot or position I take lightly.

In the afternoons I slip on my sandals and walk to the village to sit and visit with the kiddos and other adults in the area. I feel like so much of life here is about the little moments. It isn't about telling the big story but rather the muddy stuff that is in the middle. The part where conversation doesn't come easily and yet you continue to show up day after day. Many afternoons are spent huddled in a small piece of shade rocking a sweet little one that just needs to be held for a bit. Some moments are spent listening to a momma share the brokenness that fills the relationship she has with the



Prayer requests!

**November and December are always hard months spiritually in our area. Please pray for the believers in our church to stand strong and to be a witness to those within the voodoo community. Pray for the "chains" in Chambrun to be broken.*

**For continued growth in community with other staff members and with new staff coming in 2018.*

**School is back in session and the students know how much of a privilege it is to be able to go to school. Pray they would be able to absorb the lessons being taught in school and that they would have a passion for learning. Please pray for the children who are unable to attend school- that they would have people in their lives to continue to love and encourage them as they learn in ways that aren't in the standard classroom.*

(continued) father of her children. There is so much messiness and yet right there in the middle of the mud is this beauty that is hard to even put words to. Sitting in the home of a woman who is doing everything she can to provide for her children and yet is praying for me and asking me how I am doing is humbling in the most crazy way. Sitting in a home and holding a sweet baby boy born just hours before is a moment that I just want to bottle up because oh so many prayers were answered. Getting to hug that new momma and speak love and encouragement to her makes all the mud from everything else all of a sudden seem less deep. I'm finding that living this life is just exactly that- it's learning to simply live alongside my friends here. And in the mundane of everyday life there are pieces of complete beauty and joy.

I've spent a lot of this last year at a loss for words. Partially because in so many ways this place has become my home and sometimes the crazy just starts to feel normal. I also know though that if I'm being a little more honest it's because I've really struggled putting into words some of the moments and stories. I so wish you were sitting here with me covered in sweat (oh has it been HOT and humid!) and pee (tis the season of LOTS of new babies!) and watching and listening as the Lord is truly working in this community. I wish you could smell the smells and sit and hear the chatter of the children as they run around the yard. Sharing this place is something that sometimes just doesn't come out as easily in words and yet I feel like the Lord has a special way of using it to remind us of Him.

I want to thank you for joining with me on this journey. Back in 2011 I never dreamed I would be coming to you once again asking you to continue to support me both financially and in prayer in 2017/2018. I never dreamed that this place would become my home and the people my family and dear friends. It's very humbling to be coming to you once again asking you to join me on this journey and in other ways I can't imagine this life without you on it with me. So simply put I want to say "thank you." Thank you for the daily sacrifices you make to make this life possible for me. Thank you for the notes and messages you send to encourage me as I live this life. Thank you for asking the hard questions even when I sometimes struggle to answer them. And thank you for learning the names of my kiddos even when it's hard to pronounce them. It's all these little things and so many more that truly help to "carry" me when life is heavy and days are long. Even though I never dreamed I would be living this life six years later I can't help but feel completely thankful that this is the life I have been called to. I pray that this holiday season is one filled with so many special moments for you and your loved ones! Love, Brooke



Staying Connected!

*Financial Support:

-Mail check to:

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Check written to: Nehemiah Vision Ministries

Memo line: Intern 3

-Online donation:

[www.nvm.org/get-](http://www.nvm.org/get-involved/invest/financial/staff-support/)

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-Select under staff support Brooke Smalley.

You will also be able to select a one time or monthly donation.

*Blog: brookesmalley.blogspot.com

*Facebook: [brooke smalley](https://www.facebook.com/brooke-smalley)

Instagram: [smalleybrooke](https://www.instagram.com/smalleybrooke) (my instagram is updated much more often than fb/blog).

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Recently the students and leaders of our children's church were given the opportunity to lead the main church service. This meant that the children would be responsible for everything from greeting people as they entered the church to leading worship and even giving the message. The students and their adult leaders worked so hard for weeks before preparing for each person's part in the service. The energy and dedication they had to leading the service was something that truly made the morning extra special. I loved sitting back and just watching the students use the gifts the Lord has blessed them with. One of the older student leaders gave the message and in the end shared his personal testimony of how lost he was and yet how faithful the Lord has been in his life and how He has used this community to guide and direct him. It's easy to get caught up in the worries of the day to day events and wondering what the ministry will look like down the road. And yet in the Sunday service it was like the Lord gave me a glimpse of what is to come. A glimpse of hope that this next generation isn't going to just sit back waiting but rather they are going to run after the plans the Lord has for their lives. As I sat there I couldn't help but be so proud because this is what it is all about. I pray that as an organization and community we love and care for the students as they continue to grow in their faith and that our church is a place that will continually draw in the children in our area.