



"Faith is the strength by which a shattered world shall emerge into the light."
-Helen Keller

Hope & Haiti

July 2014

Hello! I pray that you are doing well and surviving the heat and humidity of summer! Right now I am completely jealous of the sweet corn, strawberries, and blueberries that you are getting to enjoy! I'm trying to tell myself that I really never liked them anyways, but for some reason I'm having a hard time of actually convincing myself!

I am not sure how this happened but on September 1st I will have lived in Haiti for three years! Three years ago I came to you saying that I felt the Lord was leading me to move to Haiti for just a year. In many ways I was excited and ready to go and be the hands and feet of Christ. I was full of energy and oh was I ever naïve about what life would really be like living on a little island in the Caribbean. The last (almost) three years have literally been like a roller coaster ride of emotions and experiences.

There have been moments that I have absolutely hated living in Haiti. The injustice I see daily is suffocating. The lack of resources and the difficulty it takes for patients to receive the medical care they so desperately need is beyond difficult and honestly next to impossible. Patients in Haiti die from illnesses that are minor and preventable just a few miles across the ocean. I've held toddlers that weighed less than my niece weighed at birth. I've sat and cried with mommas who lost their newborn babies just days after delivery. Yet still one of the hardest things for me is that I know the cry of hunger. This isn't a cry of a child needing a snack or because he is tired, but rather because this child hasn't eaten for days. Eating a daily meal isn't a given here, but rather a luxury for some. Learning to live in another culture and country is easily summed up as being quite messy at times.

I've also had countless moments that have caused me to fall in love with this country and its people. I have watched as mommas do absolutely everything to provide for their children.

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Prayer requests!

-Please pray for the school children who are now on summer break. Many of the school children eat only a meal per day consistently when school is in session. Summer break can be hard for many of the children and their families.

-Please pray for wisdom and guidance in knowing when to help and when I should step back. I desire to empower my friends.

-For the community of American staff living and serving with NVM. Please pray that we would come together as a team to serve. And that we would each have the needed personal time to refuel and become re-energized.

(cont.) They have taken children who barely have life and literally nursed them back to health. I've watched as communities of women have surrounded each other to provide what another person needs. I've been given gifts of cherries, mangoes, avocados, meals, and the list is literally endless. I have sat in homes and held little newborns that are just hours old. I've had the privilege of watching those babies grow and thrive. Nothing melts my heart more than watching everyone fall in love with a new little one. The reality of this life is messy, but it is a beautiful mess.

So here I am, ready to start year four. I am much more broken and tired than I was three years ago. I'm also more in love with this place and my beautiful friends and family that I serve with here. I'm excited to see just what the Lord has in store for this next year! Below are two ways for you to support me while I continue to live and serve in Haiti.

***Prayer support-** I can't tell you just how much I truly appreciate your prayers. There are so many days when I literally feel them. There are these moments when everything feels so broken and lost and yet I feel supported and loved. I also appreciate the emails, Facebook messages, and cards you send. To say that you make me feel loved is a complete understatement!

***Financial support-** Donations may be made as a one-time gift or monthly and paid either online or by mailing a check.

-Online: Visit the web address below. You will be able to select "Brooke Smalley" and then enter the donation amount and frequency (either a one-time gift or monthly).

<https://www.nvm.org/get-involved/invest/financial/staff-support/>

-Checks made to: Nehemiah Vision Ministries

Memo line: Intern 3 (please do NOT write my name on the check)

Mailed to: Debra Smalley 7014 W. Yant St., Silver Lake, IN. 46982

One thing I am constantly amazed of is how the Lord provides. And how the Lord has used you to place me in Haiti. Each year when I start writing this newsletter I get a little nervous that this will be the year the support doesn't come in. And yet, it does each and every year. So thank you, thank you for supporting me both financially and through prayer. Thank you for following the call God has placed on your heart and for loving and praying for my Haitian friends that you have never even met.

Love, Brooke



Malnutrition

Malnutrition is something that has impacted me in so many different ways. In one way it has truly broken me and caused me to question so very much. In other ways it has been such an encouragement and a place that I truly have had the opportunity to watch the Lord perform miracles. We have a malnutrition program in our clinic. The children that are admitted into our program have appointments every two weeks. These children are diagnosed with either moderate or severe acute malnutrition. During these appointments the children have their measurements taken and they receive education on nutrition. The children are supplied with a fortified rice, whole milk or infant formula, and a medically fortified peanut butter paste, Plumpy 'Nut. This product has literally changed the lives of so many children. The children that are admitted into the program weigh barely anything and are literally just skin and bones. It is amazing that after just a few months they become chunky and start to progress developmentally. Toddlers who have no energy to even sit all of a sudden are learning to walk! Children who never smiled or talked are all of a sudden happy and giggling. I would love to have you join us in prayer for these children! The parents and caretakers fight for their children in a way that literally humbles me. If you would like to hear more stories and specific prayer requests, please let me know and I can add you to a Facebook group we have for the program!



Creole

Learning another language has been quite the humbling experience. It's honestly like going back to being a toddler, only you are an adult. I remember the first few months I lived in Haiti and just how overwhelmed I was at even hearing Creole. I quickly learned that in order to learn Creole I had to be willing to make a fool of myself and to be ok with being laughed at. Lots and lots of language mistakes would be required before I would ever be able to have conversations with my friends. Learning a new language also meant learning a new culture, which was no easy task. There was a moment in Onaville when a man told me I talked like a rat. *Thankfully* there was an interpreter nearby that quickly let me know this was a huge compliment and not at all an insult! There are moments when I'm shocked at how much I can now understand or by how my mouth just seems to spit out the right words. By no means am I fluent in Creole, and yet I know enough to get myself into lots of trouble. Currently my mind has a more difficult time trying to change back and forth between English and Creole. There are many days that I feel very fluent in "Crenghish" which can be humorous! Learning a new language has taught me a lot about patience and humility. In order to have meaningful conversations I have to actually listen and focus. It has helped to slow down the "always busy" side of me and has helped me to focus in on what is more important. I am thankful that He has blessed me with friends who are eager to teach and who are gracious with me!