



"Joy is a mystery because it can happen anywhere, anytime, even under the most unpromising circumstances, even in the midst of suffering with tears in its eyes." -Buechner

Hope & Haiti

November 2015

Hello!

I hope that you are doing well and enjoying everything that the fall season brings with it! It's still sunny, humid, and in the 90's everyday here so by no means are our leaves changing colors or are we getting things ready for snow!

Several months ago, I read a quote that literally spoke to my heart and I wanted to share it with you. I felt that it really summarized what I have struggled to put into words over the last four years.

"You will never be completely at home again, because part of your heart will always be elsewhere. That is the price you pay for the richness of loving and knowing people in more than one place." – Miriam Adeney

I have always struggled with transition. I remember how hard it was leaving for college and then moving to a new city to start a job. It took me months to finally find a church that felt like home to me and then many more to actually become involved there. Finding a "home" in new places isn't easy. The part of the quote that literally brought tears to my eyes though was "that is the price you pay for the richness of loving and knowing people in more than one place."

Oh the *richness* of knowing people in more than one place. How I long to be a part of my friend's and family's lives back home in Indiana. I desire to go to my niece's dance recitals and basketball games. I want them to grow up knowing that I truly am their favorite aunt! And yet, this life that I'm called to has completely changed the picture that I always had for my life.

I've said it over and over but the people of Haiti are what keep me here. It's the women that have radically changed who I am. It's the children who have captured my heart. I have been given this spot in their lives that is so very precious. They have let me in and that isn't something I take for granted. They have allowed me to



Prayer Requests

- For all of my little school aged friends to have the ability to learn their lessons and that they would have a desire to truly excel in school.
- For wisdom in knowing when to encourage and when to show tough love to some of the parents/caregivers in the malnutrition program. Finding a balance is hard and yet is critical to the child's success.
- For ears to hear and understand the stories I'm told. And for my eyes to be observant to things that aren't being physically said. Culturally there is so much that goes on beyond simply speaking Creole.
- For wisdom in knowing which of my little friends needs extra love and encouragement each day.

(continued) become a part of their families and that is something that I will always cherish. I can't begin to understand the amount of pressure and stress some of these women are under trying to raise their children and provide for them. They willingly share their stories with me and their stories cause me to seek the Lord because that is the only place I can find any peace and hope for them. I wish so much you were able to sit with me in their homes as I visit. I wish you were able to see just how amazing and strong these women truly are. They are so much more than just a third world statistic.

There is something to be said about this *richness* of loving people right where you are at. It has taken me four years to realize that I can't be in two places at once. I can't be the aunt that is at all the school activities and still spend my afternoons with my children in the village. It's physically and honestly, emotionally impossible. Yet I'm learning I can learn to love and serve well in the moments where I am at right now. When I'm in Haiti I can learn to be completely present and faithful. And when with my nieces (and soon a nephew!) I can be present and spend every second possible loving on them. Learning to be faithful and present isn't something that comes natural to me or probably most people. And yet, there is a *richness* that comes from truly loving people in more than one place. As broken as it can all feel it is truly a beautiful thing and worth it.

Because of your faithfulness and generosity through prayer and financial giving I have been able to live in Haiti for the last four years. I can't thank you enough for joining me on this journey. I don't take for granted the sacrifices you make in order for all of this to be possible. I typically struggle with writing the fall newsletter because this is when need to I ask for you to recommit in joining me financially and in prayer. In many ways you are getting the short end of the stick because I'm the one that is being blessed with living this life here in Haiti. I'm the one that gets to hear the stories from my friends and I get to receive all the hugs and kisses from my littlest friends. Please know that I think of you often and that I pray for you as I'm walking the road to the village and as I greet my little friends. You aren't here physically, but in so many other ways you are.

I pray that you have a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas season. I pray that you are able to draw closer to Him as you spend time with friends and family. And I also pray that as 2016 is just around the corner you are able to focus and follow where the Lord is calling you to over the next season! Love, Brooke



Staying connected!

***Instagram-** smalleybrooke

***Facebook-** brooke smalley

***Blog-** brookesmalley.blogspot.com

***Email-** brookes_00@yahoo.com

***Financial Support:**

-Checks written to:

Nehemiah Vision Ministries

Memo Line: Intern 3

Mail to:

Brooke Smalley

7014 W. Yant St. Silver Lake, IN. 46982

***Online financial support:**

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

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

-Select under staff support Brooke Smalley and then if a one time or monthly donation.

***Prayer Support:**

-Thank you for joining with me by praying for not only myself but for the ministry I serve with and for all of my little friends here. I consider it an honor to have been given the opportunity to live and serve here and I know that without the prayer support and encouragement from you this wouldn't be possible. Thank you for your prayers!



discovery

Every Friday my older kiddos come to campus for Brigade (Boy scout/girl scout/AWANA type of activity). While the older kids are at Brigade three younger children come to my house to play. We build block towers and create masterpieces with crayons while in the house and of course hot dogs and popcorn are involved too. The kids always love going out and playing on the playground on campus as well. Towards the end of summer a team came and worked long hours to help transform a once uneven dirt field into a level soccer field that has grass! This week I told the kids we were going on an adventure and as soon as we got to the grass I had them take off their shoes. Rose and Natamara instantly started running (more like hopping) through the grass while Davidson claimed it hurt his feet and refused to move from my side. The girls couldn't believe how soft it was and started rolling all over the ground. Davidson yelled at them that he would be telling their mothers that they were rolling on the ground=) We (everyone but Davidson..) had so much fun running around chasing a ball and honestly just collapsing on our backs in the "forest" as the girls kept calling it. Even though this space will eventually be a soccer field, for an afternoon this little oasis became a spot for my kiddos to run and explore. And a place to laugh and experience grass for the first time.