



“He has shown you, o man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” Micah 6:8

Hope & Haiti

March 2013

Hello! I hope this newsletter finds you enjoying the last few weeks of winter! The photos and comments about the cold on Facebook have all left me super thankful to be living in the Caribbean! It is currently “dry” season here, so that means it is really dusty (doesn’t rain for weeks at a time) and a bit “cooler” with temperatures in the low 90’s with very little humidity. I am trying to enjoy the last few weeks of “cooler” weather before the warmer summer months return!

The last few weeks have been busy and honestly just emotionally hard. I have felt like I’ve been on an emotional rollercoaster and many days haven’t been able to pinpoint exactly why. A friend sent me this quote and it wasn’t until after reading it that I truly realized just why I was feeling overwhelmed. “Living in a Third World country makes me feel like I am emptying the ocean with an eyedropper. And just when I have about a half a cup full of water, it rains...love is the reason I just keep filling my little eyedropper, keep filling it up and emptying my ocean one drop at a time. I’m not here to eliminate poverty, to eradicate disease, to put a stop to people abandoning babies. I’m just here to love.” ~Katie Davis. After I read this quote I realized the reason I was struggling was because I was mentally trying to process or fix the “ocean” of things around me. I was placing each thing on my heart instead of turning it over to *His*.(continued)



Staying connected!

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I love hearing from you!
Thank you for your prayers
and support!

(continued) He has called me here to love, not to solve all the problems of Haiti. He has called me here to be faithful and to follow Him.

This morning as I walked to Chambrun my prayer was that I would simply love. I wouldn't focus on all the little details in front of me, but that I would simply enjoy each moment with each of my little friends. When I arrived in the village I saw that the children had assembled some sort of a "house" and play food (made from mud, sticks, etc) was going to be prepared shortly. I found a piece of tire to sit on and quickly tried to convince some of the children for some "money", so I could buy some food. Some of the children sneakily gave me money (little wrappers) and others made me earn it by walking to the well to help carry water. It wasn't long before I could "smell" the rice, beans, and sausages cooking. I watched as the children ran to gather plates and bottles and laughed because I knew I would have to pretend to eat and enjoy each and every bite of this food.

These are the moments I wish I could capture and put in a bottle! The non-stop chatter from the children, the feel of child after child climbing on and off my lap, the smells, and all the other little details. In these moments it is so easy for me to get lost in the fun and to just simply love. Turning things over to Him isn't my first instinct and yet I'm finding out (the hard way of course!) that when I do even the seemingly impossible things around me aren't that overwhelming or impossible at all. Thank you for your prayers and for following along as I continue to live and serve here.

Love,
Brooke



Healthy 2013

After I returned to Haiti in December I decided it was time to make some "healthy" decisions for 2013. I started to realize that I had fallen into a routine that wasn't maintainable long term. It is so easy to get lost in the shuffle here with teams coming and going on campus. It's taken awhile but I've worked at setting some personal boundaries that leave more space for doing things that I used to love doing. I bought a Kindle when I was in the States so now I have the option of reading again! Some of us have started cooking a few meals each week- I love cooking and we can be more creative when cooking for just four people instead of forty or more. And one of my favorite changes is that the American staff on campus started going to an English speaking church. It takes us about an hour to get there but it is so worth it. I LOVE the worship and being able to listen and completely understand a message without constantly trying to translate it in my mind. This is my home and slowly but surely I'm finding different ways to keep "fueled" both spiritually and in just the fun aspects of life.



Little Miracles

On my blog I introduced you to a family I met in our clinic here at NVM. The parents already had three other daughters when the mother (39yrs old) found out she was pregnant. She knew she was having twins (ultrasound) but the third was a complete surprise! The triplets were born at *home* up in the mountain. The girls are now a year old and although they are small they are thriving and doing really well. This family is the definition of the word *miracle* in so many different ways. Part of my job here in Haiti is coordinating the medical teams that come to serve with NVM. Just recently I was able to take a team from NY up the mountain to serve in the home area of the triplets. We ran the medical clinic in a small church that the triplets uncle is the pastor of. I love that the medical team was able to help this church minister to the people in the community in a very practical way.