

Inspire-Instruct-Involve The Next Generation Worldwide

APRIL NEWSLETTER 2014

Finally Home!

I first met Edline (Analise) and Edithe (Maggie) just two weeks after their mother died in 2008. They were 8 and 5 at the time. A good samaritan from the village, Mona, took the girls into her home to care for them. We unofficially "adopted" the girls then, bringing them clothes, shoes, toys and school supplies on my frequent trips to Haiti. By Fall 2009, the girls were calling me Pappi. They began asking me to put them in my suitcase and bring them to Miami with me. In September 2010, Jennifer traveled to Haiti with me to meet the girls. We officially began the adoption process then to bring the girls into our family. We would never have imagined it would take until December 2012 to complete our adoption in Haitian court, and at that point it was unfathomable that it would take another 15 months to get their Haitian passports and US visas. Three and a half years... but the girls are finally home. Our family is together at last!



A BIG DAY FOR THE HOLLIDAYS!

It was hard to really believe it was actually happening! I spoke to Pastor Wiljean on Monday, March 31st, and he told me that I could come to Haiti that Thursday, April 3rd, to get the girls. Their US visas were completed. Their travel documents from the Haitian government would be ready Thursday. The finish line was in sight. I booked our flights...

after meetings all day Wednesday, I drove down to Ft. Lauderdale, got up the next morning for a 6am flight to Port-Au-Prince... drove around the city for 4 hours collecting our paperwork... then back to the airport for our 4pm flight home. At 6pm, the girls cleared US Immigration and became US Citizens... at 10pm, we arrived home to a joyous celebration! ↑



MAGGIE & ANALISE: On the plane for our flight home... we flew Jet Blue, so the girls each had video screens to watch Dora the Explorer while sipping Sprite :-)



SISTERS IN HAITI: Marisa was at Open Door with our church over Spring Break, connecting with her new sisters just two weeks before they came home.



NEW NAMES: The girls have been telling us for a year that they wanted new names when they came to America... they chose Analise (Edline) and Maggie (Edithe).

LAUNCHING DISCIPLE MAKING MOVEMENTS



GYI Leaders / Ephesus Library

GYI ~ ITZMIR, TURKEY ~ 3/16-23

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My trip to Turkey for the Global Youth Initiative (GYI) leadership meetings started with a bang... literally! My initial flight from Orlando to Atlanta experienced more excitement than you want on a flight when a loud bang startled us... and then shock and concern filled our hearts when we learned that a 4x8 section of the wing had ripped off the plane in flight! What a relief when we finally landed in Atlanta.



Our meetings in Itzmir (modern day Smyrna) brought together leaders from North America, Latin America, Europe, Africa, Asia and Australia. How wonderful to hear reports from each region about the disciple making efforts and the miracles God is doing in changing lives around the globe.

I was humbled to meet staff from Campus Crusade that serve in a country where there are only 5,000 believers among a population of 75,000,000. The harvest is great, but the workers are few.

In India, Benjamin is leading a church planting movement that has seen 4,000 churches planted over the past 5 years.

A highlight of the trip was our tour of Ephesus and Miletus, where we focused on Paul's investment in leaders there as he planted churches and launched disciple making movements.

Next April, GYI will gather 250 leaders from around the globe together for the GYI Leadership Summit in Israel.

Sonlife MOVEMENT FORUM

I invited ministry friends from around the country to come to Orlando March 31-April 2 for a Sonlife leadership forum. We had leaders from 8 states plus Toronto, Canada present for the Forum. What a great time of fellowship as we sharpened and encouraged one another in the mission of making and multiplying disciples as Jesus did. My prayer is that many of these friends will help us train, coach and mentor leaders across North America.



D2S DARE 2 SHARE TOUR

Jennifer, Emma and Mary-Faith were able to join me for the D2S event in Chattanooga, while Marisa went with me to the event in DC, where we also squeezed in a college visit to Liberty University. I wrap up the D2S Tour this weekend with a trip to Chicago.

A LOOK AHEAD...

Movement Seminar: I'll be training Sonlife's one day seminar on "A strategy for making and multiplying disciples as Jesus did" this Spring in Denver (4/24), Lincoln (4/26), Huntington Beach (5/3), Orlando (5/15), Wisconsin (5/19-20) and Baltimore (5/22).

SOYM / Haiti: I'll travel to Haiti June 5-10 for our School Of Youth Ministry graduation. Jaclyn will be joining me on this trip.

Sonlife MUVE & D2S LTCU: These week long student evangelism conferences will be held in Chicago (6/23-28), Denver (7/13-19) and Portland (7/21-26).

JESUS IS OUR MODEL

As parents, we want to model Jesus to our girls... we want to model his priorities, his passion for God and for people... we want to model his compassion, his generosity, his sacrifice, his obedience, his faith. As a family, we want to model Jesus to the world around us... to our neighbors who don't yet know Christ and to our friends who do. In our adoption journey, our faith has been challenged. We have had to trust. We have had to obey. We have had to sacrifice. What a joy to finally have our girls though... and what a joy to be invited to model Jesus to a world that needs Him!

Serving Christ, Doug & Jennifer

DHM MISSION

We exist to ignite the Body of Christ with Great Commandment-Great Commission priorities by inspiring, instructing and involving the next generation of missional leaders worldwide.



CONNECT WITH US

JENNIFER HOLLIDAY

407-687-6118

jenholliday@cfl.rr.com

facebook.com/jenholliday

DOUG HOLLIDAY

407-221-4386

dougholliday@mac.com

facebook.com/doug.holliday

THANK YOU!

Our ministry in the US, Africa, Haiti, the Philippines and wherever God sends us would not be possible with friends like you! Your generous support of our family and our ministry is deeply appreciated. We pray for you often, thanking God for your partnership in the gospel.

