



The Haiti Journal



April 2009

"Spring is where fishermen get that far away lake in their eyes."

Dearest Family and Friends,

It is our conviction that the cure to Haiti's ills lies internally, in the heart. To have compassion and conviction to correct what is bad and put into practice responsibility to do what is good, will change Haiti at its core. The cure to poverty, deforestation, social injustice and kidnappings lies within the motives and values of compassionate hearts filled with the Gospel of Christ. Slowly this is being accomplished both by our staff's personal ministry and by the Christian organizations we fly into the more remote areas. Below is an example of a mission team of 22 people we flew into a town called Pignon (Peen-yown), located in Haiti's central plateau. Even though it's a relatively small town (the all-night diner closes at 4PM!), hundreds of people came to their nightly evangelism concerts in the town square. For two weeks they also ministered to the people via prayer, counseling, and held medical clinics. The below quote is a testimony of one of the events that happened to a group of team members, a testimony to hearts being changed:

Ministry Update: An Afternoon Spent With A Witch Doctor

"Six men from the team and their interpreters went into town this afternoon. While they were on their hike, they encountered a man who was drunk and mumbling in Spanish. Thinking nothing of it they continued walking. As soon as they had passed him, he ran up to his house on the hill and began mocking them with a cross that had a skull on top of it. He appeared to be a Shaman, or witch doctor, and he was using voodoo. The six men and their interpreters began to pray for protection for themselves. Then they began to pray for the Haitian man who was mocking them. At that point he tore down the hill right at them (OK my heart's pounding). He stopped in front of them and, believe it or not, he dropped to his knees and began to cry. The men continued to pray for this witch doctor and he received a deliverance from all the demonic powers that had controlled his life. He stopped speaking Spanish and began talking in Creole: which was a good thing because now the interpreters could understand him."

"He invited the men who had just prayed for him to come up to his house and pray over it. So they did. Then they helped him clean out his house and clear it of all of his demonic and voodoo trappings. He had a bucket of bones, voodoo flags, an altar, and many other things. The man went through his house and smashed bottles, threw out candles, and tore off necklaces and bracelets, praising God the whole time."

"The group went outside to tear down the cross with the skull on it, and just as they pulled it out of the ground, one of our guys started to choke. The team realized that he was under attack so they began to pray over him and he was able to breathe fine again. (The attack probably only lasted about 30 seconds but it certainly didn't feel that way.)"

"The man now asked the group if they would take him to a chapel. They said they would, but first he wanted help getting cleaned up and sober. They finally got to the chapel, where he prayed, and accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Savior. Praise God!" Another heart changed....



Members of the mission team posing with the converted witch doctor



The witch doctor's hut. Notice the cross with a skull on top

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Gallery of converted witch doctors



Witch doctors praying with missionary David Bustin to receive Christ. His ministry is in southwest Haiti.

When these witchdoctors come to Christ, there is true transformation. It is displayed in their willingness to throw away all their voodoo fetishes worth hundreds of dollars, as well as giving up good financial income as a practicing witch doctor. They also give up power and prestige they once had as the primary spiritual force over a large number of people. They now work gardens and live by very humble financial means.

This is a testimony and challenge to us all as Christians. What are we willing to give up for the sake of the Gospel? How much power, prestige, and income are we willing to sacrifice for our faith in the living God through Christ Jesus?



Standing by Mark is a converted witch doctor from the "Big Devil" plateau. The lady next to him is a recent convert.

Family matters...

Glee is teaching full-time at the local Christian school. Among other classes, she teaches 7th grade ancient history. The kids keep jokingly asking if she actually *experienced* the ancient history that she teaches. Glee retorts that she is only in her early 50's, which isn't that old (which is true, if you're a tree). The textbook she teaches from on ancient history was very evolutionary based so she brought in the Bible to show that *God* actually created all things. One student said she shouldn't bring the Bible into history class because the Bible is only for Bible class. Glee took this opportunity as a teaching moment and showed that the Bible should permeate all areas of our life. Her goal is to teach them that the Bible is the basis on which we draw truth about our world.

Mark (when he's not locking the keys in the airplane), is busy managing the program as well as flying humanitarian and mission teams into the more remote parts of Haiti. The article on page 1 is an example of how these teams make a difference in people's lives as they come to minister to the physical and spiritual needs of the Haitian people.

Thank you for allowing us to be a beacon of hope to the precious missionaries and people of Haiti. This would not be possible without your loving prayer and financial support.

Did you know you can receive our newsletters by email! This is the most economical way for MAF to deliver them to you. If you are interested, just drop us an email and we will sign you up.

Love, Mark and Glee Williams

Prayer Requests:

- ◆ *Peace for Haiti's senatorial elections this month*
- ◆ *Increase in our ministry support level*
- ◆ *MAF safety in it's operations*
- ◆ *Mark's wisdom as Program Manager*
- ◆ *Peace during the Senatorial elections on April 19th*