

# Letters from Haiti



AUGUST 2014

## A Note from Larry

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- A Note from Dada
- Prayer Requests
- Shopping with a cause
- Getting Involved

My last trip to Haiti was primarily to help people who were affected and infected with Chikungunya. Chikungunya is a mosquito born disease that, loosely translated, means “break bone” or “bent man.” These definitions relate to how people feel or move around during the pain stage of the disease. Chikungunya usually starts with high fever and then goes into the bone pain stage. This latter stage can last for a few days or several months.



My experience with treating people with this disease was a horrible surprise to me. What shocked me the most was how terrible people felt. These sick people were barely able to walk into the clinic room. They showed on their faces that the anguish they were experiencing was terrible.

Chikungunya has no medical treatment or medical prevention. The only prevention is to not get bitten by the infected mosquito. If you do get bitten, the treatment is medication like Tylenol for fever and Ibuprofen for the pain. Treating the symptoms is all that can be done. What the medical information doesn't tell you is that people who are infected with Chikungunya who are extremely poor with a weakened immune system will be at risk for other infections that may become life threatening. That is what I saw.

There is little hope for children very

sick from what the locals call “the fever” and the elderly that are extremely ill. All of the people that we saw in the clinic had no hope. We were their hope. At times, an entire family would be sick and would have no one to even take care of



them or be able to care for each other. Other times the mother was sick and her 5 year old daughter would have to try to take care of her siblings and her mother. People talked about going days without food, or not being able to go out and get water because they were too sick. The stories just kept coming and just when you think you have heard the worst story, someone else tells you of their experience. This is still happening today!

We tried to educate people about how mosquitoes breed and where they live, but you must understand that 80% of the



### CHILD SPONSORSHIP

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population is illiterate. These people feel powerless and helpless.

We began working with some members of the community in Carrefour. I asked for volunteers, something that is not done much in Haiti. We got four men from the community, gave them pain medications and pill bags along with the instructions to be written on the pill bags. After sorting thousands of pills, the men bagged the pain medication. I gave them directions to go into the community, going house to house, to give the pills out to those who are sick. Along with the pain medication, they passed out information in Creole about Chikungunya, how to prevent it, and how to treat the symptoms. The men gladly did this, walking through the community with a bull horn. They were very happy to be able to help their community and to feel so useful!

I will continue to collect Tylenol and Ibuprofen for adult and children to take on either my next trip or to send down with other friends. I am happy to

report that our house has been free of Chikungunya. I do have enough medication there to treat anyone in our house should they get it, but so far, they are all healthy!! I would like to thank all of you who gave for the last trip. It is impossible for me to explain how much those sick people appreciated the relief that they could get from these simple medications. When an elderly lady takes your hand and looks into your eyes and says in her native language, "Thank you and may God bless you," there is no better feeling than to know that you did something good and to be the recipient of her heart-felt thank you.

Blessings,  
Larry

*To donate Tylenol and Ibuprofen, please contact Larry at  
larryroberts67@gmail.com.*

## Prayer Requests

- Health for Dada and all the kids
- For our teachers at our school to show the love of Jesus
- Sponsors for all kids
- Godly wisdom for Larry as he follows God's vision for Servants Gift
- Starting of literacy program and Seed fund
- **PRAISE:** Dada has reported that there are 120 kids registered for our school! Keep praying!

### ***Come support Servants Gift by eating pancakes!!***

If you are in the Bloomington/Normal, IL area, please come join us at Applebee's on September 6th from 8:00-10:00 a.m. for a Pancake breakfast.

Tickets are \$5.00 and all proceeds go to supporting Servants Gift!

Tickets can be purchased at the door or you can purchase them prior to the breakfast by emailing Stephanie at [steph@jasonmckee.net](mailto:steph@jasonmckee.net).

*We hope to see you all there!*

*Applebee's  
502 N. Veterans Parkway  
Bloomington, IL*



## Getting Involved

There are several ways to get involved with Servants Gift:

- Child sponsorship
  - For more information contact Nancy Wadhams at [sponsorship@servantsgift.com](mailto:sponsorship@servantsgift.com)
- Larry is available for speaking arrangements.
  - If you are interested in hearing more about his trips and testimony please contact him at [larryroberts67@gmail.com](mailto:larryroberts67@gmail.com)
- Monthly financial support
- Be a prayer partner
- To be added to our newsletter mailing list, please send your email and mailing information to Stephanie at [steph@jasonmckee.net](mailto:steph@jasonmckee.net).