

Letters from Haiti



NOVEMBER 2014

A Note from Larry

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

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CHILD SPONSORSHIP

Nancy Wadhams
(309) 310-3092
wadhams@verizon.net
www.servantsgift.com

CONTACT INFO

Servants Gift
Box 271
New Windsor, IL 61465
www.servantsgift.com

On my second trip to Carrefour during my most recent trip to Haiti, my dear friend Jones asked me if I could help a woman. I know my friend Jones well and if he is asking me to help someone, then this person must be in serious need. He explained to me that this woman has HIV, and like most people in Haiti who have HIV, has been driven from her home.

I have heard endless stories about how people with HIV are treated in Haiti. They are killed, stoned, driven out of their lifelong homes, beaten, shunned, and many other terrible actions. Education on the disease is generally not accepted or is completely absent. This is due to certain cultural factors on speaking openly or comprehensively on HIV/AIDS. I have a good friend who takes care of several children with HIV and does an exceptional job. One of his girls, who I was close to, witnessed her mother being stoned to death, and before the gang could get to her, she was taken away by a woman and ended up in my friend's care.

Jones explained to me that he has a woman in a safe place, and that she is a member of his church. This woman is sick, and in need of food. She also has two children of her own, and her husband has long since gone away. The apartment that she is in is very close to the school that we operate a clinic in. So Jones, who is also my interpreter, and I went to visit her.

We entered a small dark room and found a skeletal woman lying on a make-shift bed, unable to get up. The skin on her bare legs were dry and cracked, her eyes were sunken in, and her breathing was labored. If I was at home in the States, and I

walked into this on an ambulance call, I would have immediately transported this woman, lights and siren, to a Level 1 trauma center. In Haiti, that isn't going to happen. I must simply do my very best and pray...pray a lot.

I assessed the woman and was alarmed at what I heard in her lungs and observed in her blood pressure. She was close to death. Knowing what I know about how HIV-infected people are treated in Haiti, I took the woman's head in my hands and kiss her forehead. My friends took a step back, questioning whether I knew what I was doing.

I held her hand and through my interpreter, we talked. I had her sitting up, and I sat down next to her and put my arm around her shoulders. I felt the tension leave her as it is likely she hadn't had any kind of human contact for a very long time. She wrapped her arms around me and put her face into my chest. I explained to her that Jesus had sent me to her and that through me and Jones and others, He will help her. I told her that Jesus wanted her to know that she is not alone, and that He had not left her or forgotten her. As Jones said these things to her, she took ragged breaths and cried quietly into my shirt.

I gave her bottled water and added Pedialyte powder to it. I had crackers with me and gave her those as well. She drank and ate while I explained that we needed to get her to the hospital very soon. We reviewed the medications she had for her HIV and I gave her an antibiotic.

Jones and I began discussing how to get her down the mountain to the hospital in the next couple of days because this

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is how some emergencies are handled in Haiti. I share a few more minutes with her which was a true blessing for me.

Psalm 41:3

The Lord sustains them on their sickbed and restores them from their bed of illness.

The next day, I bought the woman Ensure at about \$35 dollars, which is impossible for most Haitians to afford, and Jones came and picked it up. Over the next couple of days, the woman improved just enough to travel and with money provided by donations from Servant's Gift, she was taken to the hospital where she will receive free treatment. One of the great things about Haiti is that if you have HIV, a person can receive free doctor visits, free medications, and free treatment of any illness they may subsequently encounter.

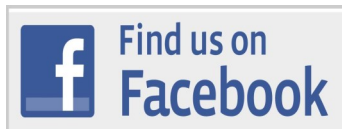
Soon after this, I traveled home and waited to hear what her status was. A few days went by and I got a message from Jones that the woman has also now been diagnosed with TB. On top of her HIV, she now has this battle. She has been admitted to the hospital and will be there for a while. I have also gone to get tested, and as I write this, will soon go back for my second follow-up test. The Lord never promised us that doing His work will keep us completely safe or free of illness, and that is how we build faith!

As I write this, I have been home for 7 weeks and the woman,

Rosena, has been in the hospital. I just received word from Jones that she has returned home. He sent me a couple of pictures, one with one of her sons! She looks so good which makes me very happy! I intend on helping her with food aid and any health related things that may arise that she cannot get for free from the hospital.

Thank you all for your prayers and donations, which help me to help those He puts onto my path!

Blessings,
Larry



Prayer Requests

- Dada and our kids
- Teachers at our school to show the love of Jesus
- Sponsors for all of our kids
- Godly wisdom for Larry as he follows God's vision for Servants Gift
- Continued prayers for Rosena
- Pastor Manno and Prisca from Pillatre
- Continued prayers for El-icson's arm

Getting Involved

There are several ways to get involved with Servants Gift:

- Child sponsorship
 - For more information contact Nancy Wadhams at wadhams@verizon.net
- Monthly financial support
- Be a prayer partner
- 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
- To be added to our newsletter mailing list, please send your email and mailing information to Stephanie at steph@jasonmckee.net.