

SNYDER NEWS LETTER

1-23-08

In 1996, the “SNYDER NEWS LETTER” from Haiti began. Our family, tough, rough and ever ready to serve (unless someone wanted to serve us then we were glad to lay back and rest) relayed stories of their adventures and survival while on the foreign mission field. (I once deeply sliced my finger on an envelope while sending out news letters) In 2005, the letter was briefly put to rest when we returned to the U.S. It is once again our privilege to kick the press into gear and set the type for more, exciting (and once and awhile factual) missionary stories and tales.

LIFE IN HAITI

In November Dee Ann and I returned to Haiti for a visit. Our week there was highlighted by an ongoing battle with a rat(s) They managed to climb up the trees and into the holes in the screens and through the drainage pipes to get into our apartment daily. First they ate our bread on a nightly basis. It did not matter where we tried to place the bread, they got to it. They then stole 2 kitchen wash rags. We think at this point they sensed they were starting to bother us and we believe they held a conference to up the ante and coordinate their efforts. Apparently, they decided to take advantage of our innate fears of Voodoo. Almost nightly we would hear the Voodoo drums beat and not having lived in Haiti for 2 years, we found this un-settling. One night, at 3 a.m., Dee Ann woke me up and was quite agitated. “Did you leave clothes in a pile in front of the shower in the bathroom she asked me?” Strange question I thought for that hour of the night! Not to be put off, she made me get up with a flashlight and go into bathroom and look. Sure enough, right in front of the shower were a pillow case and a curtain lying neatly curled up. Often time the local Boko, or witchdoctor will leave various, often odd items, out in the road or in front of a house as a sign of a “spell in the works.” Because I wanted to go back to sleep, I assured her that it was only the rats stealing more material for their nests. I really think that is all it was.....OR WAS IT ? That is life in Haiti.

FAMILY LIFE

What is a call. What is our call. I have been asked many times, “what was your call to go to the mission field.” I do not have a “one fits all response” but thought I would address this as we look to return to Haiti. Moses, as we know, had a pretty straight forward call. I think we all wish we could have a similar experience with God. For Dee Ann and I, we have been “called” not to be foreign missionaries per say, but have been called to “strive to be the salt of the world.” As Christians, I believe we are all called to be “strangers in this world, socially active, loving, good but not necessarily nice, focused on knowing God, commanded to worship and fear God ” and the list goes on.

In 1993, Dee Ann and I decided to move to Rwanda to work for 2 years as they needed physicians. We went to help fill a need, no particular call beyond that. While there we felt “alive.” We sensed that the country was “lacking salt and that we could be part of the salt solution they needed.” That is it. That is our call. And while we may frequently resemble cayenne pepper more than salt , we continue to live by this deep, abiding sense of the touch of God on our lives and we are thankful that God has

impressed this “call “ on us. As we look to returning to Haiti, we believe that we are simply picking up the salt shaker and moving it to another location!

A DAY IN THE HOSPITAL

I presently work at Lakeland Hospital in Stevensville, Michigan. The day before I left for Haiti in October, I took care of an elderly gentleman suffering from heart disease and congestive heart failure. I saw him in the morning and he was mildly short of breath. By the afternoon he seemed to be getting worse. I moved him from the general heart floor into the intensive care unit, ordered a battery of tests and started several new IV medications and placed him on oxygen. He continued to deteriorate and he was soon placed on a ventilator for respiratory support. The next morning, I left for Haiti. Within 20 minutes of arriving at the hospital in Dessalines, I was called to see a 28 year old gentleman who had only started to feel ill the day before. I was told he was short of breath. I examined him and believed that he was in congestive heart failure. This is very unusual for a young person. I was able, after the family paid cash for the tests, to get an X-ray, EKG and a blood oxygen measurement,. These tests confirmed that he was suffering from congestive heart failure. I went to the medication room and looked for some medications I knew would help him. I found one medication, which was expired, and as then found out that the pharmacy was out of stock of the other medications. 40 minutes after I arrived, this young man died. I was stunned. In the course of 24 hours, I had been witness to some of the best medical practice in the world as we cared for a gentleman with congestive heart failure in an American intensive care unit soon followed by an experience trying to rescue a young Haitian with the same illness, but in the environment of a 3rd world hospital. This is a DAILY OCCURRENCE AROUND THE WORLD. Quite frankly, it is hard to be a daily witness to such poor medical care when I know better care is available in other parts of the world. Hopefully, with your help we will be able to continue to improve the care at Dessalines Hospital.

SHAREHOLDER MONTHLY REPORT

- A. ASSETS – Dessalines Hospital; Committed Haitian National church; Healthy American couple willing to move to Haiti to work; College age children willing to let parents return to Haiti; High School age child willing to return to Haiti: God is on our side.
- B. DEBTS –God paid them all with his death on the cross.
- C. ACCOUNT RECEIVABLE-1 year financing needed prior to departure
- D. BALANCE-God is Faithful

Supporting Contacts:

FMWM-NA
P.O Box 535002
Indianapolis, IN 46253

Sue Cairns
Central African Health Care
P.O Box 580
Spring Arbor, Michigan 49283

Daniel & Dee Ann Snyder
2454 Brookpoint Ln
Stevensville, MI 49127
ddsnyder5@sbcglobal.net

Note: we will be working in Africa Jan.24-Feb. 22 and out of contact.