

Merger Sponsorship Newsletter

May 2014

The end of March found Pastor Paul, John Dryden and Jamie Lawson headed to Haiti to deepen relationship with the people Glenwood supports and find ways we can help and encourage them. They learned a lot and will be sharing about some of what they discovered in the months to come. Below is a reflection Jamie wrote about the time he spent in Merger. The pictures in this newsletter are some of the images Jamie captured while in Haiti.

A Different Kind of Place

by Jamie Lawson

When it comes to giving and sacrifice how much is enough?

Sometimes I am confronted with a question that is inescapable. I have, in my own American, middle-class mind, an image of what it means to be "poured out like a drink offering." To be emptied. To give all that I have. But when the question moves from the theoretical to the personal and practical I crash hard into it.



"Can you give more?" The question burrowing into my thoughts comes not to induce guilt or tell me where I haven't measured up but to open a new category in my mind and my heart about what's possible.

We turned the truck off the highway into the village and were met not with the joy of a returning champion, but with stares of skepticism. Skepticism formed from a cocktail mixed of life's hopelessness, full American pockets and an attitude that strafes in relief and leaves as soon as it arrives. Sadness weighs in the eyes of people walking down the dusty roads or lounging under cement doorposts.

But in a clearing on the outskirts of the village stand an outcropping of buildings with a flagpole rising in the center. Dark, smiling eyes peer from around corners and under classroom dividers. Eyes that betray hidden smiles. It's not the same in here as it is outside the gate. Life is making its move.

Approaching the classrooms, the sense of hope is palpable. It hangs as heavy as the Haitian heat. You can hear laughter and learning, fidgeting and moving, whispers and rustling. The smiles keep springing from everywhere, the students, the teachers, the workers. It's a different kind of place. A place that has multiplied gifts and resources like loaves and fishes to teach not only life skills, but to teach that there is a future worth hoping for. The multiplication comes from sacrifice and I am humbled to witness this miracle.

I see that every \$30 check written has been worth it. I see that hope and sacrifice change people. I see that this is just the tip of the iceberg and it makes me ask, "Can you give more?" I see that I'm still learning about sacrifice and what it means to pour yourself out like a drink offering. I see behind the laughing eyes peeping from around the corner that every drop poured out is worth it. I see that I can give more.



Please Pray For...

- Continued safety for Johny, Rosadite & the students and teachers of CENV.
- Rosadite as she deals with continuing health issues.
- Miss Chrinderline Almicar (student) and her family as they cope with the death of her two younger sisters in a deliberately set house fire.
- The students at CENV to do well on their end of year exams.
- Mason, Lauren & James as they anticipate the arrival of their new little girl.
- Bruce & Cindy McMartin as they settle in and begin their ministry in Senegal.
- New sponsors for the 22 students we have available.

Praises For...

- Safe and successful travels to and from Haiti for Pastor Paul, John & Jamie.
- Bruce & Cindy's safe travels to Senegal.



For more information regarding your sponsorship, please contact Shelly Kirgiss in the church office at 360-571-3300 or skirgiss@glenwoodcc.org Thanks for your support!