

HSHM Trip Report April 10-17, 2018 – by Amber Kaderbek

The Holy Spirit Haiti Mission's April 2018 trip was a blessing in so many ways! First, the team was so large we had to have Bertone and Brother Daniel bring cars. As usual, we had an amazing amount of luggage...but no one had to sit on the roof! Our first stop was the orphanage. We had a wonderful welcome: all the girls to kiss us. Eliane herself was there to meet us, as well as Guerline and Abibi. Guerline, college graduate and NDC's eldest sister, is thriving in her new job as administrator of the orphanage. When we finally arrived at the monastery up in the mountains, Bob immediately called a working dinner to explain the new organizational structure of Holy Spirit Haiti Mission. The Haitians were very happy and relieved to learn that we are reworking the organization for sustainability. Mainly this means working to make sure the Mission does not die with Bob! The next day, before dawn, we were up for the Brothers' morning prayers, complete with Brother Toneme's strong voice. At breakfast, Dr. Sean coined the phrase plantadoes (a plaintain that is boiled tastes like a potato) and shortly after arguing about produce, we were off to the Missionaries of Charity in Carrefour. **This is where we installed a water purification system on the last trip, thanks to Holy Spirit!** Sister Neha was there to greet us and, upon hearing that Dr. Sean was a doctor, she put him straight to work seeing patients! While Bob and Lou were updated on water systems, Dr. Sean was relying on his physical exam skills (no labs, no tests, no nothing) to diagnose some heart patients. Only the poorest people get into the hospital of Carrefour. Meanwhile, Julie was holding babies and getting her hair braided and her fingernails kissed by the girls. Amber was playing with the small patients. After lunch, Lou and Amber saw the sewing class and gave TWO WHOLE SUITCASES full of thread and needles (**thank you Holy Spirit!!!**) and were privileged to meet the young women who will benefit, including a young widow with a crippled son whose sewing trade will equip her to support him. The next day we took a LONG road trip to a new part of the country: Hinche, on the plains, to visit Brother Jones and his vocational school. **Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the computers and solar system at Hinche!** It was a great success, though we had to pay for it with a lot of good ol' Haitian improvisation! Dr. Sean was the idea man; Lou and Bob and Bertone managed the set up, while Julie did crosswords and Amber kept hydrated. In spite of problems with inverters and a cheap converter box and mysteriously defunct DC chargers, the Holy Spirit ensured that we left Hinche with a working computer room – bringing Haiti into the twenty-first century in a single day! We took a turn for the worst, running into a herd of goats on the return journey and becoming sicker and sicker until...Amber spent the whole night losing fluids and the whole Sunday recovering, thanks to the collective efforts of the whole team, and Julie followed her lead until she was ready to puke at the mere mention of goat! Monday was a full day. Bob met with the Living Waters for the World team and Dr. Sean worked with Dr. Yanne in the clinic; **thanks to everyone at Holy Spirit for your support of the clinic!** In the afternoon, most of us visited the goat farm, except for Amber, who visited the orphanage under strict orders NOT to play with the girls in the sun, and Julie, who was still suffering at the monastery. Fortunately, we all rendezvoused for one of the most important events: meeting the University Students. **Mesi anpil ANPIL to all the people who contributed to the St. Charles Scholarship Program!** We were able to meet 7 of the 10 young people Holy Spirit is sending to university in Haiti. They are so happy and grateful for the opportunity to improve their lives and their community and showing this by their hard work and success. It was clear to everyone that HSHM is really changing lives. Our very last day just goes to show how unpredictable Haiti is. First, half the team was sent off with a driver that didn't speak English to get lost in Port-au-Prince. When we finally found the MC hospital for the babies, we only had an hour to have our hearts broken. Some of those babies were so weak with malnourishment that they could only lie there, smiling up at you; this is because their mothers could only give them rice water. Meanwhile, Bob was teaching geography to the schoolteachers before the trip to the airport. Before Bob and the rest of the team made it onboard the plane, they got in an accident, broke down in a bad part of Port-au-Prince, and rode a taptap to the airport with all the luggage on top of them. We give you thanks, Almighty God, Who brought us safely through the trip, Who made sure we received more

than we gave, and Who, through your help, is doing His Wonderful Work in Haiti! We give you thanks Almighty God for all thy benefits, Who livest and reignest forever and ever. Amen.