New Orléans, LA

August 8, 2017,

Dear Members, Volunteers &

Friends of AHDH & Haiti:

On behalf of the Executive Committee of AHDH, Inc., I take, once more, an immense pleasure to share with you our latest mission report, AHDH’s Summer 2017 Medical & Educational Mission Report, our 69th since 1986, which took place from June 23, thru July 8, 2017. Please, meet below, most of those 54 extraordinary souls who offered the best of themselves, to alleviate the suffering of the brethren in the County (Commune) of La Vallee de Jacmel, and adjacent ones, and even beyond, including Port-Au-Prince:
Coming from 9 US states (TX, OH, KY, LA, NY, NJ, FL, NC, VA...), armed with so many talents, so much desire to serve, they responded to the call: “…When I was sick, you did take care of me“ (Mat. 25: 35...), and AHDH can be but honored to see more and more great souls continue to be standing next to its side to make our little journey meaningful on the side of our less privileged.

Once more, it was a, **Blessed, MEMORABLE mission!!**

If anyone ever wants to read a piece that will warm his/her heart, ever seeking a strong reason to hang on little planet earth and link with full-soul humans, ever thought extraordinary people are too few, follow this text: **59** ordinary people gathered in La Vallée de Jacmel to undertake extraordinary acts of love, as countless more during our previous 68 medical missions. We are just not authorized to use the word “miracles”, but the temptation is strong.

Should we tell you about a father who could only hear his children, unable to see them for years, and never saw his grandchildren, as he was already blind by the time they were born, due to advanced cataract, ask us again…close to miracle?

**First off, hat down to the Coordinatrices, Nicole and Mary (red top), for a challenging but most successful 69th mission! Thanks again for your extraordinary work.**

There was so much to do to coordinate such a large group, face the unpredictable, change piece of the original projections, difficult addition of late registrants after we already had 30 plus on board etc. etc. Believe us, a lot of work. Great work! Thanks a lot.

And no illusion, as expected, the crowd was at the rendez-vous:
And so much was covered. We can offer you but a bird eye view of those 2 weeks of intense work, by 59 healthcare experts, pre-med, RN students, anchoring their interest into the medical field. Not easy but let’s try.

And talking about eyview, we can start with the eye team.

**Eyes (Ophthalmology):**
As now you come to expect, the Eye-Team, under the leadership of Dr. Anika M., *(below, center, blue and green scrub)* refuses to slow down: A **third operative microscope and table** already added since our Winter Mission, *(next photo below): And another score reached: 57 cases of cataract** plus 7 diverse eye surgeries performed.

Yes! That so far, for the year 2017, **107** of our less fortunate brethren whose cataract was shed and other crippling sight problems. *(Again, I can attest that she is not using yet mud and spit, like the Nazarene (John 9:1), but we will watch her)*

And her extraordinary ability to mobilize her colleagues: 3 ophthalmologists: John D., (above right, green gloves), Ghulam D.,(below, left), and Kichi A. (see previous photo);

2 Optometrists: Diana D. (below left),Gulshan K. (below right, taking care of one of the elders, Prof. Roger).
Now, we need to pause for a second and offer a big kudos to the supporting staff of the eye team: Yvrose V., (below left, dotted top) in charge of the glasses prescriptions, assisted by students Catherine N. (below, white top), Hermon G. (next photo, left), and the end result of spoiling, on the right.
And a strong, untiring, nursing staff: below left: Jackie V. RN (gray top), “Senior Angel” Amelia B. (flowery top), and Christine (below right)

And, as it is now a routine, their love to clear eye problems in the whole county goes beyond our campus: Meet them in Muzac, under leadership of Vanite et Ange L. (below), in Cayes-Jacmel, (Dr. Louis P.) and La Montagne (below below) a new front, initiative of Dr. Michelle I-G. (see pg.13)
With such “déploiement”, a total of 720 patients were seen, 500 corrective glasses dispensed, 66 eye surgeries performed (57 cataracts, and others), a new record. Great job, Eye team!

We would like to take a moment to dispatch some positive energies toward our beloved colleague, Reynold M., MD, Ophtalmo., who is struggling with some challenging health difficulties. May the Almighty give him strength and that he overcome it.

**DENTISTRY:**

We had the fortune to have a strong and varied dental team: “Our” Pediatric dentist, Dr. Sophie D-A. *(see our Summer 2016 Mission Report)* not only kept her promise to come back with the kids again, but also her husband, Dr. Orson A. *(see Int. medicine, pg.7)* With her favorite crowd below, educating them..

And another sweet surprise: Dr. Kiya G-Z, Periodontist, who volunteered 5 years ago with then fiancé, Dr. Philippe Z, and has been trying her best since to come back. Last year, short of having the time to do so dedicated their wedding gifts to AHDH’s mission: Thanks again.
And busy, she was, teaming up with Dr. Sophie D-A, on the campus as well as in satellite sites:

**General surgery, OR, Pre-Op. Post-Op:**

Once more, the great foot work of the Coordinatrices landed a fully staffed OR crew. 32 general surgeries and one gynecology were performed:

**Surgeons:**

Once more it was a delight to have back Dr. Roger B. *from Texas, below left, on left*; Marie M.L., MD.*from P-Au-P, below right, in purple*, Victor K, MD; DJhon S.C. *from Jacmel, 2nd row, left*. 

Such a blessing to have them doing their best to relieve the suffering of the brethren.
OR Techs: A special mention is in order. Intrigued by Mike’s constant trips to Haiti (see Imaging, below, pg.9) in charge of the Ultrasound Department at their school, BRCC, Domonique H. and Rebekah B. (above left, center) just graduated, hopped on board and tried their education first time, where Vilia L. (see photo after next, 2nd from left), a local OR Tech, has been joining us for years. You guess the memory they will keep.

Anesthesia: Once more we were blessed with full anesthesia staffing: Drs. Ricardo M. (below right), a son of the village; M. Fadjia M. (below left in blue), and CRNA Stephanie P. (below left, center) were able to cover the whole week for us. You guess the results: A lot of sufferings, of all ages (see next photos), relieved, (OR Tech. Vilia L., mentionned above, is second from left)
But, you don’t do anything in the OR before checking with our 26 yearlong Circulating RN: Sandra B.R. She won’t even allow you to take her photo (below left), she prefers actions (below right, James 2:20)
Preop/PostOp: But no patient gets to the OR before being vetted, at the Pre-Op area, where a barrage of highly qualified, disciplined and loving RNs says so: (left to right) Amelia B, Courtney N., Adrienne G., Christin M., Jackie V. and aspiring doctor (below, right, Catherine N.) is following mom.

Internal Medicine/Family Practice/Pediatrics:

Our Internal Medicine/Pediatrics team was just unpayable. Each one with his/her highest motivation to serve, but many secondary missions: Open new fronts of services (Michelle I-G., MD), catching up with years of yearning to return (Philippe Z. MD) or to join and visit sponsored RN students, (Gabriel A. MD), or follow one’s wife (Orson A., MD)

Philippe Z.: We already reintroduced him and wife, Kiya G-Z, (see page 7, above, Dentistry). He is G.E. specialist, still dreams of landing his specialty on the St. Joseph Hospital campus. In meantime the dedication to his cardiac, diabetes, general medicine patients is just outstanding.
Sometimes beyond outstanding: below left, teaching Residents, Drs. Figaro and Pandol (below right); and, 2nd row, mother nature catching with him, after a hard night call keeping patients alive.

A great soul, a blessed colleague!

Gabriel A, MD., Pediatrics, NY. has been very much standing with AHDH without yet being able to visit the mission. He had sponsored 2 of our RN students (see pg. 14 and 23). He is catching up: below lft, on campus; right, in La Montagne with his favorite crowd, kids.
Orson A., MD, Family Practice: Please, see page. 15, below.

Michelle I-G, MD, Rehab. Medicine, FL: Some of you are familiar with her involvement with AHDH: We are med. school classmates. Lost to sight for decades, 2 years ago, exactly this month, while visiting La Vallée she stumbled (did she or a Higher Power sent her?) upon Hopital St. Joseph, and realized we were behind it. She called right away and just needed to know when was going to be the next mission. Of course, it was going to be 2nd week of November (2015). She hasn’t missed any of our quaterly missions since. And last February, she realized a very good friend of hers, Olga L. J., has retired at about one hour from our campus, and in bad need of health care in her remote community, La Montagne. After a visit with a limited staff, a new frontier was opened. AHDH will have from now a significant presence in La Montagne. She just mustered a nice team and initiated an amazing work: Piti Piti Zwazo fè nich li
OB-GYN:

In our Winter 2017 Mission Report, we begged: “Ob-Gyn colleagues, in the States, Hospital St-Joseph needs us!””, which was a call for help, as the editor was the lone ranger in the desert. Prayers went up, blessings came down!: 2 Ob-Gyn colleagues, from New Orleans, responded. Felton W, MD, (below left, 1st from right) and Suzan J., MD., (second from left), a “Senior Angel” of our mission, affectionately regarded as the godmother of our first case of cardiac surgery brought to New Orleans for surgery, and Karen S. W. CNM, (TX), after a 5 year absence, is back. On the photo also: 1st from left, Mireille P.E., MD, NY, on her 1st mission (accompanied by a good friend, Kettie J.,RN, Bishop, temporarily with limited mobilization, helped with translation), but not last, as she is already mobilizing a small army for next summer, and Sophie A., you met above. Below right, with Sandra B-R, (L&D RN), relaxing; 2nd row: Left side, going over pre-op chart, and right: Karen, purple top, 3rd year RN student, Francine N., and Rose J., RN, brown scrub (see her extraordinary contribution, below, pg.23, with RN students scholarship program)
Father of Imaging at H.St.J:  
Mike B., (below, green top, answering Dr. Roger B.’s inquiry) needs no introduction after more than 15 years of laboring in HIS La Vallée’s fields, developing Hopital St. Joseph’s imaging system, emphasizing his contribution to this mission would take a volume. We are just elated to have him back, as he could not make it with the Winter Mission, and, as mentioned above, he didn’t come back alone. (see OR Tech above, pg. 9) Welcome back home Mike!

AHDH’s Mission has been and remains A FAMILY AFFAIR:

AHDH has been blessed by not only more and more volunteers, more than 750 throughout the 30 years, are joining, but when they return, they bring family members. This time again, few were by themselves. Some of you may remember how the Michaels and the Belizaires usually beat us all, this time what is extraordinary is how many families were in that category:  
The Austins: Last summer (see Summer 2016 Mission Trip at www.AHDHhaiti.org) you met Sophie D-A, DDS, who came with daughter, Sophie and son, Theo (see 2nd row, below). This trip, keeping her promise….what a delight to have dad, Orson A., MD. The only difficulty is to catch up with him: He is busy everywhere he is needed :("below)
The Winfields: For a decade or two, Felton W., MD/Ob-Gyn, and your editor shared the same University Hospital campus in New Orleans, as Tulane and LSU faculties. It’s painful to see how much, for years, he wanted so much to join our efforts, and like most colleagues upon our trip return, always inquiring how it went…and keeps saying “I have to go one day”. On HIS TIME! Do I always offer them as consolation. This time, even though he was a late registrant he “demanded” to join. And with his son, Matthew, now going to premed. What a gift from a father to offer a son, a different perspective as to why some of us are so blessed to be part of the healing army. (Below, left with son observing, below right, with New Orleans colleague, Susan J., MD, Ob-gyn also).
The Melancons/Guidrys/Nickels:
By sheer number, Louisiana was competing closely with NY, but one thing is certain,
ACADIANA (the area of Louisiana, around Lafayette, with direct historical connection with the refugees from
Acadie, Canada, in the mid-18th century, and who settle there, while some did in North-West Haiti) was very
present. Riley Catherine Claire nephew niece and friend
Waohh! What a strong presence! From the dynamic Coordinatrice, Mary N.M. (see pg.2), who
invested so much effort in the Acadiana community to raise mission support, to encourage niece
Catherine and mom, Courtney (below left, center and right), nephew, Riley, (below right, who ,
with Catherine did a great job in eye surgery room), and friend, Claire P., and RNs (below left and
pg.11. We will be short of words to thank her for such an extraordinary support to our 69th mission

Always busy: below, pharmacist out of necessity:

Premed students:
Once more, we were blessed by the participation of some Pre-Med students.
It was the turn of Matthew W. (LSU), featured above (pg.16) with his dad, Ob-Gyn; Madison B. (NYU) below, left, already initiated to check on vision; and Hermon G., Ohio (below, right, of Erythrean descent) with same interest.

We have had a few in the past and we are hoping they will as promised come back and share their talents.

**Engineers:**
That title becomes synonymous to Georges L. (Mechanical Engineer, who first joined AHDH missions in winter 2008). Two years later, in January 2010, with Emergency Earthquake Mission, he was one of the first call we received, the first to join us in New Orleans, while he was still living in the Boston area.

Suffices it to emphasize that without that support, recently reinforced by a high school classmate of us, Guy-Gerard L., Electrical Engineer, subspecialised in generator, we would be “grounded”, (to use an electrical term): 3 OR and a Recovery Room with A/Cs, countless electrical equipments...just unthinkable. While bringing along his sister, our colleague Josseline L. B., MD, Neonatologist, who also “served” mission, and continue to support AHDH. He is happy to serve, we are happy to enjoy his support.

**FSIL:**
We were delighted once more to welcome for Clinical Rotation at H.St. J., two senior RN students from the Faculté des Sciences Infirmières de Léogane (FSIL), of the Université Episcopale d’Haïti, a very dynamic institution under the leadership of Dean Hilda Alcindor, now offering MS degree, first time in Haïti (go to www.haitinursing.org).

It remains amazing how throughout the years those young future cadres exhibit a standard preparation, professionally, intellectually, ethically.

The first week, we had Ms. Rachelle T., and Ms. Asmide R., (below left), and the second week, Ms. Kesnelda C. and Ms. Charmelle L.

Non medical staff? Needed? Yes!...

People often ask, “But, I am not a doctor, not a nurse, how can I do for the mission?” Simply put as much as the doctors, the nurses. How the suction machines keep a patient from aspirating? By being powered, first of all. Want to know what else is there for a non-medical volunteer? Let’s follow those gentlemen who probably thought otherwise.

Rickie P. J., Financial Advisor, below, left, blue cap: On his 3rd or 4th mission trip. On the lap top helping with data. But he wears more than one hat (below right, with red cap, help the dentists set up). You have heard it all? Look at the next row: He is been to La Vallée by his deeds quite before taking his 1st trip there: Receiving plaque of gratitude from 4 of the 5 RN students he has sponsored over the last 5 years at Université Notre Dame, Jacmel Campus, one more coming up besides 2 of our 4 Management students. For more see RN graduation below, pg.21
Weber P.L., (below, left, yellow top, with Dr. Orson A.), Cytlogist but retired for good from the medical field. He is with us in other capacities: You have to go to page 13, above, to see that, as the best friend of Dr. Michelle I-G, he is part of the new frontiers opened in La Montagne, and has been very busy for generating mission support. Pure ball of energy and supports eye, dental clinic, besides hanging out with new friend. 

Claude V., (below right), barely needs introduction, a decade and half after he became a resident of LaVallée and a strong supporter of our mission, before, during and after those missions. Thanks.
Jacques L.: “Enfant du pays”, Jacques often manages to coincide his visit from Atlanta with our mission trips. He covers all the territories: electrical, plumbing and his precious contacts, when a problem arises. He is ready to help at street level (below left), as well as floors up (below right).

Jesula S.: As some of you may remember (Summer 2016), Jesula has been very supportive of our mission, helping with everything housekeeping. Initially we didn’t realize that she is very interested in going to Nursing school, as she was also far from completing her academic requirements. Last year she confessed her secret to Dr. Peggy B-L and husband. The machine was put in motion. She just completed, with some expected difficulties, her first year back to school and ready for this year. And making more friends. Let’s wish her all the courage necessary.

Nursing Management/Accounting Students Scholarship Program:
A few years ago, timidly AHDH started a scholarship program to bring to the system some well performing students from the local public high school of La Vallée, Lycée Philippe Jules. This year marks a milestone: 9 of our 14 students graduated, 3 having already succeeded at the State Licensing exam…A big cheer for those cadres of the future St. Joseph Medical Center
As we said, it was a timid effort, sparkled by Narline F. (above, 3rd from left,) then a waitress at the Auberge, who solicited our support for her dream of becoming an RN. Soon this was shared with the group, that evening at the diner table, it was right away supported by: Rose J., RN, NY (below, left, center), receiving gifts from “her” students; Nicole L. RN, NY (below, flower top), and Jeanette J.P. who could not make it for the graduation. Lot of gratitude, Rose, Jeanette and Nicole L.

From there, the ball keeps rolling, many more joined: Rickie (below, center), with 3 of his 5 “godchildren”, flanked by a happy father, Mr. Pierre Jacques N. (1st from right).
Then Rose got her brother, Dr. Gabriel A. *(below, with his 2 “godchildren”, offering him gifts)*, joined, and he hung with us, without ever met us, until the dawn of this memorable day; while a good friends of ours in New Orleans, Mrs. Ana Desa- R. joined the challenge and sponsored Victoire P., while Danielle C. *(NY)*, Yanick A. *(NY)*, Jackie and Anthony L. *(Louisiana)* brought their support along.

Can we ever thank so many of you enough, for enduring with us over those last 5 years?

We are expecting 3 more to graduate this fall, and the 14th next year, then we will have a full batalion of 14 RNs ready to be significant players in their home county health sytem.
We remain very grateful to Rickie and Ronda J, Ana D. R., Francois and Ameante P., for sponsoring our 4 Accounting/Management students embarking soon on their 2nd year. They also will be the educated cadres of the future health system in that county.

**One more Reservoir, to keep cholera at bay:**
You may have missed it on the road, we are glad to report that since our Winter 2017 mission, AHDH was instrumental in building one more reservoir on top of another well, which is taking us closer to full potable water for the county of La Vallée. Thanks again ED&F for untiring support.

**Team-2, visiting with communities:**

During the second week, Team-2 continued the Ob-Gyn services while receiving the post-op patients from Week-1, as we were joined by 2 senior RN students from FSIL. We took the opportunity to visit Karen (pink top) and husband, Mike’s (1st from left) Baha’i Faith friends in Jacmel, Moro (flower shirt) and Paule, (1st from right).
We had also a chance to finally meet 3 members of the Alliance For Haiti’s Children, founded in Virginia as a collaborative effort of the Haitian community there, and some US friends. Mrs. Antonica P. (2nd from right) has moved back home since, and leading the program there. We visiting Marcy and another member. We look forward to coordinating their efforts with AHDH’s, mostly in the pediatrics area, in the near future.

Your birthday while serving humanity? AHDH is always ready to celebrate yours and the life you bring into the mission:

**Outpatient Clinics status:**
We have registered more progress since our winter trip, as the difficulty buying building materials in the business environment there is improving.
We are most grateful to all of you so patiently supporting this project. To date, we still need **35% of the funds to complete the construction.**

We are launching in about 2 weeks a completely rejuvenated website, now [www.AHDHhaiti.org](http://www.AHDHhaiti.org), which will have available [Gofundme](https://www.gofundme.com) and [Paypal](https://www.paypal.com) links for donations.
Please, remember, recent visitors, we begged you to remain AHDH’s [Ambassadors](http://www.AHDHhaiti.org) and only you can share the near miracles you have just witnessed.
We will be on the road also in 2 weeks, to visit the North-East, from Philadelphia to Ottawa, seeking support. If any meeting can help, don’t hesitate to let me know, I can easily stop by.

Mission Support Angels:
“Angels” as messengers of good news, relieving suffering in a corner of the planet earth, EuAngel (mistranslated as eVangel, eVangelical equals, “good messenger”) who can’t make it for the mission but dedicate so much effort to its success…medical supplies and equipment, financial support for our meal voucher program, CRNA’s (nurse anesthetist) stipends. We take great pleasure (and pride) for your friendship. A few to mention:

1- Alcon: Most of our ophthalmology performance would not have been possible without you.
2- Plenty International religiously takes charge of about half of our medicines bills
3- Blessings International who offered us special discount.
4- MAP, for same support
5- Allergan Medical Missions Program
6- Dr. Michelle I. G. and family, and friends
7- Drs. Henry J. K. and Jason A.B.
8- Mr. Anthony and Mrs. Jacqueline L.
9- Nicole V.M., MD
10- Savoy Medical Center: John P.’s and Cheryl L.’s kindness to process our orders is well appreciated.
11- Yvette H. (RN), for the medical supplies
12- Tony R. (CT)
13- Pastor Carrie and Deacon Robert
14- AND SO MANY MORE for their prayers and good wishes.

And to ALL of you, praiseworthy volunteers, thank you for your extraordinary accomplishments. We know you had to sacrifice a lot to be with us – vacation, family obligations, financial resources, you name it - but it is so heartwarming to see that you chose the Preferential Option for the Poor and Vulnerable - enhancing a little bit more solidarity across our little fragile blue planet.
There are no words to thank you. Just **MIRABILIS!!**
And I am sure you all know **HE** is taking ample note of your altruistic acts (*James 2:20 and Mat. 25:35 on*) and His blessings will be visiting you – but most of the time in very subtle ways.

We can but remember these words: **“Remember there is no such thing as a small act of kindness. Every act creates ripple effect with no logical end”.**

**Un gros merci encore à tous!!**

Très Cordialement,

Charles
(Charles René, M.D., F.A.C.O.G
Co-Founder, Treasurer, Director of Projects in Haiti
Association Haïtienne de Développement Humain,Inc.)

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**P.S: Fall 2017 Medical Mission, # 70:**
**November 11 – 18 (Team-1) and November 18 thru 25, 2017 (Team-2)**

Please, send us a note **AS SOON AS you intend** to join. Before this memo is even out, we already have a few committed. Please, help us get better and better organized by registering early.

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**GALLERY OF PHOTOS: THANKS TO ALL WHO SENT THEIR PRECIOUS SOUVENIRS**
Well-earned relaxation

Pediatrician being questioned by smart, chic kid
Dad and daughter relaxing (Orson and Sophia)

Beautiful Bay of Jacmel, from Cap Lamandou Hotel
3rd unit has arrived

Real deep relaxation
Serving adorable angels

Architectural fantasy, in La Vallée, by Architect-Poet François L.
As delicious as it looks
Farewell dinner, at Hotel Cap Lamandou