AHDH's Mission Report: Summer 2015

Dear Members, Volunteers & Friends of AHDH & Haiti:

As promised and as a follow up to our preliminary mission report of July 10, on behalf of the Executive Committee of AHDH, Inc., I take an immense pleasure to share with you our full mission report, AHDH’s Summer 2015 Medical & Educational Mission Report, our 63rd since 1986, which took place from June 16 thru July 3, 2015.

Please, meet this beautiful cross-section of humanity (27 of the 44) our little planet has to offer:
After close to 29 years of medical/education missions in Haiti, this 63rd mission, comes to prove, once more, that ordinary people moved by the desire to fulfill their real purpose in life (Mat:25:35), banded together, can accomplish extraordinary feat.

I am delighted to report to you that AHDH’s 63rd MISSION WAS FULLY ACCOMPLISHED!

No words will ever be sufficient to praise the 44 plus volunteers, from all professional/trade/walks of life, who offered to conjugate their efforts to:

- Restore the sight to 31 plus patients with cataract and other eye impairing ills, (Jn. 9:6)
- Evaluate and correct the vision to 466 patients,
- Relieve 34 plus from decade-long herniae/hydrocele, paraphimosis, facial, neck, chest tumors,
- Provide tens of patients with prenatal care, cervical cancer detection and treatment,
- Control tens of patients with hypertensive, diabetic challenges,
- Offer to 40 plus patients obstetrical/Gynecological and renal ultrasonographic studies etc

All they had done was bringing their God-given talents and share such blessings, and not keep them idle. (Mat.25:14..),

It was a successful mission but with some particular challenges and in a sense a mission in a mission. Most of you have been appraised of the transition of a “Giant Oak”, our beloved Brother, Arshavir Michael, MD, anesthesiologist, this past April 14. Arshi, as we affectionately called him, was, who knows maybe still is, a pillar of our mission, over the last 14 years.
He left a strong legacy to be proud of, but also to maintain.
A legacy, indeed. He was everywhere our mission needed his input and support:

In the OR, he has so much contributed to make it a modern day OR: Attending his patients; or emotionally reassuring the little ones, using as many of the creole words he had mastered…

And in his OR, he wanted to make sure everything was up to date..donating anesthesia machines, pulse oximeters, oxygen concentrators etc. while making sure the little details were in working condition… sterilizer, ceiling bulbs etc.
And the future of AHDH mission, so close to his heart: Below with the team and the engineer surveying the lot of the future Outpatient Department (see update below), while always close to the humbles (below right, at their local market)

While back home, in Crowley, busy contributing and leading fundraiser for the Outpatient Clinic:
And legitimately so, he enjoyed the pride to see his daughter Anika, ophtalmo, and son, Zishan, dentistry, close to his life philosophy: Soon trained they started sharing by serving.

And teaching young Haitian and US residents..delivering them Certicates of Clinical Rotation:

Such an extraordinary gift to Haiti and AHDH from our compatriot, Nicole (MD), since 2001. Million Thanks!

But his legacy (Mat. 25:40) seems to be in good hands, as the success of our Summer 2015 Mission largely attests. When “Senior Angels” and “Junior Angels” joined energies to offer to the less fortunate the best
they have, as mentionned above…we know he will rest in peace.

Indeed, now let’s share some great news, as AHDH continues to fullfill the mission.

Our OR system, after the big shake-up (above), managed to weather the blow, thanks, among other support, to an extraordinary addition, a “Junior Angel”, who, when called (Thanks again Nicole L.R and the St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, Morris, IN) and explained our sudden challenge, didn’t hesitate a second to join: A perfect fit, spiritual as well as emotional, as she wanted to share her God-given talents (Mat. 25:25), and has been longing to come back home and serve her brethren: Let’s welcome Laurence (MD, anesthesiologist, below, left, 1st from left, with the NY team; and below right, at patient’s head, leading prayer before starting the cases of the day).

Another cause for celebration is the return of our beloved colleague, Reynolds (MD, ophthamo, below, blue top), who had to take some time off for illness, but is back, and we can’t thank the Almighty enough for such an angelic gift for the last 10 years or so. And her surgery partner, Anika, could hardly contain her joy (below right, center). They do so much together for our people.
Which gave them more time to operate and teach. *Below left with “Junior Angels”, Susan L.R.*:

And lead the whole Eye Team: Below, from left, “Juniors” Riley (Premed) and Robert (EMT); “Seniors” Yvrose (PhD), Mary (Teacher), Susan (Premed), Anika (MD), Mat (Anthropology, Post-Grad student); and “Juniors” Hadley and Suzanne (RN student)
We were also so pleased to welcome once more other colleagues in practice in Haiti, faithfully joining us, namely “our” surgery team: Below left: Marie May (MD, center), Philippe (MD, to her left) and our faithfull supporter/handyman, Claude (dark top); and below right, Victor (MD, with magnifying glasses), teaching Ronel J. (PGY-4, from Univ. La Paix)

Many “Senior Angels” were au Rendez-Vous: As our volunteers experience AHDH’s mission, they become designated Ambassadeurs Plénipotentiaires of AHDH, and the next step is to bring S.O.: Sarah (D.Pharm.) and husband, Jeff (Engineer, below, left) are back. With colleagues: More Xavier University colleagues and students: Below right, from left: Erica (4th year), Patrick (center, working on D.Pharm. degree), and Randall (black top, 4th year, Pharm.)

While they are having plenty opportunity to work closely with another beloved “Senior Angels”, Susan (MD, Ob-Gyn), below left, who also introduced along “Juniors” Robert (EMT) and Andrew (Premed), below right:
While Jeff and “Senior” Georges (Mechanical engineer), continue to work once more together, both giving no chance to idle equipments to be in our way; supported by Jacques L. (no photo available)

As we had the fortune to enjoy once more the support of Bio-Med Tech, Roger (below, left, fixing anesthesia machine). We are so glad, like Georges, he decided to come back home with his high in demand specialty. We are glad also yo have back Stephanie & Nadege (CRNAs, below, center) and Vilia (OR Tech, below right, on left)

Our “Seniors” just don’t mind at all initiate the “Juniors”, as the impact of such exposure, they
know, can go a long way toward their real calling in life: Below left, Celeste (RN, N.Y.) training Hadley (Premed) in OR set up; and Sandra (RN, below right, center) monitors student in OR.

Another decade long “Senior” deserving a special commendation: Mike (Ultrasonographer) who contributed so much to AHDH (below left, center) surrounded by eager “Juniors”, while passing the baton to well trained local student: Below, right, Jeannot monitoring Erica, Pharm student.

As Andrew (below left, Premed) and Suzanne (RN student, TX) with Ob patient; and surgeons (Louis and Marie M.) appreciating flank mass, before surgery (below right):
Two amazing “Juniors”, Adrienne (RN, below, left, blue top), and Courtney (RN, below right, blue top), took with such an ease the full control of the Pre/Post-Op-Recovery area that we had to wonder if they have brought with them their Acadiana language (Creole) skills. (Kids are from a new scholarship program initiated by Coordinatrice Nicole V.M., MD, Ped., with the support of Greta T., Benefactor in Crowley)

Now a real “Angel”, the youngest ever, at his first mission, with mom (Mary M., MD, below right). He was so helpful entering data in our Cervical Dysplasia/Cancer database. Good start, serving!

And a Special Thank now to Claude L. (MD, Pathologist), who untiringly, without any fanfare, processes our biopsies, Pap Smears etc. for a decade now. We are currently working on expanding our system and have a Lab Tech, he just trained, to handle our specimens on our campus and forward them for his opinion next, lightening the burden at his lab. Extraordinary expression of solidarity who goes straight to our hearts (below, center).
Universite Episcopale d’Haiti/Faculte des Sciences Infirmieres (FSIL) had once more 2 of their Senior RN students on clinical rotation on our campus. They remain as disciplined and eager to learned as their predecessors. Our gratitude to Dean Alcindor for such unwavering collaboration.

Now, let’s share a couple of extraordinary additions to our mission:

**AHDH and St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, Haiti Ministry, Morris, IN:** A very promising collaboration for the benefit of the less fortunates.

One of our dear volunteers, Jeanette J.P. (RN, NY), could not make it for this trip, but she has her home village, **Gandou**, very close to her heart. We have been trying our best to serve that community despite its far location.

Then, Jeanette realizing that the Gadou’s parish, St Francis, was twin parish with St. Anthony, Indiana, and goes there, the only problem was we were going at different times. Problem solved.

We were there together this time and a beautiful win-win collaboration has started: Their surgical cases and consultations have a welcoming mat at Hopital St. Joseph, and it is happening.

We were very delighted to meet finally, after months of email and phone exchanges, their leader, Joseph R, and have Frances (Dental Hyg., below left, brown top) and Stephanie (pink top) to stay and work in our system for 3 days, and also Bonnie (below right, last row, first from left) with patients.

Now another exciting news: **Emergency evacuation by air** is now available: **Ayiti Air Ambulance.** An old dream becoming reality!

After preliminary contact during a convention in Port-Au-Prince, on June 17, while trying to catch the interest of potential donors from the P-AU-P business sectors for our Outpatient Clinics, we met these new kids on the block.

On the morning of June 26, a roaring sound in the La Vallée’s sky called for attention, and a brand new ambulance-helicopter was ready to land (below left), as they promised. Right in the high school yard, landed the very first time, the new asset to our medical system, to the delight of everyone: Our staff, our partner organization, CODEVA, and our patients.

Below right: from left, Joe (CODEVA’s Treasurer), Jerry Chandler (MD, Trauma Surgeon, Director), Claude, Theo (Engineer of constructions) and Benoit (Secretary)
(See more pictures in P.P.S, below)

Now an update on the construction of the Outpatient Clinics:

The constructions started, right after our Winter Mission, but some delay occurred, first to duck a cholera peak that manifested itself right after our trip, and two, the rocky nature of the terrain (see below), a plus when earthquake is part of the equation now. The photos, below, reflect the situation by early July, but progress has been made since.

We are still struggling to complete our fundraisers for the remaining 40% (see graph below), and we are looking forward to implement some initiatives, any suggestion/support will be deeply appreciated.
We would like to end this report with a very special note. Someone very dear to our hearts, who has been part of this mission over the last decade and half, who became part of our family, last November, untimely transited, I mean our dear friend Camila, who has dedicated herself so thoroughly for the success of our mission, attending our needs.. cooking, cleaning etc.

Some of you may remember that a year ago, we witnessed the first mass of the first Haitian Cardinal, Cardinal Langlois, in his native village, La Vallée de Jacmel. This year, this trip also had a deep spiritual meaning for AHDH. It was the turn of Camila’s son, Rev. Nicolas, to celebrate his first mass in his native village (See below). We feel so privileged to witness this day. And we know our dear Camila is rejoicing among the saints.

Congratulations, Rev. Nicolas!
Mission support Angels
We had to develop recently a new category whereby we invite “Angels” **who can’t make it** for the mission but still willing to **offer their support** with medical supplies or financially for our meal voucher program, CRNA’s (nurse anesthetist), lab tech stipends etc.
We were fortunate and privileged to enjoy the support of:
1- **Alcon:** Most of our ophthalmology performance would not have been possible without them.
2- Elaine and **Plenty International**, who religiously take charge of our medicines bills.
3- **Blessings International and MAP** who sell us the needed medicines at reduced prices.
3- **IHC (International Hospital for Children)** of Dr. Mayer Heiman, who religiously remind us, as for the last 20 plus years, to stop by IHC’s warehouse on 2nd Saturdays, to select supplies.
4- Mr. Williams Kennefick
5- **Frances Grebel**
6- David Mostafavi, MD/Opto, funds to buy glasses
7- St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, Haiti Ministry, Morris, IN, for anesthesia support
8- Mrs. Susan M Kurzweg, Covington, LA
9- The Belizaires (TX) (Lab Tech’s stipend)
10- Terrill Lewis Jr. (Gift packS for pregnant patients and kids)(future volunteer!)

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 heart warming 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 strong enough to thank you.
And I am sure you all know HE is taking ample note of your acts *(James 2:20 and Mat. 25:14 on)* and His blessings will be visiting you – but often time in very subtle ways.

**Un gros merci encore !!**

Cordialement,

Charles
(Charles René, M.D., F.A.C.O.G., Clinical Associate Professor, Tulane University, Ob-Gyn Dept.
Co-Founder, Past-President, Treasurer, Director of Projects in Haiti
Association Haïtienne de Développement Humain,Inc., 149 W. Lakeview Dr., LaPlace, LA70068)
[www.haitiahdh.org](http://www.haitiahdh.org)
P.S:

Announcements:

1-Next Missions:

Fall 2015: 11/14/2015 thru 11/21, Team-1; 11/21 thru 11/28/2015, Team-2;

Our beloved Coordinatrice, Dr. Nicole V-Michael, is already at work for AHDH’s Fall 2015 Mission. Soon you make up your mind, please send her a note ASAP: michaelnm@yahoo.com or yours truly: chasrene46@bellsouth.net

P.P.S. Our P.P.S. (Post P.S.) will be from now on dedicated to the impressions of the volunteers who just participated in our mission or before and miss it.

1-Today at 4:32 PM

Dear Dr Rene

Invited to join a group of Professionals and Volunteers going to practice to Haiti, I didn't hesitate even though deep inside I had Questions, Concerns and Worries. My experience was remarkably agreeable. First the place I stayed: the views were awesome, peaceful for the mind, the spirit, the soul. The food, the fruits were delicious. IT WAS AMAZING I have met a large Family of qualified professionals and volunteers of different back round: Students, Nurses, Physicians, Pharmacists, engineers all dedicated committed with one heart, one soul: SERVICE SAFETY OF THE PATIENT WITH RESPECT, COMPASSION, LOVE. IT WAS PERFECTLY ORGANIZED and WELL STRUCTURED IT WAS POWERFUL We received the visit of Haiti Air Ambulance & their Team Physician, Flight RN & other Specialist, based in Port-Au-Prince, They are present for the community any time they are needed: to save life. IT WAS INSPIRING If after 29 years of activity and their 63rd Mission AHDH can add 65 new cases of Surgery and of Ophthalmology, 10 of Cervical Cancer Screening of OBGYN to their record it simply means that they are working seriously and the members can go boldly to offer to implement at the level of other Departments of the country what they have so successfully accomplished in The Vallee of Jacmel. It was only on Saturday night before we left for Port-Au-Prince, on our last supper that I discovered the "SECRET": A beautiful mountain view was displayed with the words of Matthew 25 V 35 and following and the picture of Dr Michael totally focused on his Anesthesia Sheet and other professionals caring for patients struck me to tears and I realized I was asked to be there the one God wants me to Be and to DO what God wants me to DO Just to put my knowledge and my skills in the service of my brothers and sisters. I am for ever grateful to AHDH for this opportunity given to me. I received a lot. The only way to say Thank You it's by showing myself worthy of the trust placed in me and by enrolling other professionals to the "CAUSE". Difficulties and Adversities may arise but the victory at the end is assured for AHDH is doing the work of God. BLESSINGS.

Sincerely,
2-Amelia Belizaire
To chasrene46
Today at 7:59 AM
Good Morning Charles,
I am glad the trip went well. We had a great time with family but AHDH and the mission were in our minds as well. I spoke to Nicole just prior to her leaving and I sent her a check last week to cover the expenses for the lab tech and the medical students. I hated to bother her about receiving it but she should have it.
Love to all.
Amelia

Sent from my iPhone
Show original message

3-critty49
To chasrene46
Today at 9:50 AM
Amazing!!!!. Congrats!!!!!!! What a successful journey thru the years. God's Love, Critty

4-Anisa Shomo
To chasrene46
Today at 7:31 AM
Thank you Papa Charles! I really did want to go again this year but had another obligation. Did you leave already? I had a couple of questions about education sponsorships.
Anisa

Sent from my iPhone

5-Evens Joicin
To Dr Charles Rene
Today at 10:32 AM
Thank you very much for your hard work. We are very proud of you! God bless! Keep strongly!
Show original message

6-Message received.

Antoine (Jumelle)

7-Yvelyne Germain-McCarthy
To chasrene46
Today at 12:16 PM
HOW WONDERFUL!!
MAY Our GOOD DAD CONTINUE TO BLESS YOU!!

Thank you.

Yvelyne

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8-Jovin M G Phoebee
To chasrene46
Today at 12:39 PM
Congratulations, see you soon

Marie Gardys Phoebee JOVIN, MD
Oto Rhino Laryngologie et Chirurgie Cervico-Faciale
Polyclinique 115 de Petion Ville
115, Rue Lambert, Petion Ville. Ht 6140
HUM, Mirebalais, Plateau Central

9-Bill Carter
To 'chasrene46'
Today at 1:27 PM
Well done Charles! You have accomplished so much over the years. Best regards…

Bill

9-Bill Carter
To chasrene46
Today at 6:15 AM
Peace Dr. Charles,

May we seek joy on this earth by the works of the Lord.

Hello again my friend. It was so great to meet you in Haiti. Your place in Lavallee is such a wonder. I praise God for connecting us. I totally see the same mission sent to us by God.

I can't thank you enough for all the great care you gave our patients. Truly the love of God is with you.
I just wanted to check on a couple things. I want to send you the money we owe you for the surgeries. Please let us know how much we owe and we will send you a check.

Second, I don't think we got a receipt for the last check we sent. Please send that when you can or if I missed it somehow just let us know and we will talk to the Church office to see if they have seen anything.

May God bless you.
Peace
joe

GALLERY OF PHOTOS

As usual, the large crowd was at the rendez-vous, queuing around, patiently waiting…

..even if Nicole (MD, center), had to improvise spaces, (while keeping control of her Ped. Clinic)
Miss Casimir (LPN), vaccination leader for the last 25 years.

LA (Hadley) and TX (Suzanne, right) meet in Haiti, for a new friendship, doing HIS work.

CRNAs, OR Tech, MD relaxing at Auberge

Birthdays are not overlooked: Suzanne’s
Relaxing in Jacmel on the week end after a long week of hard work.

The Crowley Ladies in white, relaxing
The Acadiana team (the largest)

OR team:
The Cap Lamandou band
Just found out he is the son of my late Surgery teacher.
ALL PHOTOS, COURTESY OF “Senior Angel” MIKE (below, dark top)
Résidence AHDH, au service de l’humanité