AHDH's Mission Report: Summer 2014

New Orleans, LA

August 16, 2014

Dear Members, Volunteers, Friends of AHDH and Haiti:

On behalf of the Executive Committee of AHDH, Inc., please, allow me to share with you our latest mission report, AHDH’s Summer 2014 Medical & Educational Mission’s, our BLESSED 60th ONE since 1986, which took place from June 20 thru July 11, 2014.

Once more AHDH and its determined volunteers picked up their pilgrim batonS and hit the road, despite another ugly visiting Haiti: Chikungunya fever.

We praise each one of you, the 48 volunteers plus our RN students, who trusted the 27 year-long AHDH’S mission system and came along to relieve suffering for our less fortunate – a very important if not the most important “raison d’être” on earth Mat.25:35)

Your time and love, as well the “talents” (skills and finances...Mat. 25: 14) entrusted you to make a difference during our short journey on that little blue planet earth were well invested.

Million thanks again. Mille Mercis encore.

Please, share with your friends, and mostly, for their sake, your non-friends, how much good can be done with so little… how much agape flows in AHDH’s mission.

Once more, our volunteers covered a lot of grounds, despite some serious electrical power challenges, which resulted in a loss of approximately a fourth of our efficiency, but our engineers-volunteers (Georges, Jacques, Jeff,) and local support (CODEVA) saved the day.

Just hard to stop a train of good deeds!

All the grounds were covered, from eyes (evaluated 400 patients at 2 sites: Cayes-Jacmel, Ridore; distributed 300 pairs of glasses and performed 23 cataract cases) to toes (55 Pap’s smear; 11 biopsies;23 general surgeries with 6 biopsies), and we will agree they more than deserve this R&R time (below):
Meet most of Team-1 and Team-2, relaxing at the Jacmel resort, after the first week of hard work

**Team-1:** 38 volunteers (32 from the US – from West to East Coast, and states in between, and Canada, who hit the “air” with us, plus 6 local practitioners, besides RN senior students from Haitian universities, espousing our mission and making it their opportunity to serve.

**Team-2:** 10, with emphasis on Ob-Gyn - mostly detection/treatment of early phase cervical/uterine cancer, which by now, 20 plus years later, we can say eradication…

Please meet Team-2, who took charge and continued the work ……..

…besides implementing some new technology: Hopital St Joseph goes digital. Thanks to the Jeanfreaus (New Orleans) (above:Suzan in green scrub and son, David, in blue scrub):

David training Medical record director, Jeannot D.
Suzan is no stranger to the readers of our mission reports: Very instrumental for the miraculous heart defect repair in New Orleans of Elizabeth (below center), happily growing in her native village.

Here visiting us, with her mom, while we are keeping an eye on her progress.

As the accounting system at the Hopital St Joseph has been upgraded, another step toward self-sufficiency, with the return, after graduation of Renald, one of our scholarship program students (below, on left, with CODEVA’s Secretary, Marie-Thérèse R. and Treasurer, Joe P.) adopted 4 years ago. A big thank Rickie and Jackie/Anthony (LaPlace, LA) for the laptop and the QuickBooks software donations.

Talking about new technology, a very faithful, unwavering volunteer of our program, over the last dozen years, Mike, who will not rest: Hopital St Joseph must continue to have imaging! As all our ultrasound machines are broken, he donated a portable unit (below, at work) Thanks a Billion, Mike!!
Ouf! Also finally Bio-med is back in the house: After quite a few years of deprivation, some help coming our way: Roger L. (below, 2\textsuperscript{nd} from right), recently graduated in biomed engineering in the US, is joining our crusade to keep our equipment functioning. A big relief saluted by Coordinatrice Nicole (Ped., 1\textsuperscript{st} from left) and Georges (Engineer, red top)

Very talented, but most importantly very aware of the need of his motherland: He wants to create, with some classmates, a foundation dedicated to repair those broken medical equipements in Haiti, like we have plenty over there. Welcome aboard again, Roger, and compliments for your courage. We will be on your side.

As promised in our mission report this past winter, our trip was going to be blessed also by the presence of Haiti’s first ever Cardinal, His Eminence Cardinal Langlois, a son of the village, who has risen from very humble conditions to that honor, celebrating his first mass in his hometown.
Another big blessing to our mission: The Belizaires (Roger, above with the Cardinal). Once again (in our silent contest) the winners for the largest family group to have joined our Summer mission: 8 (photo below)

Once more, as we had another large opto/ophtalmo group, we brought our support to the Cayes-Jacmel medical center (CME/Dr. Philippe). There is always plenty around to share in HIS fields.

Carrie and Amilia (MDs)
As we were joined also by the group **Hope for Humanity** (Florida), in that effort.

**Solidarity** also incessantly expressed by many of our colleagues practicing in Haiti: Reynold (ophthalmo.), Paul -Edouard (Neonatology), Mary May (Gen. Surgery), Georges (engineer), Marie Lydie (Anesthesio), Miss Lolo etc.

We were once more privileged to have a team from **Xavier University**, lead once more by Sarah (D.Pharm, below left, blue scrub), accompanied by 2 students CarolKim (below left, green scrub) and Michael, and, please pay attention, this time by husband, Jeff (engineer, photo below right, brown pants with Georges and Jacques, true blessings throughout the years), who had his hands full with our generator problem. XU is in it for the long haul. Thanks so much!

Some other **returnees/"Senior Angels"**! For most of those who have experienced this **agape**-sharing experience, going once is out of question, and most don’t count anymore (as Gilbert Becaud put it: Quand on aime, on ne compte pas, ses tantes Jeanne: when you love, you don’t count your aunts..): Our twin volunteers, Nathania Suzan (below, 5 O’clock) and Rony Nathan (11 O’clock), you may have been following them over the last 4-5 years, they have finally heard their calling: medicine!
While making sure the “Junior Angels” (above) Peyton (7 O’clock), CarolKim (12 O’clock), Chloe (1 O’clock, and below, blue scrub) and Michael (2 O’clock) get the message.

Chloe, again, RN student, Florida, is pondering also.

And Jen (Opto, blue bottom) does what she loves most: Educate

And Celeste J.P. (RN, 9 O’clock), Jen G. (2 O’clock) and John N. (5 O’clock) were making sure “Juniors” Monique (RN, 7 O’clock), Victoria (RN, 11 O’clock), Kyle (Pre-Med, 12 O’clock), were having a good time.

Three other “Junior Angels”, who did a real “Senior” job:
Marline, 2\textsuperscript{nd} from left, David, 1\textsuperscript{st} from right and Ezede (MD, 3\textsuperscript{rd} from left). Thanks so much.

As now a routine, we had 4 RN senior students from \textit{Université Episcopale d’Haiti} (UEDH), 2 with each team: Above Rose Nancy S. white scrub, and Fabiola L.(red scrub), who were part of Team-2, as Marie Sandra B. and Nenzt M.H. had already completed their rotation, with Team-1. And the icing on top: We were honored by the visit of Dean Hilda Alcindor,RN, attending also Cardinal Langlois’ first mass.

A humble model of organized, constant “solidarite inter-haitienne”: AHDH and UEDH/FSIL

Now an Update on the Outpatient Clinics project: As 3 additional pro bono engineers (all children of La Vallée) joined the original 3 anxious to bring their contribution to the process, more brainstorming is taking place on the planning board, with more ideas
coming up for the best possible plan and start the constructions. (below reviewing plans)

As so far we have mustered 45% of the estimated $245,000 (Thanks a lot again to ED&F and to all of you who helped with their matching fund campaign), and while we were in Port-Au-Prince, we initiated an aggressive effort (Thanks again Edward) to sensitize the local big businesses to join our project by way of donations, in nature (cement, iron, electrical appliances) or finances.

I just wanted to share also that after 27 years of partnership, La Vallee de Jacmel has proven slowly but surely to be a vibrant, progressive, blessed community (see note on the Cardinal, above), which more and more sees its Diaspora children returning home to help bring it to another level. Two such persons we feature often, given their extraordinary support to our efforts, Vanite (below, 4th from left) and Ange (blue stripe top) won’t rest: By the time we were leaving, **13 water wells** have been successfully drilled. Thanks also to **Water for Life/ Dlo pou la vi**
The impact on improving health care of such accomplishment is just immeasurable: cholera, worms infestations, skin diseases etc. can be easily desinvited.

We pray that the community can now build water towers, with solar water pump, to bring real running water to the houses and finally say good-bye to the Middle Age conditions of daily life.

Mission support Angels:

We would be amiss not to acknowledge the support of the following persons/companies who have supported our 60th mission, almost every trip for most of them:

Arshi (MD, for CRNA’s stipend)
Plenty International for Medicines
Derrick (MD) for IV fluids
The Jeanfreaus for generator
Gladys F. for the lunch program
Roger B. (MD) for Lab tech stipend
Randy N. of Bayou Bend Golf Club who sent $300 worth of toys for the kids.

The Alcon Laboratories, Inc. (TX), once more provided us thousands of dollars’ worth of supplies for cataract surgeries. Without forgetting a long time supporter of our mission: Cashway Pharmacy (Crowley, LA)

And to All of you, praiseworthy volunteers, thank you for your extraordinary accomplishments in HIS fields.

We know you had to sacrifice a lot to be with us – vacation, family obligations, financial ressources, 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 to thank you. (But, Mat:25:35 is still real)

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.

Mille mercis encore,

Cordialement,

Charles
(Charles René, M.D., F.A.C.O.G., Clinical Associate Professor, TulaneUniversity, Ob-GynDept.
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P.S: Next Mission:
Our beloved Coordinatrice, Dr. Nicole V-Michael, is already at work for AHDH’s Fall 2014 Medical/Educational Mission, our 61\textsuperscript{th}, from November 15, 2014 thru November 22 (Team-1) and November 22 thru November 29 (Team-2). As soon you make up your mind, please send her a note ASAP: michaelnvm@yahoo.com

Some Lagniappes (as they say in Louisiana)
Doctors and engineers working on generators

Delivering laptop to RN students at UNDH/Jacmel campus
Honoring our cook and husband, Camila and Pierre-Jacques
Farewell dinner at Resort

Developing new bonds