



Rod, Debbie & Katie Wray Serving the Lord in Haiti

February 10, 2021

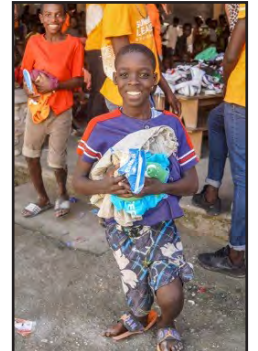


Our long time friend and co-worker Dr. Bill passed away a few weeks ago after eight years of battling with cancer. Thank you to each one of you who faithfully prayed for Dr. Bill. He was an incredible example of a humble servant who desired to see people come to know Jesus. Even during the past few years as his body was shutting down, Dr. Bill continued to come to Haiti, serving and giving of himself even to the end. It was a privilege to work with and know Dr. Bill.

Although we haven't had visiting teams to help us do group weddings, we continue to help couples who are desiring to get married. Deb has an organized system where she loans wedding dresses and accessories to the wedding couples.



January was a month of giving for us, thanks to you who sent so many amazing items for us to give. At Renault Sunday school, we distributed the gifts to girls one week and boys the next. It went really well and the beautiful clothes, shoes, toys and quilts were greatly appreciated.



The boys received t-shirts, shoes, toys and quilts, with the older ones getting beans or peanut butter also.



A young man from Missouri named Patrick recently asked us what he could do to help with the ministry, so we asked if he might be able to gather tennis shoes for the kids that play volleyball each week here at Camp Mahanaim. Patrick did an amazing job and rounded up shoes from his university and everywhere he could. The shoes arrived last month and we were able to give everybody in our volleyball club a beautiful pair of running shoes. The day they received their shoes, they didn't play volleyball very well, they were literally staring down at their feet looking at their shoes.



This month there have been some political concerns in Haiti, however, the demonstrations have mainly taken place in Port au Prince and it has been quiet and calm in Les Cayes and at Camp Mahanaim. We are thankful to be able to continue on in ministry and serving here.



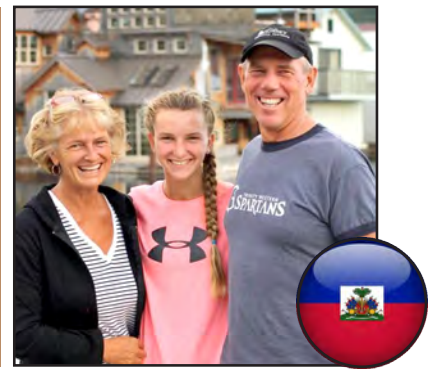
Katie just turned 18 a few days ago. We are so thankful that she is doing university online and has decided to remain with us in Haiti. She is a great blessing to us and to the Haitians also.

Thank you for your prayers and support and partnership. We also truly appreciate when you drop us a quick note or email. We all continue to adjust to travel restrictions and changes, but it definitely helps when we keep in touch with each other.

Love Rod, Deb and Katie

Camp Mahanaim with The Wray Family Rod, Debbie & Katie

Serving the Lord in Haiti



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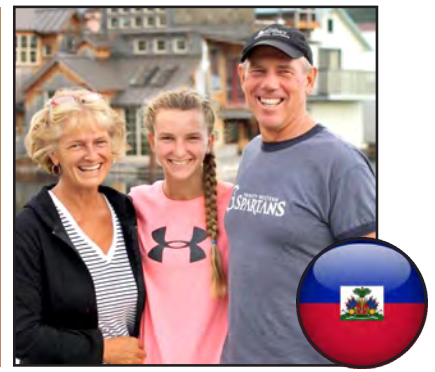
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Thanks so much for your support and encouragement for us this past month. We are happy to be home in British Columbia together with family. Both Harvest International and World Team Canada have approved an one year missionary furlough period for us. We are thankful to God for good health and safe travels. It is great to be together with family again. Dan and Christie have a beautiful suite that we are living in.



We are enjoying visiting relatives, and friends, many of whom have faithfully prayed for us and supported us during these past 18 years.



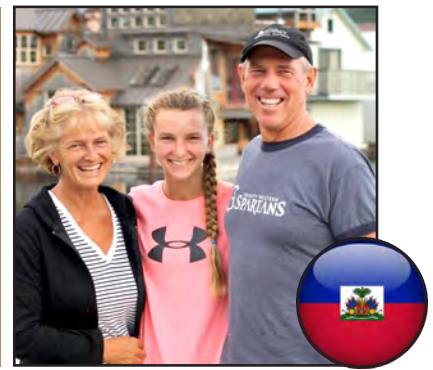
Thanks to your kindness and care, Sandy arrived a couple of days ago and Katie is a very happy girl.

Thank you so much. We have been overwhelmed by your support and kindness and prayers for us. For now, we are trying to be patient and wait on the Lord for Him to show us His plan and direction.



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As we near the end of the year 2021, we would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and also share with you our biggest thanks.

More than 18 years ago, we left home in Canada and moved to Haiti, believing that God was calling us to serve Him and the Haitian people. These past 18 years have been amazing and we thank God for giving us the privilege of living and serving in Haiti.

Ever since our arrival in 2003, convinced of God's call, we were willing to serve in Haiti for as long as God would allow us. In 2009 when God gave us the Camp Mahanaim project to develop, He also gave us the verse of Revelation 3: 8 " See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it." Over the years, we held on to that verse, even through the many difficult times, such as being arrested and put in prison, having rocks thrown at us, hurricanes and floods, being surrounded by angry mobs, having tires slashed on our vehicle, a kidnapping attempt, thieves breaking in, and many more challenges. On August 14th of this year, we knew without a doubt that God had closed the door Himself and it was time for us to leave Haiti.

THANK YOU !!! For faithfully being our partners in ministry - For encouraging us through regular communication, visits and prayers - For sending peanut butter, manna packs, hand sewn clothing and many other ministry supplies - For giving faithfully to ensure the function of the camp and Sunday school - For sending sea containers, building supplies, tools and equipment - For coming on teams so that together we could do medical clinics, weddings, childrens' camps and building projects - For picking us up and helping us stand after hurricane Matthew - For your kindness and support to us personally after the August 14th earthquake. THANK YOU !!!

This is an article written by the Catholic priest Jan Hoet who lives in Port au Prince. He is the founder and president of the Banzai volleyball club.

Sad traces of the earthquake of August 14, 2021. Last week, I received images of the damage caused by the August 14 earthquake at the Mahanaim training center at the Baptist Church. This center is located in a large and beautiful domain on the coast at Torbeck, 20 km south of the town of Les Cayes (see photos). This training center was built by a Canadian couple, Rod and Debbie Wray, who lived there with their daughter Katie since 2009. Everything has been planned for hosting groups for several days, for training sessions, cultural events, alternative relaxation, for sports activities and sports camps. They had built a nice gymnasium there a few years ago. They have invested especially in volleyball. Their women's team "The Angels" could compete against the best teams in Haiti. We had the opportunity on several occasions to take advantage of their hospitality with young people from Banzai to participate in a volleyball tournament (1914 & 1916) and once for a successful volleyball camp (in 2017).

The damage recorded at the center is considerable, most of the buildings were completely destroyed. The gymnasium is still standing, but recovery there will also be very difficult. I learn that the Wray family has returned to Canada. Banzai feels seriously affected by this hard blow that struck this beautiful project and the Wray family. The tremendous work accomplished for more than twelve years by the Wray family in the service of the population and especially the young people of the whole region of Les Cayes, bears our great admiration. We remain grateful for the hospitality we experienced there and hope that the means will be found to rebuild this valuable project.

We hope that you have a moment to view this video that Katie made. It is a video of many good memories and the song is by Don Moen and is called; "Thank you for praying for me" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jgqi7cDF77U>.

Katie is registered to attend Capernwray bible school in Spain for three months beginning mid January. Thank you for your continued prayers. We are enjoying our time on furlough with family and friends, and are continuing to seek God's will for His future plans for us. We hope that you will keep in touch, We have appreciated your friendship, partnership and prayers so much.





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August 17, 2021

Dear family and friends,

Thank you so much for your outpouring of kindness and prayers for us these past few days. We have been busy and have emptied our house, the guesthouse and as much of the other buildings as possible. We moved most everything to the shop, (which is high ground) and has a tin roof and is the only building not seriously structurally damaged.

We are so thankful for the kindness of our fellow missionaries at the Dairy farm (10 minutes from the camp), who have invited us to stay in their apartment and make it our home base. It would not be safe for us to stay at the camp as all of the buildings continue to move and sink into the soft ground. We will not be surprised if some more of the buildings have totally collapsed tomorrow after the storm and rain. Also, the wall along the river is destroyed, so there is no protection for the yard when the river floods. Lord willing, we plan to sell, give away and organize all the equipment and supplies at the camp, and then we are hoping in a couple of weeks that Agape flights can fly us together with Sandy the dog to Venice Florida. Once in Florida we plan to meet with Danny Thomas (Harvest director) and then hopefully, rent, buy or borrow a small motorhome and drive through the U.S. and into Canada.

Thank you for your continued prayers as we make these decisions and transitions. We don't know if / when we will return to Haiti at some point in the future, or if the Lord has another place for us to serve as missionaries. We know that for now we are planning to head home to process everything and see family, Lord willing. Thanks again for your prayers and support.





Love Rod, Deb and Katie



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August 14, 2021

Dear family and friends,

After the recent turmoil and events in Haiti, we decided to take a short trip out. It was our first time traveling since COVID and we quickly learned how much the world has changed. We were very blessed to spend one week with the Yordys. It was amazing to see the corn and soy beans in Illinois. We measured the corn at an average of 10 foot tall stalks and the corn fields and bean fields seemed endless. Scott Yordy and I tried the idea of vacuuming the bugs off the soy beans and it worked, but wasn't too practical.



After our time in Illinois, we headed to Michigan where we spent a week with friends / ministry partners who come to Haiti on mission trips. (the picture is taken at Cedar Point theme park in Ohio). We had a great time full of activities and meeting up with good friends.



From Michigan, we drove into Canada, with the plan of getting flights out to the West and visiting our family. Our daughter Carly and her husband Eylar now have 6 children and we have not met our newest grand daughter Mya.

Our daughter Christie and her husband Dan are expecting their 3rd child any day now also. We were really hoping to see our family, however, the COVID rules in Canada were overwhelming and within 12 hours we departed Canada, and headed back to Haiti.



We are thankful to the Lord for His care and protection upon us during all of our travels and for the opportunity to be renewed and recharged by the kindness and support of friends. We are also happy to be back in Haiti and it was especially encouraging to return to Renault Sunday school and see how happy the children were to see us.



We appreciate your prayers and support very much. Please pray for us as we have many Haitian groups coming to use the camp in the next few weeks and we will need to be organized and energized.

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August 14, 2021

Dear family and friends,

Just a quick note to let you know that we experienced an earthquake this morning and it was a big one. The camp was full of about 150 people (70 volleyball boys) and 80 families on a retreat here, and nobody was injured thank the Lord.

Every building here is seriously damaged and some are unsafe to enter and the yard is full of crevasses. We hear that there was a lot of damage in Les Cayes. We aren't sure what we will do now, but appreciate your prayers.



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May 5, 2021

Dear family and friends,

We are excited to update you on the events of this past week here at Camp Mahanaim. Thanks to a group from Michigan who came to serve alongside us, we were able to see 49 couples married. Rather than go out into the villages with all the wedding supplies, we chose to invite the pastors and couples to Camp Mahanaim and hold the weddings here.



It was an overwhelming success and all the couples were thrilled to have the opportunity to be married in such a nice location. The team from Michigan did a great job as they dressed the brides and grooms, took wedding photos and prepared and served the food for the reception. 25 couples were married on Monday, and another 24 were married on Thursday. The Camp yard was full of people with more than 800 people each day. There were 5 different photo spots set up around the yard.





We served the brides and grooms a regular sit down meal in the dining room, while everybody else received hot dogs and pop with popcorn in the chapel. We have many more requests from Pastors who have couples waiting and wanting to get married.



All the couples came back the following day after their wedding, to return borrowed clothes and receive their wedding albums. Many of them gave testimonies as to how thankful they were for this opportunity to get married and the joy they now have to be liberated from the chains that used to bind them.



This groom to be was worn out from all the excitement and picture taking.

Thank you for your prayers and concern. Haiti continues to experience insecurity problems, but we are thankful for the Lord's care and guidance and protection each day. It has also been encouraging that Sunrise airways has established regular daily flights between Les Cayes and Port au Prince, so visitors and teams can travel safely and quickly now.

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June 13, 2021

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A couple weeks ago was Haitian Mother's Day in Haiti and we were able to share gifts with many, both locally in the village, as well as through the area of the Renault Sunday school.



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