



Rod & Debbie Wray
with Katie

Serving the Lord in Haiti



February 12, 2020

Dear Family & Friends,

A few days ago Katie had her 17th birthday and she received a surprise visit from her good friend Chloe Yordy. Chloe and her dad Scott visited us for a week and we had a great time together with them.



Twelve years ago, we began the Renault Sunday school program by setting up tents each Sunday morning in this open field. Now, we are currently in the process of purchasing this very same field, which will give us just over 3 acres of land for a new Sunday School building. Thanks so much for your prayers!



With no teams coming so far this year, we have continued working and building numerous wood projects. Johannes and Luise Schurer just celebrated 45 years of serving as missionaries to Haiti, so it was special to build them a picnic table made from the wood of the mahogany tree that they planted over 40 years ago.



A couple of weeks ago, we had a visitor whose name was Cedeline. We first met her when she was 8 years old and our daughter Carly began the “Aids support group” to help Cedeline. Now, 16 years later, we did what we could to help Cedeline, but sadly, she died last week.



We are amazed at how quickly coconut trees are growing in the Camp Mahanaim yard. We have planted about 400 trees and many of them are starting to bear coconuts. It’s pretty amazing how the coconuts develop, even though the trees aren’t too tall yet. We give all the coconuts from these new trees away as first fruits, and so now, early every morning, we have a group of young gleaners waiting outside our gate, hoping to receive a coconut or two.

Here is a link to a video made by Katie about how to transplant Coconut trees.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hxrmNaZFk3w&t=12s>



Thanks so much for your prayers and support. We appreciate your partnership so much,

Love Rod, Deb and Katie



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March 16, 2020

Dear Family & Friends,

Thank you so much for your continued prayers and support, even during these difficult times. It seems that the world has changed so much in the past week and we know that you all have been affected. A few weeks ago we hosted a weekend for the missionaries here at Camp Mahanaim. It was the first time that the missionary retreat had been held here and it went really well and was a time of fun, fellowship and encouragement.



We had great weather and enjoyed many activities including the floating lanterns. It was special as we realized that we all have different ministries here in Haiti, and the lanterns reminded us that when released together they illuminate the darkness around us.



Thanks again to those of you who are faithfully praying for Joseph, Stanley and Berlin. These three young men minister at the Renault Sunday school with us, and are hungry to learn more from the bible each day.



God is using them to preach powerfully each Sunday morning and then on Sunday afternoons they find their way out to the camp to study the bible with us. Deb always puts soda pop and cookies out, and these boys don't even acknowledge the food and drink, they are so consumed with the Word of God. They have so many questions and this week they were focused on the book of Hebrews. Please continue to pray for them as they live in the ghetto of Les Cayes and they are bothered by all the sin they see around them each day.

We continue to work on projects including our small scale logging operation and some ceramic tile work.



Deb has done a great job with the local kids and the beach area in front of the camp is pretty much free of garbage. The children appreciate the opportunity to work and they do a great job of cleaning things up.

We pray that our Lord will lead and guide us (both you at home and us in Haiti) at this time and use us all to share His gospel with the people around us. There are many people searching for answers at this time.

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April 26, 2020

Dear Family & Friends,

We have many reasons to smile, but the greatest is in knowing Jesus and His great love for us all. Thanks to “on-line education” Katie has graduated with very good marks.



Our monitors from the Renault Sunday school have worked very hard and figured out a system to distribute manna pack prepackaged meals from house to house.

Rod is really enjoying his “covid 19” project, removing the old rusty box from the red truck and transforming it into a dump truck.



Thanks so much to our friends from “Threads of Love” in Michigan and others of you, who have continued to send peanut butter, rice, beans, granola bars and many other gifts which greatly help the ministry here.



The local kids can't seem to live without volleyball, so we have been having 2 small teams at a time come in an play.



Roro and Nadair have done a great job of using up all of our mismatched, remaining ceramic tile and making a beautiful terrazo type patio.

We have started Erns on an apprenticeship as a mechanic. So far he is doing great and learning a lot. He is completely taking apart the quads, treating them with anti-rust treatment and re-assembling them.

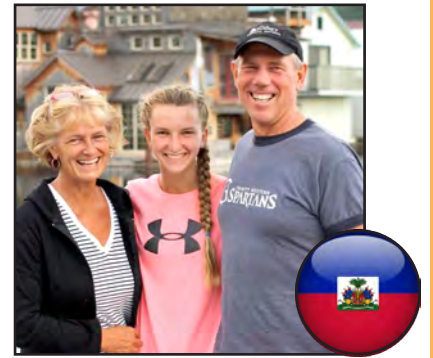


Thank you so much for your prayers and emails. It is so thoughtful of many of you to think about us and send emails to check up on us at this time. We really appreciate it.

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June 11, 2020

Dear Family & Friends,

We live in uncertain times, but we are so thankful that Jesus is our Anchor through the storms of life! Here in Haiti, the covid-19 virus is spreading, and lock down continues, but we are keeping busy. We receive visitors each week who need medical care and help.



We share coconuts, breadfruit, and mangoes that are grown right here in the yard.



The local young people are very excited about volleyball, which is now 2 on 2, so as to respect social distancing policies. Thanks to the Grand Rapids, Michigan friends, we were able to change to using L.E.D fluorescent lights in the gym, so now we can use the gym on solar power without starting the generator. This has worked well for the 2 on 2 volleyball, as the gym is pretty much open all day, week days. As soon as 2 teams leave the yard, 2 more come in.



Deb and I spent several days repairing the gravel road that leads into the camp. Deb did a great job of driving the dump truck!



Thanks to each of you who sent Katie graduation wishes. Katie has taken up pottery and is really enjoying it. We found a clay deposit in the yard, so she has plenty of clay to work with. Katie's potter's wheel is a variable speed Dewalt drill connected to an old rear end from a 4 wheeler. The guys do a nice job of harvesting the clay and preparing it for use.



Thanks for praying for our young Sunday school helpers. They continue to do a good job of distributing "manna packs" to the all the homes in the poor areas near the Sunday school each week.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support and communication. It is always such an encouragement for us to hear from you! Katie made a short video showing the Sunday school helpers delivering manna packs. If you like you can watch it on YouTube at <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=XVvPesZiapY&t=19s>.

Our son Tim continues to make videos also, and here is a link to a video he made about his friend Luke Eliason; <https://www.castanet.net/news/Kamloops/301290/VIDEO-Kamloops-man-showcases-paralyzed-friend-s-resilience>.

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November 1, 2020

We've had a really exciting week here at Camp Mahanaim in Haiti and wanted to give you a quick update. Officially, last year's school year has finally ended in Haiti and there is a short 3 week break until the next school year begins. We used this school break and had a camp for the young men who faithfully delivered manna packs door to door during the lock down. With about 20 young men, it was a much smaller camp group than we usually host, but it was a great camp with a lot of fun and competition and relationship building.



From golf to air soft to all kinds of races and games, it was a great time and we thank the Lord for safety. Our missionary friends Jason and Amanda and their family helped us host the camp and Jason was the main speaker and he really challenged the boys.



In our previous newsletter, we had just distributed the little wooden cars to all the boys at Sunday school. A couple of weeks ago we distributed the beautiful T-shirt dresses to the girls and needless to say, they were very excited to receive them. Thanks so much for sending these items to us.

Deb loves coconut palms and this year she has started many seedlings in special spots around the camp yard. So far Deb's coconut palm nurseries are doing very well.



Thanks so much for your prayers and faithful support and for sending items that we can distribute. Thanks also to you who send medical funds. Almost weekly, we are able to send people for necessary medical care because of your partnership.

Katie has been busy making videos.

If you would like to watch a fun video of camp this week you can look on you tube at <https://youtu.be/a5xbRvhD89E>.

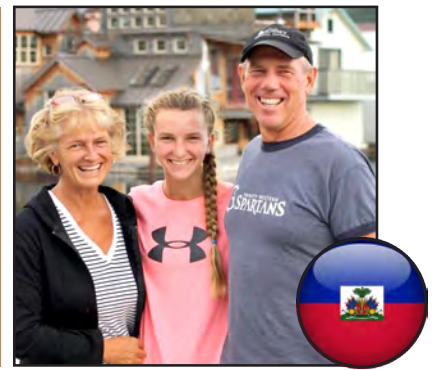
If you would like to see how we built a wood fired pottery kiln at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BkKte0YCk4Q>.

Katie also has an instagram account that you are welcome to follow at **katie_haiti17**

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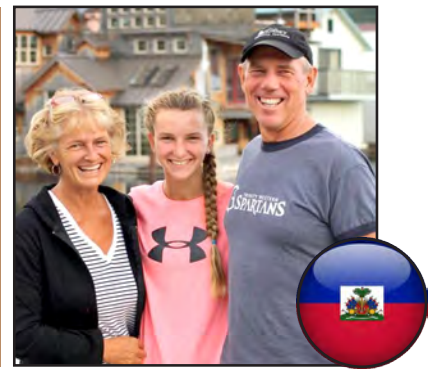


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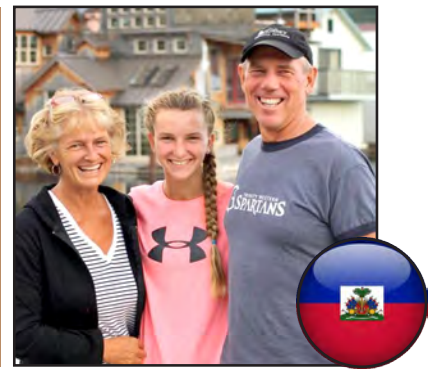
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Thank you so much for watching, praying and asking about us as Tropical storm Laura passed through Haiti yesterday. We are very thankful for the Lord's care and that the river wall held firm through the flood. The yard was full of water, but other than banana plants, there was no damage done.

Our Sunday school helpers have faithfully delivered "Manna Packs" for 4 months now going from home to home on both sides of the Ravine. These young men have delivered about 100 boxes (3,600) manna packs per week to the poorest most needy people. School has now restarted in Haiti and also we have a very low supply of Manna Packs, so this month we have stopped the distributions. We are hoping to be able to begin Sunday school in the very near future again, Lord willing.



We have had a summer full of volleyball ministry this year, which has mainly focused on the children in our village. We had several 30 team ongoing tournaments, plus 2 on 2 tournaments when social distancing was required. Katie led a week long training session on setting which went really well. Also, Katie organized and hosted a wrap up party for her volleyball team; the Angels. 9 years ago we began playing volleyball with this group of young girls from our village. They are now young ladies and although we never made it to the Olympics with them, they are great volleyball players and they all serve the Lord. Katie and a few of the Angels were able to participate in the Canadian; Athlete's in Action total athlete online volleyball camp this month. It was a great opportunity for the girls and they had fun.



Rod turned 60 this month. He enjoyed working with his friend the Bobcat on his birthday.

Deb is always organizing and caring for all the different young people that work with us. These young people helped us run the volleyball tournaments this summer.



This is our friend Wendy, who is growing up. 4 years ago, before hurricane Matthew, we gave Wendy a job selling coconuts and bags of ice to the people of the village. Due to the extreme heat that we have been having this summer, our neighbors asked if Wendy could begin selling ice again, so he comes during the week and does a great job and all the proceeds go to him.

Thank you so much for your continued support and prayers and for sending things. We are able to give out food, clothes and even prizes, thanks to those of you who continue to send. Thanks also for your prayers for our Harvest director; Mr. Danny Thomas. We are very thankful that his open heart surgery went well and he is back on the job.

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May you have a very blessed New Year's this year! Thank you for your faithful prayers, encouragement and support. We have appreciated it more than ever this year, and most of all, we are thankful for God's faithfulness unto us.

We've been very blessed to have a few visitors this Fall, including Duane and Ruth from Michigan who shared Thanksgiving with us.

This week we have Steve and Jeff and Steve with us for the week and they are repairing vehicles, and doing numerous projects around the camp which we really appreciate.



Katie does a great job of leading the Sunday school kids in singing every Sunday morning, and she also looks after the technical / computer duties, which is a great help to us.

We spend time in the evenings packaging rice into heat sealed bags. This process not only keeps the bugs out of the rice, but makes it simpler to distribute the smaller packages of rice (rather than large sacks).

Rod continues to use the sawmill. Here he is cutting a mango tree into 2 X10 boards which will be used to make bed frames.

Katie is doing great with her pottery. She is getting ready to glaze these creations.



Volleyball continues at Camp Mahanaim and we have about 20 teams made up of children and youth from our village that play every week. The kids love it when we have granola bars to distribute.

We would appreciate your prayers as we are planning a Christmas camp for these young volleyball players. We have invited Joseph, Stanley and Berlin from the Sunday school to come and be the speakers / evangelists, and we are asking you to pray that God will use us all to really reach these young people with the Gospel. (The camp will be next Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, Lord willing and there are about 70 young boys in this volleyball group).