



Sante Total

Healthcare for Haiti's Poor

November/December 2012

MEDICAL TEAM MARKS 12TH TRIP TO JACSONVILLE

The 12th Sante Total medical team visited Jacsonville from September 21-28, 2012. The team included: Dr. Susan Rodgman and Dr. Susan Gibson, both from Canada; Dr. John Roberts, Department of Psychiatry, Tulane University; Alison Smith, Ashley Kiefer, and Matt Skovgard, Tulane Medical School students; Amy Cavigli, and Tommy George, Tulane School of Public Health students. The group treated over 203 patients, including numerous follow-up patients with chronic conditions and some acute cases. Several patients required an extensive amount of care, including one man with a severe leg infection. A follow-up visit with a previous patient from June who almost lost her fingers due to an untreated infection from a dog bite, revealed that she had completely healed and has full range of motion in all of her fingers. The group also spent ample time visiting people in the community.

CHURCH MEMBERS SEW CLOTHING FOR CHILDREN

A group of dedicated and talented women led by Mrs. Karen Kutz, from Cross Roads Presbyterian Church in Monroeville, Pa., spent time sewing beautiful children's clothing for a donation to the girls and boys of Jacsonville. Church members presented 300 girls sundresses and boys shorts to Gabriel Thelus when he visited the church in September. Gabriel brought 40 clothing items on his return trip with the rest to be delivered in December.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Women of Cross Roads Presbyterian Church sewed 300 items of children's clothing. (L to R): Libby Enos, Ilona Beatty, Lucy Peckman, Alice Grasso, Norma FitzGerald, Sarah Trautman, and Karen Kutz. Additional participants in the project not pictured are: Maureen Hill, Gilli Loginow, LaVerne Lokay, Sue Lomeo, Willa Miller, Arlene Rattan, Diane Schirm, and Janice Tuck.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY GABRIEL THELUS

Students of St. Rose de Lima School in Jacsonville, Haiti, wear clothing made by members of Cross Roads Presbyterian Church.

GABY THELUS REACHES OUT TO PITTSBURGH

Visit Draws Attention to Needs in Haiti

BY PAULA A. SMITH

Slightly after midnight on September 29, 2012, Gabriel Thelus' plane touched down at Pittsburgh International airport. When he saw us, his generous smile warmed our hearts from the moment we waved. Although I had the privilege of meeting him two years earlier on a medical relief trip to Haiti with our daughter, Alison, a Tulane MD/PhD candidate, and a volunteer medical team, this was the first time my husband, Dave, was introduced to him. They quickly became good friends.

In a city of champions from Dr. Jonas Salk to Steelers, it was clear to everyone he met on his first trip to Pittsburgh that Gaby is a winner. Calls poured in from reporters with newspapers and magazines requesting interviews for articles on Gaby and his work in Haiti. Evan Sanders, a photographer for the Pittsburgh Tribune Review and friend of Gaby, assisted him with slide presentations at scheduled events.

Gaby's first speaking engagement was held at Cross Roads Presbyterian Church in Monroeville. In front of the flag of Haiti, he humbly shared the story of his life, mission and projects in Jacsonville. A resounding applause followed by the congregation with Pastor Rob Marrow, who mentioned Gaby's work during the Sunday service. Afterward, church members hosted a lovely reception and presented Gaby with 300 handmade sundresses and shorts for the children. The sewing project was coordinated by Mrs. Karen Kutz, with the assistance of women from the church. Karen and her husband, John, were instrumental in arranging Gaby's visit to the church.

Later the same day, Gaby was welcomed by Father Joshua Kibler, C.O., Oratory priest, at The Ryan Catholic Newman Center in Oakland. Gaby was honored as the featured speaker at

the Catholic Action meeting at St. Paul Cathedral social hall. The room was filled with students from nearby universities. In addition to highlighting past and current projects, his presentation included an opportunity to learn about the way of life and aspirations of the people, a sponsorship program for children and construction of a medical clinic under the leadership of Alison, medical director, who coordinates quarterly volunteer medical relief trips.

During his time with us, Gaby was kept busy with phone calls and visits from supporters. A reception was held for him the next evening at our home. Parishioners of North American Martyrs Catholic Church in Monroeville, Cross Roads Presbyterian Church and various local churches were excited to meet him. Many people were familiar with his projects and supported them when Alison shared her involvement in Haiti at her home parish of North American Martyrs. With guests gathered around, Gaby discussed his family, dreams for his village and progress in the community. Everyone commented on how impressed they were with his genuine commitment and vision for a better way of life in Haiti—A commitment that he attributes to his father’s dream.

A final event was held on October 2, at Seton Hill University in nearby Greensburg. Keisha Che’re Jimmerson, MBA, director of intercultural services, arranged for Gaby to speak with students with Sr. Maureen O’Brien, SC, director of campus ministry, and Fr. Jerry O’Shea, campus chaplain, at a “Coffee Talk” meeting. Gaby comfortably sat with students, answered questions, showed slides and discussed his life’s work. He had an attentive gathering of students and staff that expressed interest and enthusiasm in the projects.

Days passed quickly and soon Gaby was packing for the trip home to his wife, Maricile, and children. While in Pittsburgh, he experienced the spirit of the people in the steel city who are eager to forge efforts with his and light the way in struggles to overcome poverty in Haiti.



Photo on left: In front of the flag of Haiti, Gaby Thelus addressed members of Cross Roads Presbyterian Church. At right: Gaby was honored at a reception with many supporters at the home of Dave and Paula Smith. Attendees included (L-R): Karen and John Kutz, Dolly Fusca, Gaby and Beverly Bentz.



Gabriel Thelus and Father Joshua Kibler, C.O.



Gabriel Thelus, Pastor Rob Marrow of Cross Roads Presbyterian Church, and John Kutz, church member.

DAY-TO-DAY CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES ON CLINIC

Despite some major setbacks with recent storms passing through Haiti, community members in Jacsonville have been able to continue progress on completing the area's first primary care clinic. Current construction efforts are focused on finishing the walls of the clinic. Fundraising efforts remain ongoing to build a roof for the clinic. With financial support, it is anticipated that the clinic will be operational by Summer 2013.



Construction is ongoing year-round by local workers to build the first medical clinic in Jacsonville, Haiti.

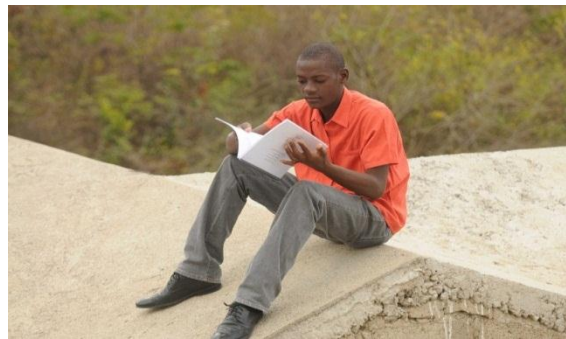
LATRINE PROJECT STARTING SOON

In December, a team is traveling to Jacsonville to begin another ambitious project. The students plan to take the first steps toward providing every family in Jacsonville with their own latrine. The team consists of Carl Mickman, MD candidate, Jennifer Bouso, MPH, MD candidate, Leona Garber, MPH candidate, Serena Murphy, MD candidate, and Ben Castleberry, a sanitation engineer and MPH candidate. The trip will start with community demonstrations showing how to construct simple latrines. Seminars will be conducted to teach proper sanitary practices. These efforts will permit the community to build latrines year-round without assistance from Sante Total volunteers. The foundation will also be laid for a more comprehensive study to monitor the progress of the construction and measure the effectiveness of the interventions on parasitic worm infections and malnutrition in the children. Sante Total plans to complete five latrines with additional facilities added later. Supplies and funds are still needed for the latrine project. Please contact Carl Mickman (ctmickman@gmail.com) with any questions.

INVEST IN A PHYSICIAN FOR HAITIANS

Dreams of becoming a physician

Jose Bien-Aime serves as a translator for Sante Total clinic volunteers. Currently, he is studying hard to be accepted to medical school in Port au Prince for the school year of 2013. Jose encounters many obstacles, including monetary hardship and a difficult entrance examination. He needs financial support to enroll in classes to help him prepare for medical school. The estimated cost he needs is \$500/month. This amount will also provide Jose with basic living expenses to attend school as well as food and housing. Upon completion of his education, Jose plans to return to Jacsonville to work as a physician in the clinic. If you can find a way to support this worthy young man's aspirations to become a doctor, please contact: alison.annette.smith@gmail.com.



Jose Bien-Aime

TODDLER WAITING FOR SURGERY

A 2-year-old girl has not received surgical treatment from a severe burn on her hand from a cooking fire in June. She is still in need of financial support. Dr. Barbara Weis is making plans to bring the girl and her impoverished family to a hospital in Port au Prince that has the medical expertise of surgeons and facilities to perform surgery for her to regain use of her hand again.

FUNDS NEEDED FOR PROJECTS

We are making progress, but please remember we still need ongoing financial support to continue projects throughout the year! **Please designate: "Sante Total" for your contributions.** If you are interested in giving a tax-deductible donation, there are two ways:

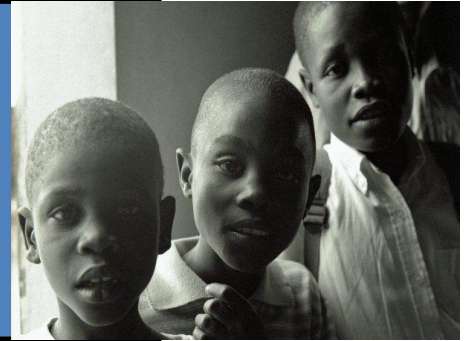
1. Visit our website at www.santetotal.org and make a donation via Paypal.
2. Write a check payable to: "Sante Total" and mail it to:

Sante Total
c/o E. Alton Sartor
1511 Dufossat St.
New Orleans, LA 70115

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Upcoming Volunteer Trips

December 29, 2012-January 5, 2013
March 31-April 6, 2013
June 29-July 6, 2013

Thank You's

Sante Total board members would like to extend many thanks to the September 2012 medical team for a successful trip to Jacsonville! And a big thank you to everyone who warmly welcomed Gabriel Thelus on his first visit to Pittsburgh, including Pastor Rob Marrow, Father Joshua Kibler, Keisha Jimmerson, John and Karen Kutz, Evan Sanders and Dave and Paula Smith.