



SANTE TOTAL

Healthcare for Haiti's Poor

Summer 2015

21th Medical Team Visit Jacsonville

By CT Grayson

Our May 2015 trip was a small group with a lot of new faces, but we accomplished a lot. We saw over 375 patients in one week - a lot of hard work for a small group, which consisted of Philip Levin (attending), myself (resident) and 3 Tulane medical students. In addition we had Matt and Isabel helping as non-medical staff. Although there were quite a few new staff faces on the trip, we were greeted by many familiar local faces - Jose was able to spend the week with us (he is now finished with his 2nd year of school). Maisson, Isaac and Beaufranc all returned to help with translating. As always, Berto, Mousanto and Gaby kept things running smoothly. During our off-time we took advantage of the usual sightseeing in Jacsonville - catching a soccer game and scavenging for mangoes. We were also invited to an evening prayer service at a villager's home. We got a real treat on Tuesday night when Mousanto drove us into Pignon in the back of his pick-up truck for a little bit of sight-seeing and dinner in town.



The new clinic is coming along nicely - the roof is finished and it looks great. There are also new solar-powered street lights down the main road. Gaby is working on an outdoor venue for music and other events that will hopefully generate some economic activity for the village and provide a place for the Sugar Cane Band to play. It's always a pleasure to see what improvements the town has made since my last visit. We had a little bit of excitement on our way back to Port-au-Prince when our van broke down in Hinche, but it got fixed in time and we all made our flights (and got to stretch our legs for a little while).



Motorcycle for Beaufranc

Beaufranc, is in school in Jacsonville and has asked for financial help to buy a motocycle for transportation. Here is a short note he has written: "I'll use it for going to school because from my house to school is around five kilometers, and it will be my last class it's going start at 6 am and over at 3 pm every day, some of them ca' cost around \$ 500 but it's a kind people used already! But a new one can cost around \$900 us. Any help is appreciated."

If you are wishing to Donate please contact CT Grayson for further details.

The Story of David Goy

By Linda Goy

A native of Wolcott, Indiana, David Anthony Goy graduated from his county high school and pursued a degree in Electrical Engineering at the nearby Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. Four years later, he decided to move to Blacksburg, Virginia, and earn a Master's degree at Virginia Tech.

During his time in Virginia, the Xavarian Brothers decided that they wanted to start an outreach in Haiti. They were looking for a long term volunteer and David was eager to apply. After being accepted for the position, David moved to Pandiassou, Haiti, and lived with Xavarian Brothers Harry Eccles and John Mahoney from 1990 to 1991.

While in Haiti, David started a school in Pandiassouat at the request of Brother Franklin, founder of the Litter Brothers and Sisters of the Incarnation. He taught Mathematics as well as other subjects but primarily focused on English. It is interesting to note that two of his students were none other than Gabriel Thelus and Jean Louis—two individuals that have played such an integral role in the formation of Sante Total.

David returned to the United States and started working for Old Dominion University at the J. Sargent Reynolds Community College in Northern Virginia. This position gave him the opportunity to return to Haiti every year during the Christmas holidays and continue his work there. Needless to say, David always took any supplies that he thought would be helpful to the local community.

One time I asked David if giving to such a poor country and doing what little he could wasn't terribly depressing. He told me that I am only one person and I can't do everything but I can do something and—with God's help—I will do what I can. I don't know who originally made this quote but it was one of David's favorites. He always wanted to do his best and firmly

believed that education was the only way out of poverty.

In August 1996, David was diagnosed with metastasized colon cancer and passed away shortly after on 29 October 1997. We, his family, established a memorial fund with the money collected and built a four room school in Jacsonville (formerly Matabonite), the area where Gabriel Thelus lives. Gabriel has been the director of the school since its inception and has been instrumental for all the development there.

When we were going through David's papers we found some passages that indicated he was thinking about going back to Haiti as a permanent volunteer. While he didn't accomplish this during his lifetime, he is buried at the cemetery of the Little Brothers and Sisters of the Incarnation in Pandiassouat, Haiti.

FUTURE MEDICAL TEAM DATES

September 19-25, 2015

January 2-9, 2016

May 7-14, 2016

If you are interested in signing up please contact Alison Smith (Alison.annette.smith@gmail.com) or Heather Morgan in regards to the trips, more information will be available as dates come closer.



Follow-Up Updates

By: Temrah Okonski, PT

Sandra continues to express an interest in pursuing massage therapy and is dedicated during clinic time to practicing her handling skills. Isaac trained with me this time and he decided that he might like to study some kind of sports therapy so that he can help his soccer teammates when they are injured. We also helped and checked in on Jean Love, a little boy whose surgery for his clubfoot last year sponsored by Sante Total. He is doing great and is running all over the place! His only residual problem was a leg length discrepancy which I corrected with a shoe lift. If left uncorrected, scoliosis (a curved spine) could develop. A new patient, a woman with severe osteoarthritis, had to be carried into the clinic because she

could not walk. After she received her physical therapy treatment, we gave her the wheelchair Dr. Barbara Weis brought with her to Haiti. This portable wheelchair belonged to Barb's mother, who passed away in 2013. It was a very touching moment. The woman was so grateful! So much so that the next day one of the interpreters came to me to let us know how much better the woman was feeling and how appreciative she was for the wheelchair!

HOW TO DONATE

We are making progress, but please remember we still need ongoing financial support to continue projects throughout the year! Our cupboards are looking quite barren! **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

20th Medical Team update-January, 2015

Three attendings, four residents, a nurse, a physical therapist, and several medical students and support personnel, including an American of Haitian descent who is now an MPH student, and was a huge help, all gathered for the January trip. Many of the medical personnel had been there before (the "January A-team,") and their experience was invaluable, as was the

multidisciplinary nature of the group (psychiatry, nursing, pediatrics, genetics, physical therapy, Public Health and medicine). During the week, we were treated to a concert by the Sugar Cane Band, a soccer game, and several walks to check out the new Medical Center, which is looking good. We noticed many new latrines in the community, thanks to the latrine project. The building we stay in has also changed, with newly painted rooms, screens to keep out the mosquitos and bats, and new doors. It's always amazing to see the progress from trip to trip!

The January team was a large group, and we saw over 600 patients during the week! Two mother/daughter pairs also worked together, which provided a special experience for them (miraculously without fighting...)! It was rewarding to see so many follow-up patients who are doing well. We saw Nadjena, the little girl who fell into the fire, who has had her first surgery to separate the fingers that were fused together as a result of her burn. She is doing great, and can move her fingers now and do simple tasks with her hand. Her next surgery is planned for the fall, and we would appreciate any contributions to help with this! A man with severe elephantiasis has improved swelling in his leg and groin, which has made his field work much easier, and many other patients have benefited from your support and care. We also saw several sad cases, including a little boy with an inoperable tumor in his cheekbone, and several adults with cancer. We treated three patients who were very ill and had to be transferred to the local hospital. The trip made me realize how lucky we are here in the U.S., and reinforced my desire to try to do what I can to improve the medical care in Haiti. My thanks goes out to all of you who help to support our work. You are truly making a difference!

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