

# The VanDervort Report

Summer 2020

The spring has not gone the way we thought it would. We had a very busy month of March planned with a group from PLH using guest house for the month, a pastor training in conjunction with Winebrenner Seminary and two men from our home church coming to do much needed maintenance. Then COVID-19 arrived. With the U.S. shutting down, all teams were canceled. This time Haiti wasn't the cause of the problems! Haiti shut down a few weeks later closing the borders, churches, schools, ports and the airport.

We stocked up on staples, filled gas, diesel and propane tanks to be ready to last through the quarantine. Mike fashioned a hand washing station outside our door and we limited our visitors to the house.



The hospital and clinic are continuing to operate and are seeing many patients. The hospital is in need of a new generator to supply power. We get nothing from EDH, the government run power company. The hospital has implemented plans to deal with COVID-19. Extra personal protective equipment has been acquired and is being used by all. Fortunately, we have not seen any COVID-19 cases at the hospital.

Due to several generous donations we were able to purchase 1,200 reusable masks. These masks were made in Gonaives, helping a Haitian business. This allowed us to give all PHH employees four masks, enough for the employee and family members. We want to thank Rod and Mila Ayer's home church, Resurrection Church in Eolia, MO for their sizable donation as well as Tim and Bim Arthun, Ken and Betty McIntyre, and Donna Binkley.

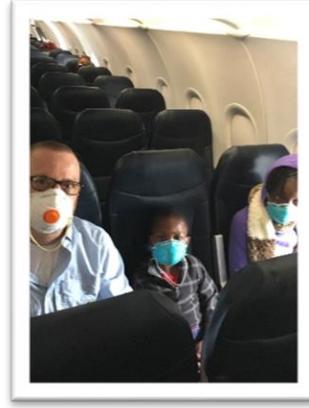
Many of our churches and schools have remained closed due to the pandemic. However, some of the more isolated churches are still meeting. We were able to visit the Gregoire church just before we left for the States. They are in the process of building a new church building and will celebrate their 50th anniversary later this year.

We had plans to go to the States with tickets for May 30th. Of course, our flight was cancelled. Our son in law, Kristin's husband Jay, is being deployed to the Middle East and we have a week of vacation planned for the entire family before he leaves. Not wanting to miss this we put our names on a list with the U.S. Embassy stating that we would like to leave on the next available flight. Dawn saw a Facebook post asking if anyone leaving on the next flight would be willing to take something to the States for them. She responded and we were asked to escort two children who were being adopted to their new families in the U.S. We agreed to help because with the travel restrictions these families, who have been in the process for years, could not come to Haiti to get their children. We were then asked if we would be willing to take a third child. We agreed and escorted a 13-year old girl and her seven year old brother to one family, and a three year old boy to another family.



The reunion in Fort Lauderdale was joyous with more than one tear shed. We arrived in Baltimore later that night and were met by our daughter Becky and her family.

Originally we had made plans to return to Haiti the end of June. The president of Haiti has since announced that he is keeping the country closed until late July. We are not sure when we will be able to return, but we will make plans to return ASAP after things open up.



## Prayer Needs

We are thankful for the ongoing prayers for us and the work of Project Help Haiti. Specific prayer needs at this time include:

- Funds for a new generator for the hospital (approximate cost - \$18,000). Giving code: GR2716
- Partnering fund. Giving is down and this is where we get our operating funds for PHH, including money to pay the staff. Giving code: GR2718
- Our son-in-law and his family during his deployment.
- New missionaries for PHH.

We want to thank all of you for your continued prayers and support. We want you to know that we are also praying for you, especially during these trying times. We will keep you updated on our plans as they become clearer.

*Mike & Dawn*