



INSTITUTE OF GRACE

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Dear IOG supporters and friends,

First of all, thank you for your support! I spent three wonderful months in Haiti, arriving there on June 7, 2015 and leaving on August 20, 2015. It was a blessing and here is why.

The box truck finally arrived in Haiti, with a 1985 Dodge pick-up packed inside. We also packed the box truck full with equipment for the hospital. We sent two other pick-up trucks filled with equipment and supplies and they also arrived. We hope to sell some of the vehicles to help pay for future shipments.

In June Pastor David Graves led a team of 17 missionaries to Haiti for one week. The missionaries made quite an impact on the community as they:

- Conducted Vacation Bible School (VBS) in Merger for five days; nearly 200 children participated
- Conducted computer classes
- Painted chairs and cleaned the grounds and hospital building in Merger
- Conducted a pastoral seminar with 50 local pastors led by Pastors' Graves and Jones
- Traveled to Marigot in the mountains with doctors, nurses and a dentist to host a mobile clinic for about 250 from the area and Bible School for nearly 200 children. The medical doctors provided free consultation and IOG provided free medicine. The dentist conducted free cleanings. Some of the patients were having their teeth examined and cleaned for the first time in their lives.

It was a blessing to partner with local professionals and fellow Christians to provide the above services.

This would not be possible without the support and participation this ministry receives from active givers who are willing to contribute their time, talent and treasure. Together we answer the Great Commission where our Lord Jesus Christ sends us to all nations. *Matthew 28: 18-20*.

There will be other opportunities to travel with us in 2016. The teams in January and March should see fewer mosquitos and lower temperatures than June. [See next page for details.]

Once again, thank you for your participation, gifts and all around involvement in this ministry. Thank you for helping us care for many in Haiti and share the gospel; special thanks for supporting the Institute of Grace. The people of Merger and Haiti have been blessed.

God bless you,

Jean Filostin, Executive Director, Institute of Grace

Early in 2015 Pastor Jerome Jones announced in church that we would answer the call of the Baltimore Washington United Methodist conference and become a mission focused church. I was immediately excited and grateful that Pastor Jones was assisting me in fulfilling God's plan for my life.

In our first effort, three from our church made the trip, Pastor Jones, his daughter Chasity and myself. For each of us this was our first mission trip and I was grateful that we were able to embark on this journey together. Our lives were forever changed.

We went to serve. We met people different from us, but at the core the same. There was a passion for Christ, family, and community. We were immediately embraced with love by the Haitians. We were blessed and changed! We can no longer ignore the plight of our brothers and sisters. Once you are enlightened you must act towards change.

The initial trip was the spark I needed to answer the call. I tell everyone I meet about the Institute of Grace and about our trip to Haiti. I want more people to come and support IOG and its ministry. We brought them supplies, medical treatment, and most importantly HOPE. As we shared and worked and worshipped together, we caught a glimpse of God's plan for us forever!

By: Valencia Powell

Upcoming teams:

January 9-17, 2016: Glen Mar UMC; contact Rob Boyle, spacerob13@gmail.com

March 29– April 6, 2016: Silver Spring UMC; Contact davidgraves1982@gmail.com

June 2016: St Paul UMC and Mt. Calvary UMC; Contact davidgraves1982@gmail.com

Special Needs:

- ◇ Monthly support for the school feeding program with enrollment at 120 students.
- ◇ \$5000 financial support for sending a shipping container by Thanksgiving.
- ◇ Continued prayer that God will move so that the clinic will become a full service hospital.
- ◇ Continued prayer for our partners in Haiti as they sacrifice daily.

Pastor Jerome Jones and Valencia Powell lead a class for church leaders from the region.



In June a UMVIM (United Methodist Volunteers In Mission) team of 17 members went to Haiti for a week. While we were there we offered a VBS program at Ecole Gerny Filostin Primary School for the children of the school and local community. James, one of the men we hired to translate did not appear to be his usual energetic self. The leader of our school team was concerned and spoke privately with him to determine if something was wrong. It turned out that James was very ill but perhaps did not understand the extent of his disease.

Dr. Johnson, a local doctor of Miracia Hospital, examined him at our request. Because of the team's willingness to give beyond what they were already doing, they paid for additional exams and medicine. We have since learned that James's sickle cell anemia was acting up in a way that could have killed him. But James's life was spared because someone who had already raised hundreds of dollars and given a week of her time was willing to give a little more. Additional medicines have been provided for him as well.

Friends, our giving makes a real difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters in Haiti. See James in the orange shirt, translating for a computer class.

His smile continues to shine.



Tola and James lead a computer familiarization class.