



Institute of Grace (IOG) Newsline

Volume I Issue 4

Spring 2012

About the Institute of Grace:

- The Institute of Grace (IOG) is a USA registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization
- IOG's mission is to provide educational opportunities and healthcare services to poor and underprivileged children and people of Haiti
- IOG also provides English classes to immigrants and tutors High School students in mathematics in Washington DC
- IOG brings hope, empowerment and a brighter future for Haiti

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Exciting Times at Institute of Grace: IOG Planning Retreat

In March 2012, members of the IOG board of directors met at West River United Methodist Center for a weekend retreat to plan the coming fiscal year. In all, five members of the board and one prospective board member conducted team-building exercises. We worked on prioritizing future development efforts, and chairman Jean Filostin delivered a report on activities he completed during his most recent trip to Haiti in December 2011. The Chairman's report is quite revealing.

The retreat weekend was a success. Below is a list of what we plan to focus on in coming months:

1. IOG University is triumphantly resuming courses in the fall of 2012. The 2010 earthquake caused structural damage to the university building in Delmas, preventing the university from offering courses
2. The primary school in Miracia will continue to operate in school year 2012/2013. IOG is planning fundraising events and expects to have on hand sufficient funding ahead of time to cover

the fall semester. During the 2011/2012 school year, pledged funds to support the school did not materialize after a leadership change occurred at the donor organization. Some teachers resigned in the middle of the school year when they learned IOG would reduce their salary in order to continue to function. By God's grace, two board members made emergency donations that allowed IOG to hire replacement teachers and the school was able to finish the school year.

3. The Miracia hospital building construction is on target. IOG will focus on setting up an operating room and developing a water purification system. The operating room and clean water would immediately fill a void in the community. The local surgeon, Dr. St.Cyr, is prepared to provide the necessary care to patients.

4. IOG will continue to host missionaries and groups as often as it can host them in support of the projects. In 2012, IOG has hosted two groups with plans to host two more by year's end.

For details regarding these and other events, see the article covering the Chairman's report and articles covering the specific groups that have gone to Haiti.

Top: Retreat Site,
West River United
Methodist Center

Bottom: IOG Board
Members at Retreat



Chairman's Report

On my trip to Haiti in December 2011, the focus was on IOG's university building in Delmas, which had been closed pending structural assessment and repairs for damages sustained during the earthquake. At the tune of \$20,000 (US), the following repairs were effected:

- Strengthened the building structure by installing a reinforcing support concrete column.
- Repaired cracks in the walls.
- Replaced damaged plumbing.
- Replaced damaged bathrooms.

Opportunities to make a difference at IOG

1. There is a need for an additional \$5,000 (US) to replace broken

windows and cracked ceramic tiles. In its current state, the building is usable to host missionaries during the summer months and to resume university classes in the fall of 2012.

2. To help reduce operating costs, IOG plans to run a cybercafé. To be profitable, the cybercafé will need less costly electricity to operate. The cost of fuel to run the existing electric generator wipes out all income from the cybercafé. IOG is in need of a more economical electric generator and needs to ship and install a solar panel system it already owns to capitalize on Haiti's abundant sunlight.

3. Even if operating at optimal efficiency, like any other educational institution, the university will need an additional \$12,000 (US) to meet budget and to sup-

port the theology students, all of whom need sponsorship. IOG does not charge tuition to the theology students.

What's Next?

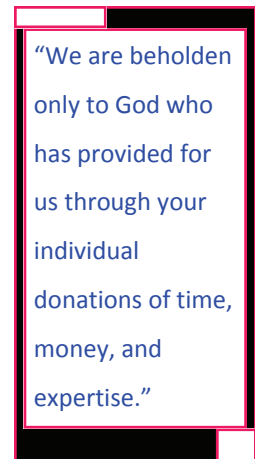
IOG has begun advertising the reopening of the university and registration for classes has started. IOG University offers courses in business and accounting, computer science, and theology. IOG plans to accept about 400 motivated students this fall.

Thank You!

We are thankful for your faithful support in the past and we look forward to your future interest in our organization. IOG has no major corporation sponsorship and no government funding. We are beholden only to God who has provided for us through your individual donations of time, money, and expertise.

Read the article covering the mission trip by the University of District of Columbia faculty and students.

Plan a visit to Haiti, and take part in the exciting work we are doing.



**Please contact::
Jean Filostin at
(301) 254-5431 or
Rev. David Graves at
(240) 601-0218 for details.**

University of the District of Columbia (UDC) Trip to Haiti

In February 2012, Pastor David Graves, an IOG Managing Director, and Jean Filostin accompanied a group to Haiti from the University of District of Columbia (UDC) consisting of three professors and six students of varying disciplines (nursing, architecture, and linguistic). UDC sent this delegation to Haiti under its Collaborative Efforts for Service Learning Experience program. UDC initiated this trip after becoming aware of IOG's needs regarding

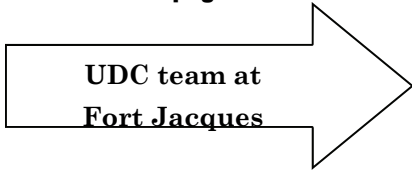
the Miracia hospital. While in Haiti, the team accomplished the following:

- Conducted medical instruction seminars covering Various diseases (e.g., Malaria, typhoid)
Progression of diseases through chain of infection
Risk of exposure to diseases through water distribution
- Conducted basic engineering seminars covering Structural assessment of buildings
Structural architecture conducive to Haiti's climate

The linguists on the team helped with translation and cultural norms. One student and two professors were of Haitian origin. Pastor David Graves who has extensive exposure to Haiti was especially helpful to the Non-Haitian team members. He prepared them for the culture differences and recent developments they were about to experience in Haiti.

UDC Trip to Haiti

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During the progression of its work, the team was pleasantly surprised by the level of interest the Haitian students displayed in learning and their desire to acquire a deep understanding of the material. Students from local Universities, 135 in all, attended the seminars (25 medical students, 65 nursing students, and 45 engineering students). The team walked away thinking what the Haitian students lacked in financial support was trounced by their spirit and intellectual capacity. The Haitian students possess motivation, time, and intelligence; but they lack financial support to flourish.

Success!

The team assessed that the Miracia Hospital is located where the needs are. In addition, as a teaching

hospital, it will do well to meet the thirst of knowledge displayed by the Haitian students.

The UDC team met its goals and deemed the trip a success. It plans to submit a Strength, Weakness, Opportunities, and Threat (SWOT) analysis to IOG. The team has scheduled a follow-up visit in March 2013 to review progress and application of recommended actions for the hospital.

A Good time!

The team spent five days at the IOG Miracia hospital building. They enjoyed Haitian cooking and indoor plumbing with running water for showers. The team had a day at the beach and visited various sites that revealed a striking contrast between poor Haitians and the life of luxury that others enjoy in Laboule,

Petionville, and Delmas. Visit to Fort Jacques was another outing the team enjoyed and received an earful of Haitian history of a proud and resilient people.

On a personal note!

One UDC student of Haitian background reconnected with family and had a tender moment of pride and joy. Family members who had known her as a child were overwhelmed to meet her as a mature professional woman. Another UDC student of Kenyan origin was surprised by the similarity in cultural tendencies between Haitians and Kenyans given the geographical separation between the two countries.

“This trip was well worth it” is how the team summarized their time in Haiti.

Glenmar UMC Mission Visit

The Glenmar United Methodist Church sent 11 missionaries under the leadership of Robert Boyle to accompany Jean Filostin on a trip to Haiti in March 2012. The team hit the ground running making it hard to list all of their accomplishments. Below is a good faith effort:

- Construction work — the project plan was to complete five bathrooms; the team worked at break-neck speed and completed eight bathrooms including five new ones on the maternity ward. The team could have completed one more bathroom, but the project ran out

of material and funds. The team also completed a good amount of plumbing work.

- Children program — the team conducted arts and craft workshops with 100 children, and fed them.
- Free dental clinic led by local dentists — the dental clinic lasted three days. Dentists saw 100 children and 250 adults.
- Free medical clinic led by local doctors — the medical clinic lasted two days. Doctors saw 300 children and adult patients.
- Medical waste disposal — the team helped to design and dig a 20-foot deep pit for the disposal of used needles and medical waste.
- Business Seminar — the team conducted three-day business seminars in Delmas and Merger. In attendance

were students who planned to register for fall courses at IOG University.

A Fun Time

In the midst of all of their work, the team managed to spend one day at the beach for some playtime. Four of the team members remained in Haiti a total of 12 days while the others left on their appointed 10th day.

Budget

The team accomplished so much in so little time that the project developed a \$5,000 budget shortfall. This is a challenge we welcome but must still address. In this regard, we are continuously seeking donations to meet our budget. So, let us hear from you and or become a volunteer to help us with this project.

INSTITUTE OF GRACE

US: 1221 Van Buren St, NW #202A
Washington, DC 20012
Contact: Mr. Jean Filostin
Phone: (301)-254-5431
Email: ioGrace2001@gmail.com

Haiti: Ka Pe, Merger
Port-au-Prince, Haiti W. I.
Contact: Marckenson Cadet
Phone: 509-3604-5659

The Institute of Grace seeks
your prayers,
advocacy,
and
financial support.

www.instituteofgrace.org

PHOTOS

SHOWING

VOLUNTEERS

IN HAITI



In Gratitude:

Thank you to the missionaries and countless other people who have donated their time, expertise, and money to help support our building project and our vision for Haiti. It is through the support of people like you that we have:

- Gotten more than half way through erecting a hospital consisting of three buildings that will offer medical and dental services
- Shipped medical supplies and an ambulance to Haiti
- Operated a primary school
- Offered college level courses at IOG University
- Initiated a cybercafé

There are countless other accomplishments and milestones too numerous to list here. We encourage

you to visit our website frequently at <http://www.instituteofgrace.org>. You may be interested in taking part of or organizing a group to visit our projects in Haiti. Come see for yourself what we have accomplished through collective determination and tenacity while facing significant adversity. We have done battle with chronic shortage of funds, red tape and bureaucracy in Haiti. We will keep you updated through our quarterly newsletter.

Please accept our gratitude and deepest appreciation for your gifts and excellent work!

A call for your help:

As stated, we are challenged to meet our budget on many fronts. We seek your prayer in support of the projects and your donations of time, expertise, and money to meet our operating

budget.

- IOG University will operate at a \$20,000 budget shortfall (the cost of theology students)
- The Miracia primary school needs \$30,000 to operate for the full year
- The building in Delmas needs \$5,000 to put in windows and to replace cracked ceramic tiles
- The building in Delmas needs \$2,000 to ship and install solar panels IOG already owns
- The cybercafé needs a new electric generator so not to use up all the funds it generates to cover fuel cost

**“Many hands make light the load.”
Please join us!**