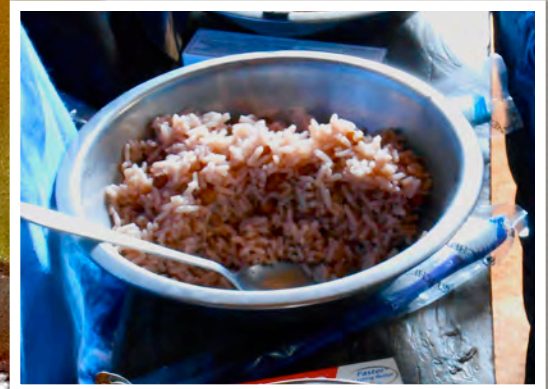




MARCH 2013

Village Partners International



THE GOOD WILL SCHOOL
SUPPORTS THE NEEDS OF
30 ORPHANS

The Children Will Be Fed For A Week

Before he began to preach, Freddie announced, *"I have good news – a surprise for you! The children will be fed for a week."* The people in the congregation crowd together and clap while they shuffle their feet in the dirt of the floor.

The white plastered walls of the church are leaning so far inward that it looks as if the church walls might crumble at anytime. The rough-hewn benches serve as pews on Sunday and as a school for orphans during the week. Freddie is responsible for thirty orphaned children. With the help of Dennis, one of the team members who came in November, Freddie has pieced together a school for these young children. I glance to my left and notice a board - not a chalk board - just a board with math problems written on it. $80 - 20 = 60$ in any language.

When Freddie first began his theology study, he noticed that some of the children in the village were not going to school. *"Why are you not in school?"* he asked. *"We don't have any money for school,"* was the reply he got over and over again. Freddie told us that he said to the children, *"You come. I will give you books. I will give you a pencil. I will give you knowledge."* And that is how this little school in the mountains began.

The children will be fed for a week.

30 orphans / 30 cents a day / \$10.00 a week / \$2,500 a year
to feed the children.

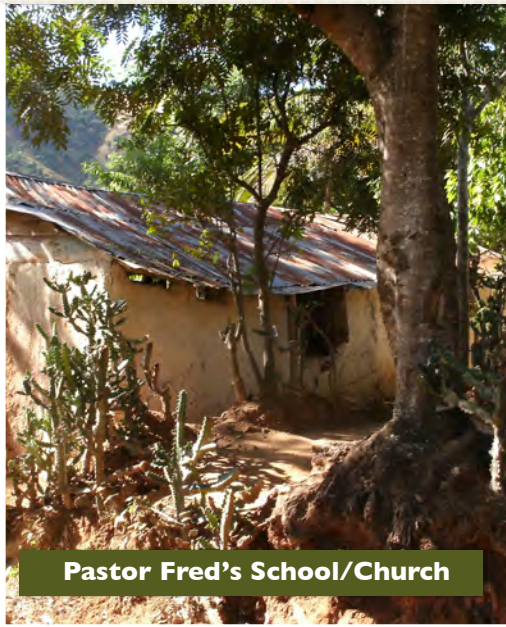
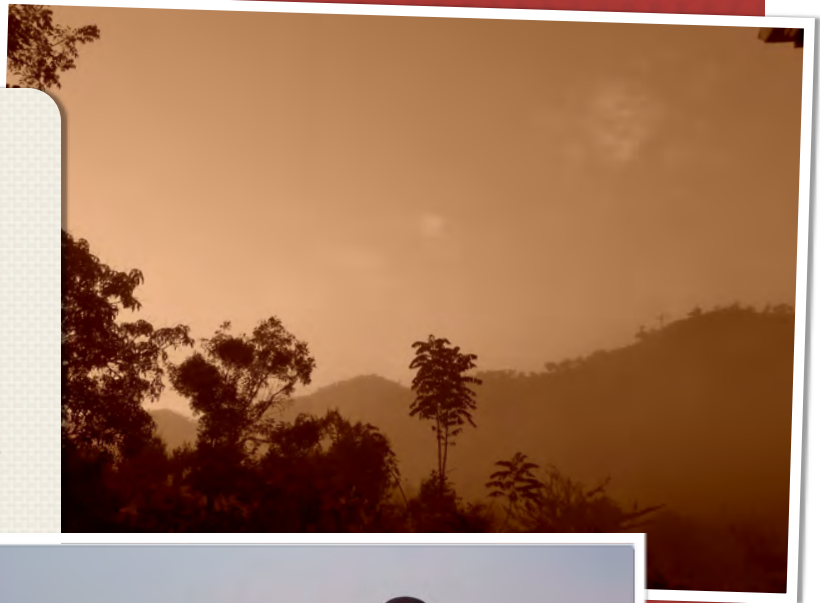
Terry Leigh Deal

The Lord Will Watch Over Your Coming and Going

There is a healing house where Luis' wife has gone. She has malaria and left her newborn and four other children to go to The House of Prayer. There, the sick are cared for, fed and made comfortable and they are prayed for twenty four hours every day. There are no medicines, other than the healing power of prayer.

Who is to say that constant prayer cannot cure? For not only are bodies being healed, but the spirits of the sick are held in a most sacred room at the House of Prayer.

Terry Leigh Deal



For His Steadfast Love Endures Forever

Barefoot boys are reciting their scripture on the hill. They pace back and forth while a woman calls to her two-year-old, "Come." There is no Sunday breakfast.

Yet somehow, from the clay-floored and thatched-roofed hut, She will pull out a white dress.

Scrape red dust from her fingernails,

Gather a bible, a baby and a faith in a God who delivers little, except one big Hope.

Hope for a good crop, hope for their next meal, hope that her children can go to school, that her husband can still work in the fields, that she will not die from the breast cancer that most certainly will kill her. A donkey.

Chickens to raise. Sweet yams in the yard. Hope that her enemy will not put a curse on them, that the earthquake and floods will not return, that her children will stop dying.

The sun comes up and washes out the day as the colors fade in air thick with dust. The people gather to pray and sing. It is Sunday in Mombin Crochu.

Terry Leigh Deal



Haiti Medical Mission Trip

January 18-25, 2013

Located in the mountains of NE Haiti, in the poorest part of this, the poorest country in the western hemisphere, Mombin Crochu Hospital offers care to over 35,000 people in the surrounding area. . Poverty, malnutrition and disease are part of daily life here, as continual natural disasters strike this country.

On the recent trip Jan. 18-25, 2013, a team of medical personnel served the people of this region. 255 Dental, 28 surgical, and 12 orthopedic procedures were performed, 147 patients were seen in medical clinics., an eyeglasses clinic was held, in which 180 pairs of glasses were distributed, and teaching was done in both the village and at the hospital. The Food for Healing program, which feeds those in the hospital, continues to provide meals to patients as they recover. The Moringa Project, begun to improve nutrition in the surrounding area, has shared over 3000 trees within the community, and is being expanded.

A small school, located in a tiny church, in the village, was identified and will be supported to give a nutritious lunch to the orphan children served there.

Currently 2 Haitian doctors, who were raised in the area, run the clinics, and work continues in an organized sustained manner. The possibility of beginning mobile clinics to reach the outlying areas is being considered.

There is a great need for ongoing maintenance and repair of the hospital and its equipment. Machines not made for the extreme temperatures and humidity are not able to function after short periods. Electrical repairs and general upkeep continue to be a problem. It is hoped that future groups will be able to go to the hospital and help in these areas. There is also need for ophthalmologic and gynecologic services, as well as continued support of dental, medical, orthopedic and general surgical outreach.

This trip was felt to be extremely successful, not only in patients seen and procedures performed, but also in outreach to the community, expansion of projects, and continual sharing of knowledge between groups. It is our hope that the future will bring new groups to continue to help these people, in the poorest part of this country.

We are committed to continue the work God has called us to in Mombin Crochu, Haiti, and we are affirmed in our belief that God walks each step of this journey with us, directing our steps, our hearts, and our works, as we partner with the next generation of young Haitians to bring healing to their community. We give deep thanks to all who have supported, and continue to support, God's work here.

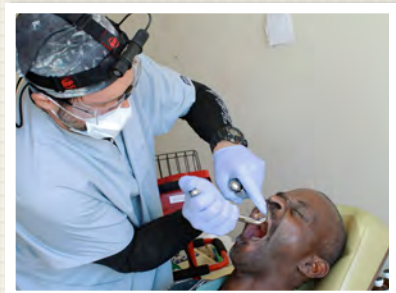
Dr. Sylvia Campbell

A video of the ongoing work there can be seen at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-mpMRxJZt2s&feature=youtu.be>

THE GIVING



FOOD FOR HEALING



DENTAL CLINIC



SURGICAL TEAM



EYEGGLASS CLINIC

My First Trip

I will never forget my first trip to Haiti. Starting with an AA big plane into Port au Prince, followed by a jumper over the mountains, and finishing with off-roading on the back of a flatbed up into the mountains. The long journey involving a series of different modes of transportation from Tampa to the small village of Mombin Crochu could not have gone more smoothly. To be honest, the entire week moved along equally as well. A run down closet was quickly converted into a fully functional dental suite where smiles were literally transformed. Dr. Ron was likely his patients' only opportunity to obtain dental care, and, in my opinion, he positively impacted their lives. Similarly, Dr. Campbell and her amazing surgical team turned a cobweb filled operating room into a well-oiled surgical machine. In that small room with open windows, one 70 volt bulb, and old-to-no technology, Dr. Campbell and team surgically treated patients and provided significant medical care to people without options and in need of help. Fixing teeth or repairing hernias in this setting, without the need for pre-authorization, and solely based on the essential connection of trust between a doctor and patient, is medical care in its purest form. I was blessed to have shared that experience as a physician, providing orthopaedic care to Mombin patients, who entrusted me with their health, and I honored that trust by treating them the best I know

how as if they were family. I am also very appreciative of people after this trip to Haiti. One, in particular, whom I have always been appreciative of, but now its different. You see, my wife, Hannah, is a wonderful person and an amazing wife and mother; however, supporting me in this medical mission trip was a different level and type of sacrifice - it was truly selfless. Even though she was not physically in Mombin, she was 'missioning', and her rewards were just as significant in terms of the commitment towards our family legacy and development of our children. I am so appreciative of a new friend I met in Haiti, Pastor Fred, who is an amazing man of God. He cares for 30 young children that do not have money to attend school, or even have a dependable daily meal. Fred decided that no education and malnourishment was unacceptable for these kids, and he was going to help provide them with a future - start a school with teachers to educate them, as well as serve one nutritious daily meal. Not surprisingly, VPI felt quite similarly, and Fred's school and those precious children now have support. I want to give my children the opportunity to develop that sense of selflessness. So, here's what we're going to do: each of my children are going to sponsor one of Fred's students, and for one of their daily chores, they will earn 22 cents which will pay for the daily meal of their Mombin friend. I've got two kids, I need 28 more, would you like to

join me? This will be a wonderful investment in Fred's kids, as well as yours.

Unfortunately, Mombin Crochu seems so far away in both space and time in many ways already. It was just a couple of weeks ago when I was living out a dream. Being in Haiti was an opportunity I have always hope to be blessed with - providing assistance to people less fortunate and making a positive and meaningful difference in their lives. However, what I very quickly came to realize is that the people in Mombin may need help taking care of their teeth, surgically correcting their hernias, and even finding suitable reading glasses; what they do not need from me is faith. Simply put, as a people, they have an abundance of faith. I believe I could see in their eyes the peace of knowing God's presence, in their calm faces the personal experience of his caring hands, and in the most wonderful smiles the knowledge of what life was all about. Ultimately, the wonderful thing is that it showed me much more than that what I was able to do for them - that the things that I had thought made my circumstances "more fortunate", really means nothing at all in God's eyes. In fact, in the end, my trip to Mombin most certainly made me wealthier in the true ways that matter.

Dr. Daniel Chan

THE WALLET: A STORY OF FAITH



I assumed that my second trip to Mombin Crochu would be much like the first. Long days of travel to and fro, by day assisting in the dental clinic, by night fellowshipping with the VPI team. Upon arriving at the hospital compound that first night, however, something was already very different. My wallet was gone! Having a realistic self image, I was "suspect number one" from the start. Had I already misplaced it in my room? Hoping to find it soon, I didn't worry too much. By the second day, however, I was nervous and ready to put out feelers. Being as careful as possible to not convey that I suspected any of our Mombin caretakers of any wrongdoing, I asked my Haitian friend, Fred, to ask around the community whether the wallet had been found in the village. I made clear to Fred that I would be very grateful to get back my driver's license and credit cards - the cash was a very distant third place. Within twelve hours, Fred had

located my wallet. Apparently, it had fallen out of my pocket in the town of La Victoire during the bumpy ride from Pinyon to Mombin. Only five miles away! The ending to the lost wallet's story, however, was not so simple.

Apparently, when my wallet fell out, a man immediately picked it up and ran behind the truck trying to get our attention. However, he was ignored and we kept on truckin'! As the story goes, the wallet finder persisted in pursuit of the rightful owner and consulted his village pastor, who got in touch with a fellow pastor in Mombin, who contacted a doctor at VPI's clinic, who called Fred, who told me. Fred, the Mombin pastor, a driver and I then drove the five mile but one hour trek to La Victoire. We picked up the pastor and headed out to the finder's house to claim my wallet.

The house was not in a gated community. Like every other home I've seen in rural Haiti, the house was made of sticks and mud stucco and had no electricity or running water. I was so humbled by the simple abode of the finder and his family. While the short term benefits of keeping the wallet and its contents were obvious, this man and his family were faithful enough to know that the long term blessings to me and them of returning it - all cash included, by the way - were substantial. I know it is an experience that I will never forget and I am equally certain that this event will always serve as a sign of this family's faith in God long after the recompense money is gone. Though I do not advise anyone to lose her wallet on purpose in Haiti, I can tell you that should a similarly difficult situation arise, numerous blessings will emerge.

Jim Cohen

A Concerned Mombin Crochu Citizen Struggles to Make a Difference

Village Partners International has, from its inception, has been involved in Mombin Crochu Haiti helping those in need. There are also citizens in Mombin Crochu that are concerned about the welfare of their community and are trying to make a difference. One such person is Pastor Fred Delauriers who established the Good Will School for orphaned and disadvantaged children.

One of our volunteer team members asked Fred what encouraged him to start the school. Fred said he would often see children playing or wandering the streets while school was in session. He decided to ask a group of those children why they were not in school. They told him that they had no money to attend school. This had a profound effect on Fred because he felt that no child should be denied school simply because he or she lacks money. That's right! In a country as poor as Haiti, children must pay to attend school. There are some free schools in Haiti but they are in the larger cities. The children must pay a tuition to attend public school, purchase their own school supplies as well as a uniform and shoes.

Pastor Fred established the school in a very small run down church where Fred serves as pastor. The church is owned by Fred's father who also pastored there. The school currently serves grades 1 through 3 but Fred hopes to add an additional grade each year. The children that attend are orphans or come from very poor families. Most of them do not have shoes. Fred constantly struggles to raise the funds needed to run the school and provide some kind of nourishment for the children.

Several of our mission team members recently visited Fred's school and all were very impressed with what Fred was doing. They

were also emotionally moved when they observed these desperately poor children who were all very happy to be attending school in spite of the shabby building and rickety desks.

The recent mission team members were excited about getting personally involved in proving the children with a hardy meal complements of team members. What a happy day that was. It was then that VPI Board members present decided that the children should have a good meal to look forward to every day. So, upon their return, the Board formally agreed to provide those students with a nourishing meal for a period of one year to start with. We all feel this is a good start, but the school needs so much more to help sustain what is currently being done and also provide decent desks, a safe and secure building, more teachers, and school supplies. This is truly a mission that warrants any help they can get.

If you would like to join in our efforts in supporting the Good Will School a contribution can be made to Village Partners International and designated for the Good Will School.



Pastor Fred

Giving Back To The Community

God opened our eyes to the desperate needs in Papoli Uganda by way of Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church then Village Partners International. It all began with clean water and progressed to a point whereby Papoli was elevated from one of the poorest villages in the district to perhaps the most desirable. But none of this would have been possible were it not for the villagers themselves who have given so very much back to their community.

VPI's mission is to help villages help themselves. We can see the results of that in Papoli.

ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT RESULTS OF THE MISSION IN PAPOLI WAS THE INITIATIVE THAT WAS SPARKED IN THE VILLAGERS BECAUSE OF THEIR NEW FOUND HOPE OF A BETTER TOMORROW FOR THEM AND FUTURE GENERATIONS.

The entire atmosphere of the village began to change from one of resignation and acceptance to an eagerness to make a difference in their village. Yes, things started to buzz in Papoli. The villagers have gotten involved in various initiatives to improve their overall life.

The entire village has participated in making bricks for construction of all the structures that have been built and many participated in the actual construction process. Each of the seven sectors of the village selected leaders and each formed committees for the betterment of their communities.

The Papoli community improved their education system which eventually resulted in Papoli going from a below par school to one of the most desirable in the district. School attendance went from less than 500 to over 1,000 and they are now experiencing growing pains. They are offering incentives to primary school students to continue their education. The School and parents now sponsor field trips for the older primary students to broaden their knowledge of the world outside of Papoli.

The staff of the pediatric clinic regularly conducts health awareness initiatives throughout the village. They follow up in the homes of former patients to make sure the children are progressing and to train the caregivers in proper health and nutrition procedures. The villagers, who for years lived from day to day on subsistence farming with little or no funds for healthcare, can now look forward to better days because of a health saving plan initiated by staff of the pediatric clinic.

Grateful scholarship graduates are also giving back to the community. They are providing scholarships for other students; have established a scholarship fund and pledged to build a widows home; are purchasing uniforms for students and some are taking an active management role in the community. With God's guidance and contributions from generous hearts Papoli was not just revitalized, it was reborn because it has never before gone through such wonderful changes; the most important of these changes perhaps being that of giving back with a grateful heart.

Dennis Bradt

