



Bonjour Tout Monde (Hey Everyone in Creole)

2/5/09

I've spent this past month in several different cities in Haiti, spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ with the Haitian people. My team and I have kept ourselves plenty busy doing all kinds of work--from shoveling mud out of a flooded house to painting orphan kids' faces. I have welcomed in this new year with experiences and sights I never even dreamed of. In this past month I have lived through

more things than I could ever fit in this update letter so I'll just try to give you a taste of what it has been like.



LIVING CONDITIONS: We've been without running water for at least half of our time--that means hauling water to flush the toilet or to wash the dishes or taking a bucket shower. Electricity has also been hard to come by. In most places, it just sporadically comes on for an hour or two once or twice a day. (Needless to say we've become accustomed to candle-lit dinners!) For food, we discovered what traditional Haitian food was on our first day: rice with beans covered in some kind of red sauce with a bite of meat if you're lucky, and we ate that almost every day. In spite of our difficult living conditions, we had some amazing ministry times!



MINISTRY: We did all different types of ministry while in Haiti. We did a VBS, tons of evangelistic street programs, went to orphanages, spoke in churches, picked up garbage from the street, shoveled mud out of a flooded house, made food bags and distributed them to needy families, shared the gospel in schools, painted at the local Baptist Mission, and prayed for sick people in a hospital. Out of all of those things, my favorite days, by far, were when we worked with one of the YWAM bases distributing food in a

neighborhood that was hit pretty hard by the hurricanes. Before we left, we were warned that these people had been hostile at times and given other YWAM teams a hard time. When we first arrived, we had a serious time of prayer and spiritual warfare and felt like we had gained some victory for those people. We then started each day with a program and altar call and saw about 50 people accept Christ. Then we distributed food to needy families and inspected houses to ID the people--this YWAM base had set up a system of identifying and tracking the victims of the hurricane so they can distribute food and clothes where needed and help repair houses. It was so hard to see those malnourished children naked or in raggedy clothes with their super skinny arms and legs and swollen bellies. It was, however, amazing to see the change in the people--they grew from being mean and hostile to welcoming and loving. I will never forget those people who were struggling to survive each day, nor the pure joy I could see on their faces when they understood and accepted the hope and love that only Jesus Christ can offer. That is just one story of many but I can say



that we saw God move in incredible ways. We saw hundreds of salvations, encouraged weary missionaries, inspired local church members to get involved in their communities, and helped build bridges between YWAM bases, local churches, and the Haitian people.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- that we could all have an easy transition back into life on the base in Mazatlán, especially for me as I am now staying in an apartment off-base with some of the other single girl staff.
- for strength to keep going when we return as we start ministry for Carnaval and continue with our last month of outreach before graduation.
- for refreshment after a hard outreach.

This month has been unlike any other but I wouldn't change it for anything. My eyes have been opened to things I never thought I'd see but God has also proven his faithfulness and goodness to me time and time again. Thank you for all of your love and support. You are such a blessing to my life!

God bless,
Cassandra