

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Thank you for supporting my trip to the Dominican Republic and Haiti, and praying for me. I spent one week with a medical/nursing team from Westside Church in Omaha working at the largest field hospital in Haiti. We had three Registered Nurses, two nursing students, a pastor, a Medical Doctor, and me (Family Nurse Practitioner). The hospital houses 1000 people in tents on the grounds of an orphanage run by an organization called "Love A Child." This field hospital, near the Haitian town of Fond Parisen, is organized and partly staffed by the Harvard Humanitarian Mission and by the University of Chicago. It is the largest field hospital in Haiti, and we received patients daily from the hospital ships and temporary field hospitals that were closing.

The bulk of the work that we did during the week was direct patient-care, with numerous dressing changes and wound care, pain-control, counseling (we had excellent Haitian interpreters), and rehabilitation. Food for us consisted of rice and beans, with a topping of chopped sardines at around 2 in the afternoon. Otherwise, we survived on protein bars and Army MREs. On Thursday, after making morning patient rounds, we crammed about 14 people into a Land Rover, and went to Port-Au-Prince to see the destruction and eat supper at a fine restaurant. Along the way, we passed many motor vehicle accidents, including an overturned banana truck!

The most important thing that I learned on this trip is that ***God desperately loves the people of Haiti!*** If God loves the poor, broken, hurting people of Haiti, then it must be true that He also loves us! "*We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love.*" (1 John 4:16) As a country, Haiti was destitute even before this earthquake. Now that they have lost everything, the only way for the nation to go is up. Pray that God will raise up courageous and wise leaders from among the churches to guide Haiti toward a new future of peace, prosperity, and healing. Haiti needs Spirit-led men and women to bulldoze the rubble and create a new Haiti.

Again, thank you for your support and prayers! Please check out my Facebook page to see more pictures.

In Christ,

Mark W. Harvey

