

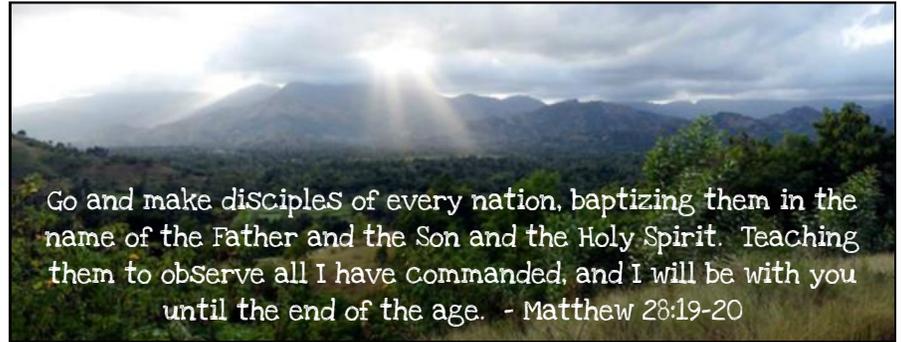


BACKGROUND

Frontier Camp helped Haitian Pastor Gersan Valcin plant Jacob's Well, a Christian youth camp in northern Haiti near the town of Limbe, in 2007. Rural and agrarian, the surrounding village, steeped in Voodoo, experienced a profound change as many local kids made professions of faith. Soon after, East-West ministries planted a church there in the village, and today the camp has morphed into a ministry center complete with a Christian Radio and TV station – located in a now “Christian” village. We are striving to help JW become an independent Haitian ministry. Frontier Camp sent it's 10th mission team consisting of 24 members to Jacob's Well this January. The main goals were to train and challenge the Haitian staff, assist in running day camps, and help with various work projects at the camp and in the surrounding village. This report details our January 2015 trip. We thank you so much for your support and prayers, and encourage you to keep praying for the ministry in Haiti!

WHAT'S NEW?!

For the first time in several years, Frontier Camp did not send any American “extended stay interns” to Jacob's Well prior to our team's trip in January. However, several former Haitian camp staff stepped up and filled that role in an incredible way! In the past few months, Jacob's Well has taken on three local HAITIAN interns. These guys (in the picture below) work to maintain camp as well as assist with the spiritual aspect of the camp's programs. They also served as the program directors for our day camps this year, and did a wonderful job. They have accepted the challenge to attempt their own, completely Haitian-run day camps this summer! Frontier Camp's ultimate goal in Haiti has been to train the Haitian believers how to run and operate camp on their own, so that they will be able to share the Gospel through camp ministry year round as an independent Haitian ministry. These men are a big step toward making that a reality!



DAYS 1-2: PACKING, TRAVEL & ARRIVAL

On Sunday January 4th, the team met at the Monson's house in Houston to gather all of the team gear, re-pack into 24 checked bags, and weigh the bags to make sure they all weighed just under 50 pounds. Fortunately this year, because of improvements at the Cap Haitian airport, we were able to fly American Airlines all the way into CAP rather than a small prop plane. This eliminated the 10 pound weight limit on our personal item and carry on. Our team members did an excellent job packing most of their personal gear and clothing into their carry on bag, allowing for the maximum amount of space in the checked bags for the team gear, including supplies for camp activities, training, and work projects. For the first time in several years, our team was able to fit all of the camp gear into the 24 allowed bags, preventing excess baggage fees!

After loading the bags into vehicles, the team enjoyed one final home-cooked American meal before heading to several different team member's houses for a “good” night's sleep.

The next morning came early, as the team woke up around 2 AM to make it to the airport by 3 AM for a 5 AM flight! Check-in

went smoothly and the flight left on time, allowing the team to easily switch planes during their short layover in Miami. By noon, the team had landed in Haiti!

Once in the CAP airport, Hans and Gersan spent a considerable amount of time negotiating with customs officers on “fees” for our baggage. We know the Lord had His hand on that situation, however, as the one bag with the most expensive equipment for the radio station somehow disappeared when we landed and then was mysteriously returned to us after we were loaded on the big truck and were about to drive away. That bag was never searched, and therefore, we were saved a longer and much more expensive negotiation process.

Our team made it to the camp, unpacked our gear, and enjoyed our first Haitian meal before getting a tour of the camp. The tour ended in the village, where we enjoyed playing hand clap games, duck duck goose, and some other Haitian favorites with the village kids until the sun went down and we headed back to camp for dinner and the first segment of our evening devotional series on Ezra.



Haiti 10 Team: (bottom L-R) Jan, Jenny, Kaylie, Maris, Lisa, Jessica, Abigail, Autumn. (Middle L-R) Zach, Ben, Konrad, Allie, Regan, Hans. (Top L-R) Jeremy, Robert, Johnny, Tomas, Jack, Greta, Stuart, Sophie, Lawton. (Not in picture) Dan

DAYS 3-4: CAMP PREP. AND STAFF TRAINING

The first night at camp was rough for most of the team, as the sound of dogs barking, roosters crowing, and other interesting noises kept us from sleeping soundly, but anything was better than waking up at 2am!

After a wonderful Haitian breakfast, the team set off on what would fill the next two days...preparing Jacob's Well for camp!

Each team member (minus a few whose focus would strictly be work projects) was assigned to an activity they would be helping facilitate. Then, with the assistance of the Haitian interns, all of the camp equipment was located and inventoried before we began to figure out what else needed to be completed before the start of camp.

A group soon began the challenging task of mowing (Haitian style with machetes!), others searched through craft supplies and planned several craft projects, and another group built a new pit ball pit (the old ones

had rotted from being in a tropical climate for so long). Another group sorted snacks and filled the snack bags that would be given to the campers at the end of each day of camp. The archery instructors strung bows and repaired targets while the riflery instructors oiled guns and marked the shooting lines. The camp schedules were set and preparation was also done for staff training.

On both Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon, the Haitian staff came for Staff Training. Earlier in the week, Gersan trained the staff on how to present the gospel, so this training consisted of some additional spiritual training, explaining the schedules, and talking about their roles as staff members, counselors, and activity leaders.

On the final day of staff training, the Haitian staff were invited to join our team for lunch. This had a huge impact on our team bonding with the Haitian staff, as we enjoyed fellowship-

ping with them, learning Haitian and English words, and singing songs back and forth at the top of our lungs. At the end of the day, we all left feeling like one team, ready to serve the Lord together during the following three days of camp.

DAYS 5-7: DAY CAMPS!!!

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, we hosted some of the best day camps we have ever been part of, not due to ourselves, but thanks to the Lord first and also to the hard work of the Haitian staff, who are starting to take ownership of the camp and are excited about serving through camp ministry. The three members of the program team, the two Colas brothers and Smith, have been part of camp for several years as counselors and this year took on an important leadership role. The three of them ran the camp smoothly, pushing each other to do the best they could, and needing minimal assistance from the American team, other than just helping with activities, doing some behind the scenes work such as helping in the kitchen, and giving some constructive suggestions from time to time.

Another exciting addition to camp this year, was the fact that we had campers not only from the village of Ti Guinea, but also from about 8 different area churches.

Each morning, campers arrived around 9 AM, checked in at the camp gate, washed their hands, and gathered in their cabin groups. Then, throughout

each day, the campers rotated with their cabin group through several of the 8 different activity classes, with two Bible Exploration times each day, as well as lunch and additional cabin teaching times.

Overall, activities went very smoothly, as the Haitian activity leaders took more charge than former years in helping instruct, control kids, and encourage counselor involvement as well. Here are some brief reports about the different activities: Baseball went well this year, with Stuart and Kaylie facilitating. Over the years, the kids have learned the rules and are able to play and get competitive, especially with the addition of Stuart! Steal the bacon is still a camp favorite. Maris helped facilitate this, but was pleased to see the counselors organize and lead the game, allowing the American team to encourage and cheer them on. Some of the older boys cabins used their time to play soccer with Johnny. Archery and Riflery were handled very well, as you can see in the pictures, with the Haitian staff promoting safe practices and working hands on with the kids, a huge improvement from previous years! In crafts, the campers made neat bracelets out of buttons, rubber bands, and other materials, and some of the girls also enjoyed coloring and making headbands out of pipe cleaners. By the end of the week, all of the campers were walking around wearing their craft projects. The younger girls who were not able to do archery and riflery joined Jenny and Sophie for some fun games on the field including relay races, duck duck goose, hand clap games, etc. These young girls really enjoyed their time with the American staff! Pit Ball and 9-square were a hit again this year, and seem to be getting more and more competitive, as the campers have learned the rules and are excited about playing. The

memory verse activity was run completely by the Haitians, who taught the verses that correlated with the daily lessons. The verses were taught verbally through repetition as the campers recited after their leaders. Campers who learned the verses were rewarded with a candy prize. Finally, a new Team Building activity was added this year, thanks to Elizabeth and Jan who teach ropes at Frontier Camp. The campers were challenged to work as a team while moving across a log, lowering a hula-hoop on their fingertips, and walking with what the team called "Haitian Skis" which requires a lot of teamwork and coordination. The campers were really challenged in this activity, and it was neat to see them problem-solve and work together!

This year's Bible Drama taught through the book of Jonah. Our American team acted out the dramas under the direction of Regan who gave stage cues, while Tolem, one of the Haitian counselors, read the Bible story for the kids in Haitian Creole. Each day after the Bible Drama, various Haitian staff, including



CAMP CONTINUED

the program directors and a few counselors, took turns talking about the drama and teaching the lesson. It was neat to see more of the Haitian staff stepping up and leading spiritually. The drama, planned by FC's Gillian Adams, a former Haiti team member, was beautifully (and quite comically at times) acted out by several of our team, including Tomas as Jonah, and many others filling in for different roles from sailors to Ninevites, and even a whale, worm, and plant! The campers were taught that it is not good to run from God or to choose not to obey. Even if it is hard, obedience is a much better option than disobedience. They also saw God's mercy on the Ninevites and on Jonah. The Haitian staff helped explain that just like Jonah, we too have sinned and fall short of God's glory. In the same way that

God showed mercy on Jonah and the Ninevites, He also showed us mercy and grace by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, to die in our place so that we can be saved. Praise the Lord for that!!!

With rain in the forecast on the final day, we weren't sure if the schedule would stay as planned, but the Lord held off the rain until the very final Bible Drama, which we were still able to enjoy under the pavilion that FBC Grapeland and FC interns built last year. The final Bible Drama, presented by the Haitian Staff, acted out the main points of the gospel and gave a clear gospel presentation before the campers left. We know that many seeds were planted, and we pray that the campers will accept the free gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. We also hope and pray that each camp-



er will take what they learned back to their village and that the Gospel will continue to spread through northern Haiti!

BEHIND THE SCENES

While a majority of our team was helping with day camps, several of our team members worked on various other projects in the camp and surrounding area. Here are some brief explanations of those efforts.

YOUTH PASTOR'S CONFERENCE: On Friday and Saturday, Stuart, the Summer Staff Director at FC and former youth pastor, led a youth pastor's conference. Youth ministry is a new idea in Haiti, and Stuart was able to teach the 5 youth workers some ideas about how to connect with youth and disciple them in their walk with the Lord. The leaders learned new strategies for engaging youth, including ice breaker games and left feeling excited and challenged to put what they learned into practice. They were also each given a new soccer ball to use for outreach purposes in their villages.

WELDING: Konrad and Jeremy used their welding skills to assist with several needs around camp. First, the Radio Station needed extra security for the expensive equipment that is stored inside, so the guys welded metal bars to go over the windows. In addition, there is a property in the town of Limbe owned by relatives of the Valcins, where many of the fruits and vegetables and other food items used for Jacob's Well teams come from. The gate guarding that property was broken, so Konrad and Jeremy spent a day in town repairing that with an audience of many Haitian kids.

RADIO STATION: Dan Wales from KHCB radio joined our team again this year to do some repair work on the radio station. Throughout the week, he

was able to repair and optimize equipment and help organize things in the station. One of the most important things he was able to do was to fix the transmitter and increase the power from 75 watts to over 400! Now, a clear radio signal can reach further and allow more people to hear Christian Radio in northern Haiti!

ELECTRICAL EVALUATION: Sonlight Power Ministries has agreed to re-do the electrical system at Jacob's Well in the near future to help with long-term sustainable energy. In an effort to help them get things rolling, Jack, Robert, and Hans worked for a good portion of the week to collect electrical data, map all the electrical lines, inventory energy requirements for all the areas of camp, and help make an assessment of future power needs for Jacob's Well. This information will be given to Sonlight Power and will assist them as they move towards providing sustainable solar energy to Jacob's Well Ministry Center.

MAINTENANCE: Konrad and Jeremy also spent some time going around camp and fixing things. With their experience, they were able to weld a new part onto the tractor that was necessary for using it to mow, evaluate some problems with the camp's 4-wheeler, and fix several other random issues that needed to be addressed.

COMMUNITY HOUSING PROJECTS: Towards the end of the week, Jack, Hans, Konrad, Jeremy, and Robert changed their focus to community development. Haitian PD Smith's dad and siblings, along with a little niece, all live in a very small 14' by 18' house just a few hundred yards from the camp gate. Their roof was old, rusted, and leaking water. With the



help of the family, the guys built a new roof structure (which will be covered by tin) that is much stronger and more durable than the previous one. After the last day of camp, the entire team, along with many of the Haitian counselors and staff worked together to lift the roof into place on the house and secure it in place. The family was so thrilled and thankful, and we were glad to be a part of helping meet a real physical need. It was eye opening to see the conditions they live in and at the same time see the joy that they have in the Lord.

Additional funds were also raised to build a new cinder block house for Lucien, the camp gate guard, whose thatch house is falling over. However, due to the rainy season, the slab was not ready, so the project is being completed during the end of January.





DAYS 8-9: TEAM BONDING AND RETURN

Sunday morning, we joined our Haitian brothers and sisters in Christ, as we worshiped the Lord together at Jacob's Well Vision Church in the village of Ti Guinea. The Haitian choir sang beautifully and reminded us all of what it might be like one day when people from every tongue and tribe and nation will join and worship the Lord together.

After being asked an hour before church if he would like to deliver the morning message, Stuart, with the help of Gersan translating, shared his favorite passage in the Bible, and clearly explained the gospel through that message as well. After being introduced to the new Haitian pastor at the end of the service, we spent some time saying good bye to the kids in the village and the camp staff who had worked the day camps with us.

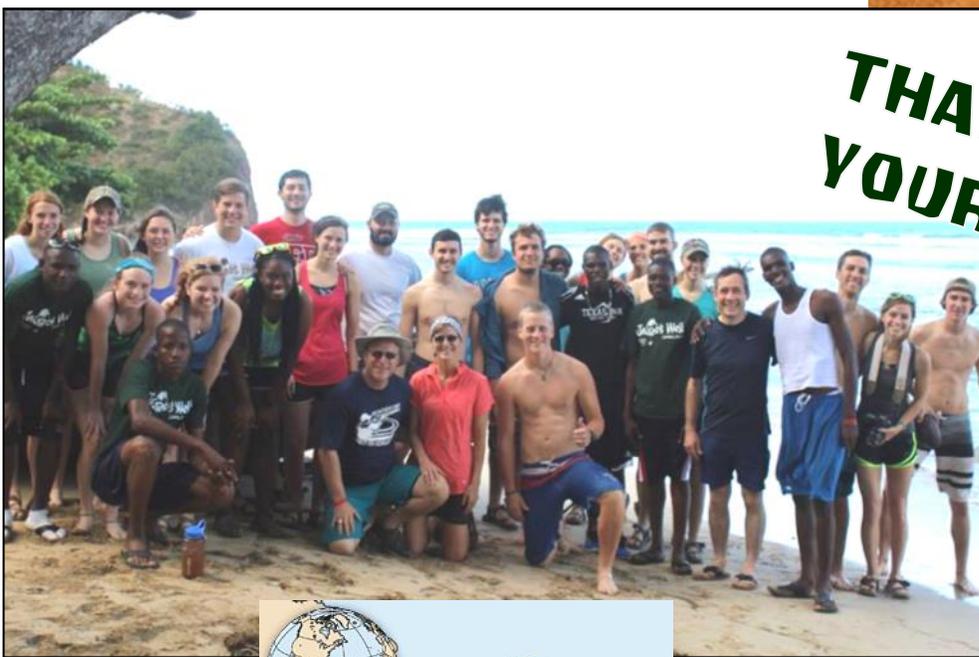
After lunch and some camp clean-up, our team, along with the three Haitian program directors, loaded up the tap-tap (truck) for a relaxing time of team-bonding at a beach on the other side of Limbe. The team enjoyed body surfing, looking for shells, and throwing the Frisbee on the shore. Of course, a team of Americans in Haiti draws attention wherever we go, so even on the beach, we were followed by groups of kids. We played games with them and tried our best to talk to them. Some of the team had a dance party with the kids, while others drew in the sand, built sand castles, or played games. Overall, it was a

wonderful day of relaxing and enjoying God's beautiful creation in Haiti.

On Monday morning, we woke early planning to go shopping at the seaside market on the way to the airport. Instead, because of some potential political unrest in the country, we were taken straight to the airport to avoid any risk. Our flight was delayed almost 5 hours, but we finally made it to Miami where we had about an hour and a half to run through customs, check our bags, run to the correct terminal and scarf down a quick meal before loading our final flight back home.

We praise Lord for a safe trip and for all the wonderful things He is doing in Haiti. Thanks again for your support and prayers. Please continue to pray for Jacob's Well Ministries, the Valcins, and for what God is doing in the village of Ti Guinea!

For more information go to:
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

