



Happy 80th Birthday Reggie!



Reggie celebrated his 80th birthday on Jan. 8, 2009. The Hoover Christian church on the north side of Kansas City has supported Reggie in his missionary trips ever since the beginning in August 1966. It has been a remarkable relationship that has existed between the Hoover Christian church and White Fields Overseas Evangelism.

33 years ago Paul Bushman became the minister of Hoover Christian church. He was a young man who had just graduated from Ozark Bible College. President Don Earl Boatman recommended Paul to the church and he has been there ever since. One of the first things Paul did was to drive

to Joplin and become acquainted with Reggie. This has developed into a 33 year friendship and Reggie and Paul have become extremely close friends and dear Christian Brothers.

The Hoover Christian Church requested that Reggie and Esther come to the church on the first Lord's Day of 2009 to celebrate Reggie's 80th birthday and also to celebrate 43 years of partnership in missions. The church prepared a giant birthday cake and sponsored an all church dinner after church services.

A great fellowship was enjoyed and we want to express our thankfulness for Hoover Christian Church and for their wonderful minister Paul Bushman and his lovely wife Susan.



photo of Reggie, Esther and Paul and Susan



Immersion in 2008

6,369 have been immersed into Christ during 2008. White Fields world wide ministries now assists 310 native evangelists in 33 different nations. These evangelists, along with our American and Australian team members, report 6,369 souls immersed into Christ for the remission of sins in January thru December. It is a great victory and we give all praise to God. Thank God for His victory and for the souls won to Christ through the power of His gospel.



WHITE FIELDS



Overseas Evangelism & World Ministries
P.O. Box 1089 Joplin, Mo 64802-1089

Reggie's Phone— 417-782-7672
Reggie's Cell— 417-483-9029

Supported by Christian Churches and Churches of Christ

Reggie Thomas~ Founder/Director

February 1, 2009

Report On Our Christmas Trip To Haiti



(Reggie, Lori, and Lacey took Christmas to the "Jesus Loves Me Home" in Gonaives, Haiti. On the following pages we give you a report of this trip)

We are writing you this letter upon our return home from Haiti. We went to Haiti to take some help to some of the Hurricane Victims and also to have Christmas with the Jesus Loves Me Home orphans. The situation in Haiti is far more terrible than you can imagine. The great city of Gonaives was buried in mud up to 5 feet thick-----all over the streets, buildings, and in the houses of the people. The mud and now dust are very difficult to endure.

There is very little food in Haiti. From the time of our arrival for more than 24 hours we had nothing to eat!!!!!! We went to the restaurant where we had always eaten before and all they had was a piece of bread and one cup of tea!!!!!! That's all

Imagine the suffering of the people of Haiti. Our orphanage mother, Clotide, went out to try and buy food and after searching for 6 hours she returned with a few small potatoes, and a few greens, and a few bananas. This had to feed 32 orphan children.

The trip to Haiti was more terrible and caused us more personal suffering than any trip we have ever made anywhere on earth. When we got home at midnight and we were so tired and weak we could hardly crawl into bed. Pray for the people of Haiti.



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Lori's Report

WOW! What a trip to Haiti! Minute by minute was different! One minute we felt like it was a whirlwind trip, the next minute it felt like we had been there for years!

Our trip started out bad after having many delays! Monday morning we flew into Haiti only having 2 hours of sleep! We finally arrived in Port-au-Prince! It is always such an excited feeling for me to arrive there! It's a little like "going home" after being gone for

so long! It is a joy to see Lacey have that same reaction! We breezed thru immigration & customs to walk outside & find our dear friend Sainsurin waiting for us with a huge smile on his face! Traffic around the airport gets worse each time we go! Lacey & I settled in for the long drive to Gonaives. It is 90 km from PAP. Doesn't seem so long huh? Well this trip took us over 7 hours!!! The road is really bad. In a lot of areas there is no longer a road. In other areas the road is great & before you know it there are huge potholes! The dust was so thick in areas that we couldn't even see the front of the car. It was a really long, grueling, exhausting trip. It felt like we were never going to get to Gonaives

Once we arrived at the hotel we learned that they didn't have any food to serve us! I was thankful that I had brought along some crackers. The next morning we woke up thinking we'd surely have eggs. No! All they could offer us or anyone else was tea, coffee & a piece of toast. There were a few UN people, A business women, & some government organization people eating. It was interesting listening to them talk about the condition in Haiti & in Gonaives in general. They were talking about one international secular organization that has come in & put their signs up everywhere & have filmed commercials on all the help they are giving & they all said that they are frauds! That's really sad because it really hurts all of the legitimate organizations that are trying to help!

That morning when it was light out & we were back in the car, the total destruction of Gonaives hit us. Your first look around you think "well this isn't too bad" but as you keep looking, even in the same spot, you can see the road is washed out, cars destroyed in a pile of mud, buildings that were there, now gone, even the look on the people's faces were showing complete devastation. But then we turned into the orphanage property & we were greeted by cheers & laughter & chatter & the most beautiful smiling faces!

The children were so happy to see us & we were so happy to see them!



Why Go To India?



India is in a state of crisis. A few weeks ago terrorists attacked Mumbai and killed hundreds. It's not exactly an exotic vacation destination. Transatlantic flights with major time changes tend to be fairly exhausting. Our days there will start early and run late. The pace will be strenuous with little time for sightseeing. Why Go? With our world in its present shape, I believe we have a narrow window to reach people for Christ before he returns. Your prayers will be appreciated!



(Evangelist Dr. Don Ott is the author of this article which has been slightly revised. It was originally written concerning Liberia but is now adapted for India)



God's Angels Are Helping Us In India



We thank God that all 11 team members from various parts of the country showed up at Chicago and we had a very pleasant flight to India. I was extremely tired after the overnight flight to London. I was really dreading the long 11 hour flight from London to Chennai. But when I showed my ticket at the boarding gate, the warning bell rang! I was fearful that maybe some of my trips to other parts of the world were going to be a problem in these dangerous times of terrorists threats. The lady at the gate began to look sternly at the computer. I asked what was wrong? She did not reply. After a few moments she smiled and handed me a new boarding pass and said, "You are upgraded."



When I boarded the flight I was one row behind first class in a very expensive seat that folds way back and it has a foot rest that goes forward making it possible to nearly lie down as though in bed. I think I must have been in what is known as "business class". Anyway they closed the curtains and we were separated from all the rest of the noise of babies crying etc. I SLEPT ALL THE WAY TO INDIA AND FELT COMFORTABLE AND RESTED WHEN WE ARRIVED. I thanked God for that "guardian Angel" who came to help me when I needed help

Then I discovered that I had forgotten one of my important daily prescription pills. It is the one that regulates my heartbeat. I quickly phoned Esther and she looked on the bottle and read me the name of the prescription. I went to a local pharmacist and he typed the name of the medicine on the computer and the right named popped up and he said, "I have the pill right here". It was also the correct dosage. He charged me \$1.00 for the pills that I normally pay a high price for in Joplin. Again I thanked God for His Angel that had helped me.

The first day of our preaching saw 78 souls accepting Christ and obeying Him in baptism. This is only my report. The team is scattered in the villages and I have not been in contact with anyone else.

We will give you a full report on the India campaign in the March newsletter.

Why Go To India?

Why do Christians—often at considerable expense and personal sacrifice—travel to these far-flung destinations? I'm glad you asked!

The Great Commission Commands Us to Go! Shortly before Jesus Christ returned to heaven from earth, he made clear the "mission statement" or purpose of his Church: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:18b-20). Planet earth re-opens soon under new management! When King Jesus takes over and begins his reign, you will want to be his friend and not his enemy. That requires submission and obedience now, before the "showdown" of Revelation. The task of the Church is to exalt Jesus as Lord and enlist people to obey from every nation, language, and ethnic group. Christian baptism reenacts the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ and begins a lifelong process of learning and obeying Scripture. This process of disciple making produces Christ likeness: "A student is not above his teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher" (Luke 6:40). Failure to go, quite simply, is disobedience of the Lord's command.

The Love of Christ Compels Us to Go! Paul the Apostle gave this explanation for his evangelistic fervor: "Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade men" (2 Corinthians 5:11). Christians are not "afraid" of God as far as our own judgment or punishment; we're already forgiven! Christ paid the penalty for our sins and clothed us with his righteousness. But Christ on the cross illustrates the awful severity of God's wrath. Unless we persuade unbelievers to trust Christ alone for their salvation, an equally terrible fate awaits them. "For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again" (2 Corinthians 5:14-15). Jesus Christ died in your place and on your behalf as a sacrifice of atonement; the only proper response is to surrender your life to him. Once we relinquish control of our lives to "the Lord of the Harvest," we quite naturally become "workers in his harvest field" (Matthew 9:13; Luke 10:2). Whether across the street or around the world, the love of Christ compels us as Christians to share the Gospel. The message of Jesus Christ is unique and exclusive: "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6). "Religious pluralism" is not an option for those who know and love Jesus Christ.

The End of the Age Commandeers Us to Go! When Christ commissioned his followers, he promised to be with us "to the very end of the age." He referred to the Church Age or Age of Grace, this current time in history when salvation is available by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. "Now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2). Soon that door of opportunity will close. How much longer do we have? Natural disasters escalate in frequency and intensity. Iran's president wants to exterminate Israel. Political and religious figures lead the way to moral decay. Many predict economic "meltdown" and a crisis that could lead to another depression. "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come" (Matthew 24:14). Can it be much longer until the Bridegroom comes for his Bride? Paul said in the first century: "I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!" (1 Corinthians 9:16b). Surely we who live in the twenty-first century ought to be seized by this sense of urgency.

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God truly blessed them by sparing the orphanage compound any damage & keeping all of them safe! They had several really bad days when they were flooded out & could not leave the dorms but they did not lose anything! We are so thankful!

Prospere has a nice garden growing. There was one small ear of corn left. They were picking beans & peas & egg-plants were beginning to grow! They even fed us more fruit than we could find on the streets or at our hotel! They kept peeling us oranges & cut up a watermelon for us! The oranges were some of the best we have ever had!



Lacey & I were able to spend all day Tuesday playing with & loving on the kids. It is really funny to experience the language barrier & yet even with that barrier kids are still kids & that bypasses that barrier & we are all the same! They sang, laughed, danced, teased, & simply had a lot of fun. The kids are determined that Lacey will speak fluent Kreyol one day & very patiently teach her. The competitive boys have met their match with competitive Lacey & they are always trying to outdo each other. They are not used to that! We have to break up some of the games to make sure no one gets hurt.

We were able to find ice cream, so the kids had ice cream for the Christmas party. Lacey took a few gifts & the children were so happy! Prospere & Clotide were so happy to receive the Christmas money! Prospere took money to buy 10 new bed frames. He was able to buy 4 when we left, but was going to look for the rest after the holidays. Clotide took money & bought all the sheets & blankets she could find. She also bought pots for cooking & for washing, cooking spoons, eating spoons, strainers, chamber pots, etc. She is looking for eating bowls for all the children.



As we drove downtown to buy the ice cream, the destruction became more apparent. It was our first good look around town. My heart breaks for everyone in Gonaives! The lady that owns the lumber yard & was trying so hard to beautify Gonaives is totally wiped out & her father died during the hurricane. Chez Franz where we normally eat is wiped out. Both places are trying hard to clean up & re open. The old part of downtown where the buildings are hundreds of years old are still standing but not safely. The cosmetic part

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of those buildings are gone. Those buildings date back further than we can imagine! Those buildings were made out of sea shells & fossils & that type of material. Some of the familiar roads to me, ones that I walked many miles on while growing up are gutted & filled with water. There is still water almost knee deep in areas. Lake Gonaives we were told would take 5-6 years to dry up.

We spent New Year's Eve at the Visa Lodge in Port-au-Prince. We were pretty much the only people staying there! Lacey & I went outside our room at midnight & listened to the Haitian people welcome in the New Year.

While we were uncomfortable for a couple of days, imagine what living in it day after day must be like! Please pray for Haiti!

If you are a member of facebook, search for me & add me. I have all our pictures in 2 albums. There's even a video on there. I think you might be able to see the 2 albums this way too: <http://www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=67506&l=c076d&id=678922133> & <http://www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=67473&l=f8f5e&id=678922133>



Report On Our Christmas Trip To Haiti

Report From Lacey

I was so excited to be going back to Haiti in December.

When we got to the airport, we had a lot of trouble getting on the plane, but we finally got on the airplane. When we finally got to Haiti the first person I saw was Sainsurin. I couldn't believe that we were finally in Haiti and I couldn't wait to see the kids again, but I had to wait for the ride there. It took us 7 hours to finally get there and it was so boring!



The next day, my mom and I spent the whole day at the orphanage. It was really fun hanging out with all the kids and at the end of the day; we had a Christmas party for them. We gave them ice cream and I gave the boys Hot Wheels cars and I gave the girls bracelets and barrettes. They really enjoyed it and I even taught this boy named Gregory how to do the chicken dance!! The last day in Haiti, we went back to the orphanage and my mom took pictures of them. When we were about to leave, Prospere brought in this cow and all the kids around were pretending to cut their throats showing me that they were going to kill it for their supper! After that we went back to Port-au-Prince. That night was New Year's Eve and I stayed up until midnight to celebrate New Year's Day!!

I had a really fun time in Haiti, but I would have liked to stay longer. It is sad down there though because they didn't have a lot of food at the hotel where we were staying and just imagine if the hotel doesn't have a lot of food then a lot of the people in Haiti don't have any food and are starving right now. I wished that Haiti was the same beautiful place when my mom first went there a long time ago.

