Haiti Medical Mission Task Force (MMTF) of First Presbyterian Church Ann Arbor
Mission Trip May 12-19, 2012

Team Leader Report

Six MMTF team members traveled to Hospital Ste Croix (HSC), Leogane, Haiti on May 12, 2012 to provide mobile medical clinics, work at the hospital, and visit FSIL. Trip members include Lisa Kerr Johnson, PharmD, RN; Leader, Rudi Ansbacher, MD, Susan Engert, MD, John Macorkindale, Ilona Brustad and Stuart Berry. Our team of medical professionals was joined at HSC by Haitian dentist, Dr. Emmanuel, DDS, Dr Naomi, MD, 2 second year nursing students from FSIL, Milo, an agent Sante and on Friday a village Monatrice (nutrition worker) to make up our mobile clinic team.

We traveled to villages on Monday through Friday during the week and worked at HSC on Thursday in the hospital clinic system with our Haitian colleagues and counterparts seeing patients. We provided medical care to 558 patients: 480 in mobile clinics, 35 dental patients and 43 patients at HSC. We treated 362 adults and 196 children. We referred 3 very sick children to HSC for further treatment at the hospital. We saw and treated a variety of medical conditions, including gastric distress, hypertension, asthma and infectious conditions among all. Vitamins and treatment for parasites was provided. A Haitian dentist 3 days during the week provided added value to our clinics for the patients. Our Haitian MD allowed us to see and treat more patients in the clinic setting. Lisa assisted Dr. Bellanger, the medical director with one surgery while at HSC on Thursday.

We visited the Ob Gyn clinic of Delson Merisier, MD and for the first time held one of our mobile clinics there at the site. Team members got to see how a typical Haitian MD works and his facility post earthquake, as well as his former home destroyed by the earthquake, now being rebuilt in early stages. Dr. Merisier has just been nominated to become the Leogane Health Commune Minister of Health and has accepted that appointment to be announced in the near future.

Sunday AM we worshipped with Ste Croix church on the hospital complex site. It continues to be housed in a temporary structure on the basketball court of the old school site. We shared communion during the service and MMTF made a donation to their church during offering. Daily devotions were given by each team member during our week.

John Macorkindale worked with Alex Lissaint at FSIL in follow up to Dick Stuber’s January trip, to inspect on site conditions, identify needed projects and purchase material for this work. They made a trip to Port-au-Prince to purchase infrastructure items. John’s complete and detailed report will follow. Just under $500 was spent toward this endeavor during the week. John also joined the medical team on mobile clinics 2 days and gave new team members orientation in triage and fantastic support to clinic operations.
Many of the team was able to make a short visit to FSIL with a tour and meet Hilda Alcindor, Dean and students there. Hilda was very pleased to meet Ilona and have her skills in ESL available for developing possible curriculum in the future.

We met with Dr. Theodule Alexis and Casnel Fleuralis, MDs at HSC and Dr. Claude Bellanger, Medical Director at HSC joined us 2 evenings for dinner. They are very positive on the progress and future of HSC. Dr. Gladys Memnon, hospital administrator was not on site during our week. We were told she was in the US dealing with a personal medical problem. The inpatient hospital is open with a small ward, less than 20 patients were in house when we were there. They do have 3 private rooms open at the end of the ward. The pharmacy is open and provides medication free of charge, allowing us to bring and leave some unused meds. I also spent time with the pharmacist, Vladimir Genestin on Thursday. The Emergency room remains open 8-4:30pm, not holidays or weekends. We donated our oxygen saturation monitor to Dr. Samuels for daily use in the ER after our clinics were finished. This should improve their care of cardiac, respiratory and asthma patients. Many inhalers were also left, as asthma continues to occur in dusty conditions post earthquake. We provided Dr. Naomi a stethoscope.

HSC construction improvements continue at this time. The majority of the window replacement, painting, air conditioner installation and security have been completed in the guest house level and we had a wonderful week from an infrastructure standpoint. The physical facility is the best it has ever been during our tenure at HSC. David Paige was our guest house manager during our week. First floor improvements to patient care areas appear complete and a near future move is planned, including new operating room suites. I am happy that the Haitians cared for at HSC will also now see positive improvements for their use. Major construction on the roads in Leogane seek to prevent flooding of the streets north of HSC. Traffic and passage to FSIL was difficult.

Two evenings speakers from the local mission area were invited for dinner with us and made presentations regarding their work in Leogane. Willys Geffrard, from Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC), where Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) has donated some of their post earthquake funds for the rebuilding of homes in Leogane, spoke about their program, history and accomplishments. Willys was referred to me by Pix Mahler from PCUSA Haiti mission and is currently featured on their mission site. Michael Ritter from Deeps Springs International spoke to us about their local water programs. Our source of clean water to drink at HSC is based from their work. John had done work with the well refurbishment program on a past trip.

We were able to work with the hospital, community MDs and dentist, FSIL, and renew the many relationships with our Haitian counterparts. We treated chronic patients, clinic patients and partnered with the Haitian doctors and nurses in their care. We provided clinical financial support to continue the care of specific cases. We provided clinical instruction to nursing students in our field clinics. This team bonded and worked together well, enjoyed their week of experiences and expressed a desire to serve again in the future. First time members were woven into the mission experience and made vital parts of the mission team. This mission site continues to offer a rich experience for First Pres
members looking for a trip along their faith journey and development, while serving as Christ’s disciples to our brothers and sisters in Haiti.

Thank you to the members of the First Pres congregation and mission committee for your continued donations, prayers and support of the Haiti MMTF. Thanks for your prayers—we felt them and were blessed to be a blessing to the Haitian people all week. Thank you to the MMTF team!!!!

Bondye beni vous Ayiti. (God Bless You Haiti)

In Christ,

Respectfully submitted
Lisa Kerr Johnson, PharmD
Trip Leader
May 24, 2012

Our next trip will be in late Oct or early November. If you are looking for mission trip on your faith journey, you do not need to be a medical person to join the Haiti MMTF. Contact Lisa Johnson @ dj8@juno.com for more info and questions.