



James 1:27

As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another - Proverbs 27:17



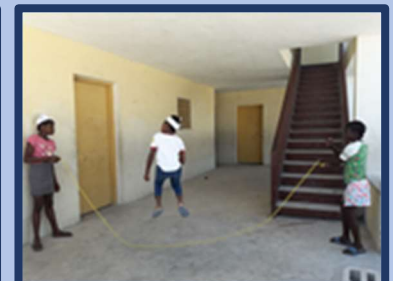
We never know, from one day to the next, who is going visit us at Esperre Kay. Sometimes it's one of the young adults wanting to charge a phone, the neighbor next door coming to feed his chickens or, like the other day, an old friend we haven't seen in a while. These days are our favorite days and are especially dear to our hearts. Some of you may remember our friend Jonathan (on the left) who we introduced to you in a previous newsletter. On his right is our friend Richcard. For many who have come to Haiti on mission teams, you will remember Richcard. We have seen him grow from a little boy into a fine young man. When he came, we had lunch together and talked about current events, family, and our faith. He is currently studying to take the High school government exams in March. Please join with us in praying for his success.

For us, February ended up being a better month than expected. The planned violent protests were minimal, and we had a little more freedom to move around than we thought we would. We are not out of the woods yet with the current state of the government. We continue to hope the disagreements will be resolved peacefully. There is still a lot of insecurity, occasional shootings, kidnappings, gang violence and, last Thursday, there was a large prison break of around 400 men. The prison is located just outside of Port Au Prince. 200 escapees are still at large. Please keep praying for all our loved ones to remain safe here, thank you! This month we were able to meet one on one with five of the young adults and they are doing well. They continue to ask for prayers for their faith and success in school. Except when there have been scheduled protests, schools have been in session, so we are having more of a regular school year so far, praise God! We did get to see Peterson in church one Sunday. He is doing fine. We exchanged hugs and talked about ways we could encourage him in his faith. Please keep him in your prayers to find a job and to grow more in his relationship with the Lord.

A visit to Loving Hands Orphanage



New School



We finally made it!!

I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong—that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith - Romans 1:11-12

We were very blessed to be able to go and see the children at Loving Hands Orphanage this month. We had a fun time at Bible study reading the story about when the little children wanted to see Jesus. The disciples tried to stop them telling them not to bother Him. Jesus corrected the disciples and told them He wanted the children to come to Him. In fact, He said in order to enter the Kingdom of Heaven, we must be like a little child. We talked with the children about how, once they have accepted Jesus, they are adopted into the family of God and become part of His Kingdom, His royal family. As believers, they all have a Papa/Father who is God. The children then recited Ephesians 1:5 together, "He predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will." In celebration of this good news, the children decorated crowns which they proudly wore the rest of the day. After our study the children played jump rope, soccer and we even flew a kite together. We ended the day by gathering to sing and pray. It was so wonderful to visit with the children once again and to see how much they have grown in just a few months.

The Blessings Keep Coming!

And God said, "See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food - Genesis 1:29



This month, a friend dropped off an exotic, Haitian fruit called kowosò (also known as soursop) for us to try. It has a mild, creamy, pineapple taste. To eat it, you need to remove the skin, cut it in half and then remove all the large, brown seeds (which are poisonous). After that you can eat the flesh as it is, make it into juice or blend it with ice, milk and sugar to make a smoothie. We chose to make smoothies with half. With the other half we blended the kowosò with milk, sugar and vanilla and then put it in the freezer to make ice cream. This was a real treat!

Bible Study

Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right." Acts 10:34-35

For Bible study this month we were able to gather as a group for worship three times and for study twice. In our first study we discussed John 14:6 in which Jesus states, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." Dave asked the young adults what this means. They all understood if we have not accepted Christ then then we cannot go to heaven when we die and we will go to hell. Dave explained a bit about what hell is like. He told the young adults what prompted him to share this with them. It was a sermon he heard recently in which, the way it was presented, it sounded like everyone in the church was going to heaven. Dave asked the young adults if they thought

Bible Study, cont.

everyone who goes to church is saved. They all agreed the answer is no. Dave explained this message about hell is not always an easy to share but necessary. He told them he wants to make sure they all understood this because he loves them and he wants to be rejoicing with them in heaven one day. The discussion ended with a reminder to go share the gospel with others because we do not want anyone to perish. (As a side note, we were amazed to find out, that same morning a pastor from our home church in RI preached on the exact same subject. Talk about confirmation!)

Our second study was a follow up to the first. The scripture came from 1 John 4:1: **Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.** We had a long discussion about how important it is to have discernment about what we hear with regards to spiritual matters. When we hear a teaching, if it doesn't sound right, if it sounds contrary to what we know about the Bible, we should do some research, ask questions, and get answers. This began to open the door to the young adults asking some questions about things they had heard. This made for a lively discussion.



This month we also began choosing one young adult to bring a Bible verse to share with the rest of the group and to explain why they chose it. We are specifically targeting our older young adults so they can mentor the younger ones. The first to share was Stevenson. He chose Isaiah 41:10: **So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.** Stevenson explained how this verse brings him comfort with all the insecurity going on in Haiti right now. Amen Stevenson!

Looking Ahead

...being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus - Philippians 1:6



Meet John Wesley. John is turning 18 this month and will age out of the orphanage at the end of this school year. As we get ready to bring in one more young adult to the Espere Kay Program, we have been doing a lot of praying and reflecting on how things have gone for the past four and a half years since we began Espere Kay. We have been talking with several other ministries to ask them what they are doing in Haiti with regards to orphan care, transition, and community development. We have been looking at some of the resources God has provided like the beautiful, new school in the orphanage compound. We have also been praying about ways in which to further the gospel here even more. We sense God is moving and ask you to please pray for our wisdom and discernment with regards to all these things. Pray we would continue to seek His plan for us and for the ministry as we search for the best, most responsible way to do God's work here in Haiti. Thank you so much!

God bless you all! Deb and Dave