



BORDER *Reflections*

Fall/Winter 2010

Dear Friends in Christ:

An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher" he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus replied, "What is written in the law?" The lawyer answered: "*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind*" and, '*Love your neighbor as yourself.*" This, of course, summarizes the whole duty of man, first to God and then to his neighbor. But the lawyer in an attempt to justify himself asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

Jesus responds with the parable of the good Samaritan and concludes with the question; "Who do you think was a good neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" "The one who had mercy on him," replied the lawyer. Jesus told him "Go and do likewise."

When the lawyer asked Jesus, "who is my neighbor", Jesus did not answer the lawyer's question. The lawyer was asking it in a form that made "neighbor" an object. Jesus made it a subject. He answered not "Who is my neighbor?" but rather "Who is the one who acts neighborly?" He was asking the lawyer, "Do you act as a neighbor to the person who needs your help?" Jesus' true goal was to show the law expert he was poor, and to prepare him to seek spiritual riches in the mercy of God.

Let's put it in other terms and ask it of ourselves. We say, "Whom should I love?" or "How many people can I love?", thus hoping to limit our obligation. Jesus asks, "Do you love? Never mind whom; for if you do love, then your love will inevitably operate as it should when you come across the needy."

In an attempt to justify myself I might ask, "And who are the needy?" We can be classed into one of two wide-ranging categories of either *indifferent* or

concerned, when it comes to determining “who is my neighbor.” When I take a walk around the block in my look good, fell good neighborhood, and a neighbor happens to be out, I generally will say “Howdy!” Why of course, I’m the *concerned* type. But let’s ask ourselves a couple questions to help determine our degree of concern. How is our neighbor doing physically? How are his family members doing? How is their church life? How’s his job situation? Let’s expand our mercy horizons, say across town. How about the homeless, the addicted, those in a half-way house, the pregnancy center, etc., etc. Are we starting to get a peek into the neighborhood and “who is my neighbor”? How about considering your next mission trip to a part of the world where the next meal, clean water, and sanitation facilities would be luxurious living.

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Phil. 2:3-4

Ministry Update

Village 7 Mission Trip to Haiti

In October a group of men from Village Seven Presbyterian Church in Colorado Springs made a trip to Haiti specifically to do construction. Our assignment was to construct an open air dining pavilion for the orphanage at Reformation Hope



just outside of Port-au-Prince in La Plaine. Not only did this group complete the pavilion, they also provided material and erected a swing set for the kids. Then on Friday afternoon the V7 team passed the hat for a trip to a private beach two hours away for the 63 kids and staff. Nearly all the kids had never seen the ocean before. What a life time experience for them.

We arrived in Port-au-Prince on Saturday morning, then were taken to the Reformation compound about a half hour away from the airport. We spent Saturday settling in, erecting our mosquito tents and nets, touring the facility, meeting the staff and within a few minutes the kids were loving all over us.

Sunday morning we were blessed with a beautiful worship service, very PCA, an unbelievably talented choir singing in their native Creole language hymns we recognized, worshiping our Lord with brothers and sisters in Christ. Even with

the language barrier and in a different culture the Holy Spirit's presence was profound.

Sunday afternoon we toured the downtown area ravaged by the earthquake. Most of the collapsed buildings are still just piles of rubble. Many of those that remain standing are only one tremor away from total destruction. People are everywhere, tightly packed into the limited space available, trying to eek out an existence selling anything they can dig out of the rubble.

Link to this site for Haiti pictures;

http://www.boston.com/bigpicture/2010/11/haiti_ten_months_later.html

The sights and sounds and smells of this devastated country leave a person with a pit in your gut. You are speechless, but silently you pray to God for His mercy on these people.

I recall an interview Billy Graham's daughter had with a news reporter after Katrina. The reporter asked her "How could God let something like this happen?" Anne Graham gave an extremely profound and insightful response. She said, "I believe God is deeply saddened by this, just as we are, but for years we've been telling God to get out of our schools, to get out of our government and to get out of our lives. And being the gentleman He is, I believe He has calmly backed out. How can we expect God to give us His blessing and His protection if we demand He leave us alone?"



Monday the construction started. One of the neatest experiences of this project was our opportunity to work alongside some of the nationals. I had the privilege of working with Jonas, a local contractor. We couldn't speak each others' language, but hey, construction is universal. We soft, out-of-shape Americans provided plenty of laughs for these folks who are 2% body fat and are the energizer bunny on steroids. And even the girls. One girl, about 15 years old, was shoveling sand 2:1 with 3 of us tag teaming her. Talk about having your butt handed to you!!

In the evenings when the temperature cooled off we sat around exchanging stories. But the greatest experience of the trip was our opportunity to hear Jean Jacob Paul tell his story and testimony. Following is a sketchy recollection of his life story as he shared it with us during that special week.

Reformation Hope, Haiti

Jean Paul grew up in the La Plaine area of Port-au-Prince. His mother passed away when he was three and his father a few years later. But during these brief formative years a missionary made an everlasting impact on Jean's life. He

wouldn't realize this for several years yet. An uncle in New York City brought him to the states where Jean finished school and then was able to pursue the American dream.

Jean Paul worked at various jobs including a cab driver and construction worker. He liked being around construction projects so he continued to work hard, saved his money and started putting himself through engineering school. Jean remembers when a thought passed through his mind, "seminary, not engineering".



When we are intent and focused on our worldly dreams, it's easy to ignore God's light tap on the shoulder. After all don't we always know what's best for us? Sometimes the first verse in scripture we want to ignore is **Isaiah 6:8***I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send?"....*

Jean Paul continued his pursuit of the American dream, to become an engineer, new cars, beautiful home, etc., etc. But again that little tap on the shoulder, "seminary...return to your homeland."

Ignoring God's call will only result in an exercise of frustration and discontent. Jean remembers very clearly how he was ignoring the little voice in the back of his mind. One day a well-dressed stranger approached him, and engaged in conversation specifically about attending a seminary in California. Of course Jean's reply was no different than any of ours might be..."I can't afford seminary." The stranger said that's not a problem, handed Jean a \$1000 and drove off.

Jean Paul struggled with the whole event, then suddenly it occurred to him that the stranger was the same missionary from Canada whom he knew as a lad in Haiti. This was not what he wanted. The choice was clear at that point, engineering school or seminary. Jean was mentally torn, confused. After several days he decided to drive to California and perhaps change his whole life forever by entering seminary. But before he stepped through the door of the seminary he turned around, drove back to New York and used the money to complete engineering school.

Jean Paul received his electrical engineering degree, got a good job in Atlanta GA. The American dream was kicking in. But the price of his worldly success was becoming too great. The encounter with the Canadian missionary was causing his conscience to become unbearably noisy, so he quit his job and entered seminary, sure now that his actions were square with God and the missionary who gave him the money. Upon completion of seminary he returned to his

engineering work only to have God's tap on the shoulder become more clear, "return to Haiti now."

But Jean Paul continued his engineering career, met a lady from New York City, got married and started a family. He had never shared with his wife that part of his life about the missionary, the money and the circumstances that led him to the seminary. The struggle intensified, "return to Haiti", "how do I tell my wife", "return to Haiti NOW", "how do I tell my wife".

That night Jean had a dream, a stranger in a white suit, wearing a straw hat proclaimed; "return to Haiti now or you will D I E!!" Jean suddenly sat up in bed in a cold sweat, his wife awoke screaming. "Honey, Honey, I had this terrifying dream of a man in a white suit, wearing a straw hat that will kill you if you don't return to Haiti." God has clearly prepared and paved the way for Jean's return to Haiti. Jean paused, reflecting; "In spite of my resistance to God's plan for me, my life is finally on track now. I've been through the trials, I've conformed to His will and I have answered the call. It can only be the golden brick road from here!"

Jean Paul arrived in Haiti to begin his ministry. He was envisioning it to be a gospel spreading, Bible teaching, country changing, mega church planting walk through the countryside. He prayed that God would support him and guide him in this new ministry.

It was dusk as the plane arrived and Jean Paul made his way through the customs process into his homeland. He stepped out into the hot evening air to start the several mile walk to the neighborhood where he grew up, to stay with his sister.

As he neared the area of his childhood a woman with 7 little kids approached him. "Please sir", she pleaded, "do you have any food for my children?" "Go away!" Jean replied and continued on. A little further he looked back and in tow on his heels were the 7 little kids. The mother had abandoned them and vanished into the night.

"GET OUT OF HERE", "GO FIND YOUR MOTHER", he yelled. 14 big brown sad little eyes just looked up at him. Jean Paul couldn't stand it and briskly continued his walk. Again a little further down the road he looked back and right on his heels were the 7 little children.

Keep in mind that Jean Paul is a strongly built man with a heavy voice. As Jean continued relating the experience of that night his voice cracked a little and became soft as he paused and reflected.

He remembered how he **screamed** at them, **cursed** them to go away. 14 big brown sad little eyes looked up at him with big tears running down their cheeks.

He turned to literally run away from them. For the last time he begged them, "please, please why don't you just go away." 14 big brown sad little teary eyed children replied in unison "Daddy, we LOVE you."



Jean Paul fell to his knees, embracing the 7 little children and wept uncontrollably. That was the moment God started the Reformation Hope orphanage. As He told this story we all became silent, several of us macho construction men from Colorado were wiping the tears running down our cheeks.

Jean broke the silence with a boisterous laugh, he reflected on how God literally brought him to this point in his life kickin' n screamin'. But God changed his heart, and gave him vision for expanding His kingdom. He prepared him to finally say *".....Here I am, Send me!"* **Isaiah 6:8.**

Jean and his newly acquired family continued on to his sister's house. When she answered the knock at the door, she was stunned to see what her brother Jean had brought with him. After several explanations and begging, she agreed to put them up for 2 days while Jean found a different place for them to live. 2 days and no place to go. The situation was getting a little tense. Sis agreed to 1 more week, PERIOD, then out.

At the end of a week still no place to go. Sis enforced the 'get out' part of the deal. So Jean Paul and the 7 little kids were walking down a dusty road wondering what would happen next.

Jean Paul recalled how he envisioned a ministry of evangelism and starting a church. He didn't remember ever considering an orphanage or if he did it would be sometime perhaps in the future. But God's plan for Jean Paul was to provide for the orphans first, and to trust God for their needs.

As they were walking down the dusty road a well dressed man in a new car drove up to Jean and the kids, and introduced himself only as Mr. S from Canada. Mr. S explained that he owned many properties in the area and that he would provide one of his houses for Jean and the orphans to live in for a month. After a month he would sell the house to them for \$70,000 or they would have to otherwise pickup and leave. At the end of the month Jean Paul wasn't able to come up with the \$70,000. So Mr. S agreed to a six month extension, the same conditions to the agreement. Again, at the end of six months Jean Paul wasn't able to swing the purchase of the house.

Jean Paul points out that God had always provided funds to feed and cloth the children from the very first day. Sometimes they would be completely out of food and no prospect of a next meal, and someone would bring the next meal.

Mr. S came by to evict the group because again there wasn't \$70,000 to close the deal. But on that day God changed Mr. S's heart. He offered the final contract, a one year extension and a final price of \$35,000. Before the year ended Mr. S passed away. His heirs tried to void the contract because the price was way below market value but it was upheld in the court of law. By the end of the year God provided an anonymous donor to cover the \$35,000 for the purchase of the house now known as Reformation Hope.

Jean Paul's ministry continued to be blessed by God's provision. Jean always points out the fact that the children have never gone hungry, even though they still only get two meals of rice and beans a day because of limited funds. Additional adjacent property was acquired where a school and church would be built. The school and church were built about 10 years ago, constructed of masonry walls and flat concrete roofs. Tuesday January 12, 2010 started out at the Reformation Hope Orphanage like all others. Classes all day followed by the evening meal around 4:00-5:00 in the afternoon. The school day ended with singing back in the classrooms from 5:00-6:00. That day the evening meal was delayed nearly 2 hours because of several problems in the kitchen area. The kids were hungry and getting restless because of the delay, so were taken back to the classrooms. Finally at about **5:45** supper was ready and the 46 kids and 5 teachers left the school building. At 5:53 the ground shook violently, both the school and church were totally demolished into piles of rubble. Not one person was hurt or killed that terrible day at Reformation Hope.

Jean Paul has a vision for Haiti's reformation. It will not happen from the top down, he insists, because of the government corruption and the strong voodoo influence. It will happen from the bottom up. He is seeing God's protection and blessing on organizations like Reformation Hope, where the children can be brought up with a solid Biblical grounding. They will take with them the morals, ethics and most importantly the gospel into their country's government 20 years from now. In my mind God clearly demonstrated His plan for Jean Paul's vision at **5:45**, January 12, 2010. **Luke 18:16***Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.*

Soul's Winning Ministries

When Jean Paul started the church that would become known as Soul's Winning Ministries, he knew the Lord would be with him. What he didn't know was the battle he was about to undertake. The area where the church would be built was totally influenced by Voodoo, with eight Voodoo priests just in the La Plaine area alone, literally the devils playground. Murders, beatings, robberies, and rape signified the neighborhood.



Jean Paul paused as he recounted the horrific stories of being in the eye of extreme spiritual warfare. He was approached regularly with threats of everything imaginable.

As Jean Paul spread the Gospel, God was changing hearts and minds to Christ. The little church was growing. Singing and animation is in the Haitian DNA. Joy in the Lord with music is a goose-bumpy experience. Jean's

excitement level elevated as he told about how they would take their prayer service and music to the streets. It somehow just happened to be right across the street from the Voodoo rituals every time. He chuckled, Haiti doesn't have a noise ordinance so they would bring their musical instruments and sound equipment as well. They would sing, pray, and preach for hours at a time until the Voodoo's would give up. Then they would give praise to the Lord with more song and prayer.

The young church continued to grow. The Voodoo's influence was being severely challenged. One Sunday as Jean Paul was preparing to start Worship Service a voodoo priest and his followers showed up to make this threat in front of the congregation. "Jean Jacob Paul, if you don't leave this area now, YOU WILL DIE!" Suddenly the voodoo priest collapsed and died. Jean Paul and the congregation gasped, the shocked Voodoo followers quickly gathered up the dead priest and left in haste promising to return.

The following Sunday as Jean Paul was about to start Worship Service another voodoo priest and his followers approached Jean and said, "Jean Jacob Paul, leave this country NOW or YOU WILL DIE!" Again, suddenly this priest collapsed and died right on the spot. Jean Paul and the congregation were stunned, the Voodoo's again gather up the dead priest and flee the premises. Jean Paul now realizes that they have just witnessed God's intervention and blessing on their church.

Fear now struck the voodoo community. Word went out that Jean Paul and his Jesus God have insurmountable powers. The priests left the area to avoid the reach of this Jesus spirit. But they found the reach inescapable. Soul's Winning Ministries has two thousand members, Jean Paul leads twenty additional little churches in the Port-au-Prince area. And the most awesome thing you could imagine. God reached the third voodoo priest delegated to carryout the death of Jean Paul. He has accepted the Lord and is in officer training at Soul's Winning Ministries.

Jean Paul has one more Voodoo priest that he wants us to be in prayer for with him, his brother. His brother no longer lives in the area but has fathered 45 children from 30 some wives. Most if not all of his nieces and nephews attend church at Soul Winning Ministries. Several of the younger ones are on staff and live at the Reformation Hope compound.

Future Plans

Several teams from the US are planning short-term team trips to Haiti next year. On the construction side, plans are progressing for projects at Reformation Hope to include: a large water storage tank to enable clean water dispensing for the surrounding neighborhood, a much-needed new kitchen addition to replace the current make-shift outdoor facility, beds for the orphans. Please pray for the necessary funding for these projects.



Also plans are progressing well for the new school and church at Docine, north of Port-au-Prince near Gonaives. A new well is being drilled which will become a community source for clean safe water. If you recall, the existing school/church is a rickety shed-type structure with thatched sides and dirt floor. Please pray also for the remaining funds to be available for these facilities.

Kay and I will be hosting and leading the groups as they arrive beginning in March of 2011.

Prayer and Praise

Thank you for continuing to pray for us. *Please* remember these praises and requests in your prayers:

- Praise God for the growth at Las Tierras in East El Paso. Pray for leadership to emerge from training classes as Pastor Padilla leads this group of men.
- Praise God for the growth of His kingdom through the BEAMM ministry along the US/Mexico border. Pray for the E4 teams to become the new template for church planting and leadership training along the border.
- Pray that God continues to bless the churches along the US/Mexico and that the gospel is spread with urgency.
- Pray that God will restrain the evil along the border, that His people will take the message of hope in Christ to those who now live in fear.

- Pray for the people in Haiti as they struggle with hunger, disease and government oppression. Their only hope is the gospel, please pray that the Holy Spirit is changing hearts and minds.
- Pray God will provide the funds and teams for the building of orphanages, schools, and churches in Haiti.
- Pray God will continue providing our monthly support as well as one-time contributions. Needs will increase as we minister in Haiti.



The BEAMM ministry is very grateful to its partnership churches who share the vision for advancing God's Kingdom along the border. Again, we too, thank all of you for your prayers, encouragement and financial support! If you haven't already done so, please sign up to be a BEAMM Prayer Warrior! Just go to the BEAMM web site, www.BEAMM.org, then click on this icon to sign up!

Serving Him,

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In order to save some of the expense of printing and mailing our newsletters we would prefer to send as many as possible via e-mail. If you would be able to receive them this way, please send an e-mail to gyting@aol.com

Border Evangelism and Mercy Ministries (BEAMM)

A ministry of the Presbyterian Church in America,
 Mission to the World,
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