

Healthy Smiles For Haiti

Revised: March 12, 2007

November 2002

The following is a brief history of the activities surrounding my involvement in Haiti:

I have worked as a dental assistant in Hamilton and Burlington for the past 30 years. When I chose to visit Haiti with C.C.I.I. wanted to bring donations to this third world country. I also had a desire to teach preventive dental care to the children. The people of Haiti do not have the luxury of dental prevention and care on a regular basis. Early care of the mouth could help to prevent problems later in life. Through the contacts I have established over the years I sent out a request for donations. The response continues three years later. It is through the generosity of many people, which has made it possible for the following to occur.

September 2001

- contacted Sr. Biane who connected me with two dentists in Cap-Hatien
- Dr's Charles Lafontant & Suzelle Toussaint sent me a list of dental needs
- Sent letters to Hamilton area dental offices and supply companies requesting dental items.
- made two short, personal appeals for donations at the Hamilton and Burlington Assistants Assoc. meetings
- collected, organized and packed 150 lbs of dental donations
- sent thank letters to all donors

October 2001

- contacted Canadian and Haitian governments to check on restrictions of carrying donations
- Oct 15 C.C.I. mission journey arrives in Haiti
- Discussed with Fr. Bruny the possibility of establishing a dental clinic in Les Palmes
- Met with Dr. Charles and Dr. Suzelle, to give donations

December 2001

- Article written for C.C.C.I. reflections of mission trip to Haiti

January 2002

- Presentation to a group of ladies – showed C.C.C.I. video and my video

February 2002

- Same preparations for donation collection
- 90 pounds of dental donations packed
- Arrived in Cap-Haitien. Sister Biane made arrangements for me to visit schools for teaching dental prevention and nutrition. Dr. Charles and Lyonel Bail, a high school teacher with C.C.I. in Les Palmes, helped with the translation.
- Notre Dame (private school) 3 classes of 10-12 year old girls
- Centre of Eucharistic Heart 40 toddlers and moms
- Centre of Eucharistic Heart 20 adult monitors (teachers)
- St Dominic – Shada (75 sponsored by C.C.I.) 20 Grade 3 18 Grade 5 6 Grade 6
- Ecole Coeur Des Jeunes Cite Descot 360 boys

Spring 2002

- Article written for Hill Park Alumni newsletter –reflection on Haiti
- Same article posted on the H.P. alumni web site www.hillpark.com

September 2002

- Letter of appeal for dental donations for Haiti- full page published and mailed to all assistants in the Hamilton area.

October 2002

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- Collection and packing of 77 pounds of donations plus 522 toothbrushes
- Centre of Eucharistic Heart 2 groups of 3 year olds with Moms and Dads aprox 50 – 60. Monitors sat in also
- Asile Communal (home for the elderly) small class of varied ages and abilities with personal aids.
- Petit Assiss Pope Jean XXIII about 150 grade 1-2 boys & 150 grade 3-4 boys
- Met with Bertin Bail regarding possibility of establishing a dental clinic in Les Palmes
- Again, Charles and Lyonel Bail helped with translation

February 12 2003

- Guest speaker at the Burlington Dental Assistants Association meeting, Topic: "Dentistry in Haiti" (with slides)

February 2003

Collection, packing and delivery of 150 pounds of dental supplies.
Preventive Dental Teaching activities for March 2003 Haiti:

February 15 2003 – Depart for Haiti

- St. Agnes, Les Palmes All students aprox 300
- College Susan Schuenke - Grades 1, 2, 7, 9, 11 55 students
- Ecole Marie Louise (school for the deaf) Sister Wisdom 210 students
- Ecole St. Vincent De Paul - Banane Grades 1 to 6 237 students
- Ebenezer School - Fougerole – a school near Shada built and funded by a local Hamilton group grades 1 to 6 380 students
- Secours a L'Enfance school for girls Grades 5 & 6 103 Students
- Notre Dame Porte Du Ciel Orphanage 54 students
- Les Palmes – Met with Dr. Darline Destine to discus dental clinic needs. Selected 5 students and 3 teachers to be given dental treatment, through the generosity of a personal friend.
- Port Au Prince – Tour of the Dental School. Discussed the donation of an intra-oral camera for the school. Discussed with Dr. Lafond, dean of the dental school his desire to create a dental prevention program with the assistance of a Rotary Club in Canada. Met with a third year Dental student to give supplies, Cherley Policier.
- Met with Teresa from Parish Twinning Program.
- Cap-Haitien – visited two sites. Bleu Isle is an area outside the city. Charles and Suzelle are seeking equipment for a dental clinic, through my efforts. Visited a site in Cap, where a three story building is being donated for a medical- dental facility. They are seeking funding and supplies.

March 4 2003 – Return to Canada

April 2003

- Interview and photos with Brabant newspaper chain in four communities, free distribution. Child Care mentioned in article.
- Create future vision name "Healthy Smiles for Haiti" smilesforhaiti@canada.com
- Presentation to a small Cursillo group (April 25)
- Began French classes -13 weeks (Creole not available in Hamilton)

April 30, 2003 Donation appeal letter appears in the Hamilton Dental Assistants

Association newsletter.

May 16 2003 give a presentation to Rotary club Burlington

May 18 2003 Article and photos for Joy of Hope web site

May 25, 2003 Article and photos for Child Care International web site
May 29 2003 Joy of Hope Fundraiser for project in Cap-Haitien

October 2003 (Oct 4 – 18)

Collected packed and brought more than 150 pounds of dental supplies

- Les Palmes – helped 3 high school classes with English pronunciation
 - - taught dental prevention to 2 classes during English classes (50 students)
 - - met with Dr. Eric and Dr. Francky Dieujuste (new dentist)
- Cap-Haitien - Centre of Eucharistic Heart- 2 groups of newborns, infants with Moms total 46 (Mon. am)
- -Coeur des Jeunes Grades preschool, grade 1 & 2 total = 183 Students (Mon. pm)

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Ecole Marie Rose (school burned down) Grades 1, 2, 3 total 149 Students (Mon. pm)

- Secours A L'Enfance school for girls Grade 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Total 443
Grade 6 completed in February
- Ecole Jean XXIII – two classes each Grades 1, 2, 3. Total = 344 (Wed)
- Total students taught 1465
- Visited Notre Dame Porte du Ciel orphanage and Portail Du Ciel (Stella House) Orphanage
- Port au Prince
- Met with Dr. Lafond to discuss possibility of Rotary application for dental prevention and expanding dental clinic in Les Palmes.
- Met with Anthony Aeyma the director of Concert Action (the organization responsible for the medical – dental clinic in Les Palmes)

January 2004

- Interview with Brabant newspapers
- Organized, packed and itemized 10 cases of dental supplies destined for Cap-Haitien, via a transport container through the generosity of Joy and Hope of Haiti & Men for Missions.
- Packed two transport containers for Joy and Hope of Haiti.

Jan 20 Presentation to Knights of Columbus – Our Lady of Lourdes Parish

Feb 4 Discussion with Fr. Miehm pastor of my parish. He is committed to support H. S. F. H. through publicity, and financially.

Feb 6 Presentation to Confirmation classes at St. Eugene's school.

February 7 – 21 2004 Haiti (150 pounds of dental supplies)

- Cap-Haitien Ecole Notre Dame Protection Grades K – 6 teaching Total 683
- Cap Visit O.M.S. compound in an effort to meet with the dentist
- Cap Visit to Sister Biane facility
- Cap Due to the political problems cancellations were necessary for 2 more schools and 2 orphanages, Stella and Port De Ciel.
- Port au Prince - a 2 hour meeting with Anthony Aeyma, director of Concert Action re support of the dental clinic in Les Palmes.
- P. au P. attended the Rotary Delmas Club as a guest of Dr. Lafond, to give a brief summary of the Matching Grants Program through Burlington North Rotary Club
- Petit-Goave talk 3 classes at Ecole Notre Dame 1st, 2nd, 3rd classes Total 170
- P. G. Visit to the public dental clinic at the P. G. Hospital - open 2 days each week
- P. G. Visit the private dental clinic in P. G.
- Les Palmes two hour meeting with Fathers Laguerre and Johnson
- L.P. Visit to dental clinic to due inventory with Dr. Calerbre (current Physician in L.P., was a dentist previously) and Cherely Policier, dental student and Healthy Smiles For Haiti team mate.

- L.P. Funeral of Bertin Bail's sister and difficulties with transportation meant the cancellation of a visit to the orphanage, a visit with Venise (our little girl) and teaching in the English classes at the high school.

Feb 25 to March 5 The political tensions in Haiti drew great attention from the media due to my timely return to Hamilton. Interviews with Brabant Newspaper, The Spectator (twice) CHCH TV news 6 & 11pm, CHCH Morning Live Show, Haitian radio program on CIUT 89.5 radio with Mario Beausejour, Burlington Post.

Feb 28 Attended a fundraiser for the Albert Schweitzer hospital in Haiti.

Feb 29 Phone discussion with Dr. Eric Pierre a Haitian dentist working in Toronto and consulate for Haiti. He wants to offer future support for my efforts.

March 12 Brief presentation to the Burlington North Rotary Club.

March 12 Planning meeting for a fundraising dance planned for May 1.

March 25 Presentation to the CWL Sts. Peter & Paul.

March 26 Article in Post for Burlington & Oakville

March 27 Presentation to the youth Group O.L.O.L.

April 11, 2004 Venture Initiatives proposal CCCI

April 23, 24 2004 Presentation at Our lady of Lourdes.

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May 1 2004 Healthy Smiles For Haiti fundraising dance and silent auction.

June 2004 Article published in Child Care Newsletter

June 12 – 19 2004 Haiti

- Opened bank account with Sogebank Petit Goave
- Delivered over 150 pounds of dental supplies – value \$1500 Les Palmes, Petit- Goave and Cherely
- Met with Dr. Francky to review inventory
- Met with Fr. Laguerre, Anthony and Jean Louis(Concert Action) Fritz and Cherley to discuss sponsorship of dental clinic in Les Palmes.

June & July 2004

- transferred funds for solar panels, battery invertors and salaries of assistant and dentist
- July – transferred funds for salaries

July 23 2004 Presentation for Rotary Mississauga Meadowvale Club

Sept 8, 2004 Transferred \$1200us for salaries

September 10 Meeting with Father Bob – Pastor Our Lady of Lourdes

September 11 2004 Presentation to CCCI Scarborough

Haiti October 2 – 16 2004 (150 pounds of supplies) Translator Cherley

- Cap - Revisit Notre Dame Porte Du Ciel Orphanage to teach dental care 62 children
- Cap-Haitien - Centre of Eucharistic Heart 2 groups of one year olds with Moms and Dads = 120
- Cap - Sister Odette "Service Au Viellard" 1st Wed of each month about 90 elderly (mostly Women come for assistance. They were very happy and sang for us. 30 sponsored by CCCI
- Visit Ecole St Marc De Laurier near hospital K to grade 7 = 287 students
- Visit "Coeur de Jeunes" Kindergarten, Grade 1 and 2 = 158
- Visit "Laboire" near Sr. Biane preschool = 28
- Visit "Banan" preschool = 30 (schools arranged through Sister Biane)
- Cap - Visit Thibeau dental clinic for future support
- Cap make a presentation to Rotary Club
- Port au Prince – meet with the Dominique president of the Delmas Rotary Club
- Port au Prince meeting with Anthony at Concert Action office - Petionville to review financial report

- Petit-Goave – visit St Joseph's high school class = 24 Total over 700
- Petit-Goave - revisit dental clinics
- Les Palmes – give dental products for clinic, meeting with Dr. Franky Dieujuste
- Assist dentist for Venise & patients and plan for future

- Port au Prince – give donation to Dental student Cherley Policier

Oct 23 2004 Informal meeting with Rotary in Burlington
Nov 1 2004 Interview for Brabant Newspapers
Oct 28 2004 Healthy Smiles display at Rotsaert Lab open house
November 24 YMCA Peace Medal Nominee
December 16 2004 Transfer \$2000US to Concert Action
January 17 2005 Conversational French classes – 12 weeks
January 18 2005 Presentation to the Hamilton Dental Nurses and Assistants Assoc.

February 11 - 25 2005 Return to Haiti (150 pounds of supplies) Translator Fritz

- Cap-Haitien – visit Ecole Fille de Marie grade school = 530
- Cap-Haitien - visit Ecole Salesiennes (Bosco) grade school = 550
- Cap – received completed Matching Grants Rotary application for Thibeau dental clinic
- Cap - Discussion with Father Almyre about Thibeau clinic
- Cap- Visit Port Du Ciel Orphanage
- Cap – visit Stella Orphanage
- Cap – visit Children of Promise Orphanage
- Petit Goave – visit Private dental clinic
- Petit-Goave – visit Notre Dame high school - 1 class
- Les Palmes – meeting with priests
- Les Palmes – meeting with Dr. Francky & assistant Madam Yslaine
- Les Palmes – assist with Francky and assessment of clinic
- Les Palmes – joined Francky for 2 in class education sessions for Pere Bruny high school
- Les Palmes - dental prevention session in a remote area – 2 kindergarten classes

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- Les Palmes medical & dental prevention education sessions in the rural community
- Les Palmes – discussion with Concert Action team

March 4 2005 Deliver over 400 pounds by ship to Cap-Haitien
March 22, 2005 Presentation to Scouting leadership_
March 30 Presentation to CWL Our Lady of Lourdes
April 1 Met with Art from Joy & Hope of Haiti
April 11 Presentation to ladies group at St. Johns Anglican Church
April 15 Interview with Brabant newspapers__
April 16 17 Presentation at all masses Our Lady of Lourdes
April 24 _Presentation to Sacred Heart CWL breakfast._
April 30 Healthy Smiles Fundraising Dance and silent auction
April 27 – May 9 Dr. Charles Lafontant visited from Haiti to learn in clinic, visit labs and attended 2 days at Ontario Dental Convention Toronto
May 26 Joy and Hope of Haiti Fundraiser – discussed visiting Albert Schweitzer Hospital and Rotary Ancaster____
May 28 2005 Hamilton Guide Scout Parade – Guest of Honour children collecting 1900 toothbrushes
June 18 - 26 2005 Return to Haiti (100 pounds of supplies)

- Visit dental and medical clinic in Les Palmes
- Discussions with Dr. Francky , Dr. Dinaud and Jean-Louis in L.P.
- Meeting with Father Johnston
- Meeting with Anthony and Dr. Dinaud in Concert Action office (Fritz translator)
- Hand Delivered \$1600 US to Anthony

July 2005 Resubmitting Matching Grants application for Rotary
July 22 Meeting with Father King – Pastor Our Lady of Lourdes_
November 8 Table presentation at the Hamilton District Dental Hygiene Assoc.__
Sept. 30 – 16 Oct 2005 Journey # 11 Haiti (100 pounds of supplies) Translator Cherley

- _Cap - Revisit Notre Dame Porte Du Ciel Orphanage to do screening for cavities with Dr. Cherley and Dr. Charles 17 children were treated at the dental clinic in Cap for preventive sealants on the permanent molars. Future plans treat those needing fillings

- Cap-Haitien - Centre of Eucharistic Heart 2 groups of one year olds with Moms and Dads = 110
- Cap - Sister Odette "Service Au Viellard" 1st Wed of each month about 53 elderly (mostly Women) come for assistance. Cherley taught preventive care gave toothbrushes and did screening for those with dental pain. Extractions were completed at the hospital dental clinic for the elderly.
- Visit College Des Freres Nau grades 1 – 6 = 50 students
- Visit St Philomen – taught monitors who will teach the mothers & kindergarten children
- Visit Stella Orphanage to teach preventive care to 40 children
- Port au Prince visit Faculty of Dentistry
- Cap - Visit Fr. Almyre re Thibeau dental clinic for future support
- Cap - make a presentation to Rotary Club and received signed application for Thibeau.
- Jacmel - a presentation to Rotary Club to be a recipient club
- Les Palmes – Lafond school to teach about 50 students aged 3 to 8.
- Les Palmes – meeting to discuss plans for future. Physically moved dental clinic to a larger facility across from old location. It also has a waiting room/reception area. Purged expired materials and reorganized facility.

Total students taught 303

*****-Total 6600 students taught & toothbrushes given *****

December 2006 – Attend the Graduation of Dr. Cherley Policier from the Faculty of Dentistry
Port au Prince, Haiti

Jan 13 2006 Meeting with Bishop Gerard Bergie – Hamilton Diocese
Jan 25 2006 Meeting with Diane Baltez Social Justice office Hamilton Diocese
Jan 27 2006 Meeting with Peter & Cathy Johnson –Friends of Hopital Albert Schweitzer
January refining Rotary application for Matching Grants

Feb 10 – 27 Journey # 13 Haiti
April 8 & 9 Speak at all masses Our Lady of Lourdes Parish
April 30 29 boxes shipped to Haiti
April 22 2006 Annual Dance & Silent Auction – over \$5,000.00 raised
May 27 2006 Scout Guide parade who collected 1125 toothbrushes for "Healthy Smiles"
June 2 – 9 Journey #14

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August 19 2006 Shipment to Haiti - seven boxes of 1652 toothbrushes 77 pounds
31 x 28 x 25 cubic feet

September Rotary Application accepted and granted approval
September 30 2006 Presentation at the Woman's & Children's Health Symposium
McMaster University

Oct. 6 – 15 2006 Journey #16
40 pounds of supplies – Translator Dr. Cherley
Met with Mr Francois in Jacmel re the Matching Grants project
Cap-Haitien

- Cap-Haitien - Centre of Eucharistic Heart 2 groups of one year olds with Moms – 92
- Notre Dame –Kindergarden – total 40
- Aide a L'Enfance Haitiene Orphanage (Sr. Goodlife) total = 192
- St Domenic's Pleine Du Nord = 341 (the most crowded school visited yet)
- Coeurs Des Jeunes (across Sister) = 134
- Ecol Mije Bon Bonjer – St Philomen Cap-Haitien – total =106
- Dubres (at clinic sight) total = 211
- Thibeau – Holy Cross total =139 **Total taught 1215**
- Cherley & I sorted through the 29 boxes previously sent.
- Visit Port Du Ciel – delivered soap and toothpaste
- Visit with Holy Cross Sister – donated 1000 birthing kits.

Dec 5 2006 Presentation to the students of CDI college
January 20th, 2007 from 12:00pm to 5:00pm.

participation in a Networking Fair at the University of Toronto's Health and Human Rights Conference entitled "*The Challenges of Public Health in Regions of War and Political Conflict*". The fair will be held at the University of Toronto

Feb 2 – 11 2007 Trip number 17 to Haiti

- 50 pounds of materials – Translator Phélimps Jean-Louis
- Fille de Marie = 210
- Secour A L'Enfance = 51
- Ecole Notre Dame D'Altacrace, = 339
- Marie Rose = 104
- **Total taught 704**
- Dr. Charles & I examined a children from Port Du Ciel and treated two of the children
- set up a bank account with Father Almyre in Cap-Haitien for Thibeau – Rotary project
- check the cost of the energy source. This included the solar panels, batteries, and inverter.
- met with a dentist to discuss the possibility of employment at the clinic.
- We looked at the building where the dental clinic will be arranged in the coming months

*****Total 8,519 students taught & toothbrushes given*****

Future Plans

April 21 2007 - Fundraising Dance & Silent Auction

August 2007 – Guest speaker at the conference for The Albert Schweitzer Hospital – Friends of Albert Schweitzer – Hamilton Ontario

October 2007 Fille De Marie school 2nd 3rd and 4th classes

- Follow up article for Brabant newspapers and other media
- Meet with Rotary of Hamilton, Ancaster
- Possibly visit Hopital Albert Schweitzer in Haiti in the future
- Meet with Joy and Hope of Haiti
- Photos & update for Christian Child Care International web site
- Speak to any person or group desiring information
- Improve my French & Creole!

March 12, 2007