

WHAT WE DID IN HAITI (dedicated to the 13 that went) TM 2/09

There was a particular instance that captured what our team did in Haiti.

We had gone to a place called Azile (“asylum” in English) in the village of Grande Riviere. It is a place where poor people discard the poorest people – the incurable, the aged, the retarded, the insane, the crippled, the most helpless and most homeless and most hopeless. There are not words to describe the deplorable conditions in which they “live”.



There were 35 of these most special people. We had brought them food and clothes and most importantly... ourselves. They poured out onto their porch as we arrived and smothered us with welcoming loud greetings and hugs and handshakes and kisses on our cheeks in the French style. Their happiness and joy to see us made us feel like... well, like family. One aged lady would not get up or shake my hand as I held it out. Then I realized she was blind and lame, so I bent and kissed her cheek. I whispered Creole in her ear, “Hello, Grandmother. I am happy to see you.” She said she was so happy to “see” me, too.

As we were leaving, I saw some voodoo priests had arrived and were at the table where our food was being served. They were waving candles, chanting to the spirits, and blessing OUR food !!! I was mad !!! I told the Haitians that we were with that I was going right back in there, stop them, and bless our food in Jesus’ name.

“You can’t do that!”, they said strongly. The building had a loose connection to the government, and because voodoo was recognized by the government as an official religion, they said the voodoo priests had every the right to do it. I could get them in trouble, they said.

It did not help my anger! I pursed my lips, “OK, we’ll go in after they finish”, but was told it would be a while. OK - I asked if we could stand on the adjoining porch and do it. They said that would be OK, although it might “disturb them”.

That was all I needed to hear - I really wanted to “disturb them”. So we formed a circle of 15 hearty voices and sang out. And sang out, and sang out, chorus after chorus. As we sang, many of the residents left the inside ceremony and came to the doors and windows to be with us. Then we prayed. When I said “in Jesus’ name, amen” the residents said amen. The voodoo priests had left.

I am SO grateful to you who went and who sent things. And I am SO grateful for the money that was given for food and medical needs and rents and roofs and to send items to Haiti. One of the MANY RESULTS was demonstrated that day in that little instance. The material things and OUR PRESENCE brought needy and lost people AWAY from false gods and TO Jesus’ people and God’s love. In fact, all week we gave the helpless the help of the Spirit, the hopeless the hope of the Son, and the homeless the promise of a home with the Father.

What did we do in Haiti? We showed needy and lost people our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and... (ha ha)... we disturbed the devil. Thank you, Father, for the privilege.

And thank each of you SO much for all you give and all you do – your friend and brother team