

“ *I saw Jesus in the kind eyes of the prisoners at the prison we brought supplies and food to.* ”

THIS TRIP was probably our most effective mission to Haiti. It seemed the perfect balance of proclamation and demonstration. We were doubly blessed by the youth team from Canada, led by Dominic Inneo, a Canadian board member for Renewal Ministries. They were extremely well prepared and showed an unusual boldness and ability to “mix and mingle” with our Haitian family. Their music, personal testimonies, and drama touched the people and presented the Gospel in a way that transcended language.

Our day-time activities included visits to the schools sponsored by Haiti Missions, Inc., the food and financial distribution to around 160 families at Numero Deux plus others at two additional distribution sites, and all our nightly outreaches to various Catholic churches. Fr. Jomanas, who is a lawyer and teaches at the Seminary, also arranged for a visit to the local prison to distribute food and present the Gospel.

We preached the basic Gospel message at night at four different parishes, and invited the Lord to come and heal. Nancy taught on the blocks to receiving freedom in Christ and led the people in prayers of forgiveness and renunciation. The Lord worked in mighty ways each night! The first night, I asked the Canadian youth to move through the crowd and pray for the people. It was a totally new experience for them, but to their credit they jumped right in and the Lord honored

their prayers and the faith of the people! Like the Apostles they returned rejoicing that the Holy Spirit had worked powerfully in the Name of Jesus!

After that first night the team was eager to pray for the people. You could see their faith in Christ and confidence in their call growing daily. Each night we had a time of testimony from the team members as to their experiences of the day and they all talked about how much more they received than they gave.

From Natalie Zima - God uses each and every one of us in very special ways. I am a senior member of my youth group Souled Out. Initially, I felt peace about going, but then I started worrying where I would get the money. After praying a lot, the Lord told me that it was my time to go and that I should not worry about it. So I put my trust in the Lord and said yes to going to Haiti and He provided more than enough money. He provided us with around \$25,000 through my team's fundraising and personal donations. Our God is a God of more than enough.

In Haiti, Jesus was present everywhere we went, especially in the eyes of the Haitian people. I went to Haiti hoping that I could give Haiti all that I had to offer. It would seem as though Haiti has nothing to give us. It turns out that Haiti gave me things that are much more valuable than money.



Youth from the Souled Out group in Canada had an amazing week of ministering to the Haitians. They joined in the evening parish missions with testimonies, prayer ministry, skits, and lots of dancing and worshipping!

They gave their love to me and showed me that the Lord's love reigns in every country, despite its conditions. Even though we could not understand the languages we were speaking to each other, we could understand each other through our faith. As I was sitting in a service with a Haitian baby on my lap and surrounded by Haitian children, I realized that these were my brothers and sisters. I promised myself at that moment that I would love them as I would my own brother and sister back home.

I don't think I will ever forget a long conversation I had with one of the friends I made in Haiti. I told him that I believe Jesus surrounds us and that He is in everything good, and he agreed with me. We made a friendship bonded by our love for Jesus. I saw Jesus in every child that we fed at every school and orphanage. I saw Jesus in the kind eyes of the prisoners at the prison we brought supplies and food to. I saw Jesus in the priests who delivered the Lord's message so well and who truly touched my heart. I saw Jesus in the faith-driven work and loving hearts of my team. This trip has helped me grow stronger in my faith. Here in Canada, we are rich in money, but our faith is starving. God has opened my heart to see that faith is so much more valuable than money.

From Sara Pellegrino - I have been blessed and privileged and there have never been any big struggles for my family. For as long as I can

remember, I've always wanted to step outside of my comfortable life and do something big to help others. As I began to meet many of the local children, I realized that though they may not have every necessity in life, they have such a joy for the life they do live. They had a love for each other and for Jesus that was so visible. God's presence was physical which brought an enormous amount of security to everyone serving there.

This trip has changed my life. My faith, trust and awe of God has been taken to a much deeper level. I see how God provides. Nothing He does is small. I appreciate what I have in my own life. I know now more than ever that God does not forget about us. We are not invisible to Him. He adores us and places us exactly where He needs us to be. I used to feel guilty for living in Canada and having everything I need all in one place. Now, I realize that God put me here for a reason. I have the resources to go out and help the helpless. +

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Distributing care packages to many families was a concrete expression of being the hands and feet of Jesus to the poor.