



# HAITI, AUG. 2011



PICTURED: BAPTIST ORPHANAGE CONSTRUCTION IN DELMAS 19, CHILD FROM BAPTIST-SPONSORED ORPHANAGE IN GRESSIER.

## Haiti Part 2: Short but Sweet.

On August 1st, Nathan and I departed for a week long trip in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. For me, this was the second leg of a trip I'd taken in January, for Nathan, this was the first.

This trip definitely came with its own challenges: Nathan and I were newly

married, the itinerary changed daily (before we got there), and we weren't sure how "helpful" a couple could be. Little did we know that this trip wasn't about what we could do, rather, who we'd meet and be blessed to spend our time with.

This is a short summary of all we were able to see and do, all thanks to the love and support of good family and friends.

-Blessings,  
Dusti



WE CAUGHT UP WITH OLD FRIENDS,



ATTENDED ENGLISH CLUB,



AND SANDED AND PAINTED THE DELMAS ORPHANAGE.

*“The Spirit alone gives eternal life. Human effort accomplishes nothing. And the very words I have spoken to you are spirit and life” -  
John 6:63*

When we arrived at the airport in the morning of Monday, August 1st, we were picked up by Pastor Ronel and Bela. Dusti had met Pastor Ronel on her first trip to Haiti, but this was our first time meeting Bela. He, along with his wife and son, were in Haiti as a part of a team from the Hungarian Baptist Aid. In the afternoon, we went with Bela and three teenagers (all children or friends of the Hungarian pastor also on the team), to the Easy English Club, which is located at Concord Baptist. Youri, the leader, is an amazing 15-year-old that Dusti got to know on her first trip. On Tuesday, we had a chance to hang out with Youri for several hours at a computer class, and it was great to talk with him and see the work God

was doing in his life. Our accommodations for the week changed several times, and we ended up staying in a Haitian ‘hotel.’ This turned out to be a blessing, because we met many people in various organizations doing missions work. One such group is called Alex’s House, and is run by Bill Howard. In addition to running an orphanage, the group led worship services in the community near the orphanage; they invited us, and we went and had a great time. It felt like we were a part of their group, even though we had only just met them. As the week progressed, we joined their nightly devotion time and received so much from their worship and sharing time.

**BELOW: MOUNTAINS OF  
PETIONVILLE, HAITI.**



OLD FRIENDS



STREET WORSHIP



ENGLISH CLUB OUTREACH



NEW FRIENDS

*“He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to His name. Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me”- Psalm 23: 3-4.*

Dusti also got close to a woman named Natalie who was a teacher from Iowa that was working/teaching at a school in Haiti during her summer break. She aimed to develop the school into a self-sufficient school in one of the worst slums in Haiti. Natalie and the young woman she traveled with were very knowledgeable about Haitian society, politics, and even Haitian creole. Both women had experiences in the Peace Corps, NGO's, and Haitian non-profits. Not only were they interesting, but they also were a very valuable resource, and just two awesome gals to spend free time with!

On Wednesday, we went to the orphanage that Dusti had worked on during her first trip, and she was impressed with how far along the construction was. We worked with members of the Hungarian team to sand the walls and ceiling of the orphanage, which primed them for painting. This was a hysterical trial and error situation, which also gave us a chance to get to know the Hungarians. Dusti also got to see the finished houses down the street that she worked on during the first trip, and saw several of the people that lived in them. It was amazing how they recognized her, and how excited they were to see her. On Wednesday afternoon, we went back to the Easy English Club with several members of the Hungarian team. We had a great time there, and it was good to help with some English translation and also to hear what they have to say about the Bible and God's work in their lives.

Thursday brought more sanding in the rooms at the orphanage, which was definitely hard, but satisfying, work. In

the afternoon we drove around Port-au-Prince with Bela, his wonderful wife, and adorable son, and they told us what they knew about the city and the work that had been done thus far. It was very interesting to see more of the damaged buildings, and untouched communities. On Friday, we were finally able to paint the rooms that we had sanded at the orphanage with the Hungarians, and we completed all the walls and ceiling in a large room; this was huge because work in Haiti is SLOW. So, for us to “finish” one project in one trip is a big deal. :) In the afternoon we went to an orphanage in Gressier, which was about an hour to the west of Port-au-Prince. There we gave away the flip-flops and children's clothing our generous friends in Charleston donated, and played soccer. The kids loved every minute of it, and it was great to see how connected Bela and his family were to the orphanage and its progress.

On Saturday, we went to a beach with both Hungarian families. There we swam in the beautiful ocean, and talked for a long time with the teenagers. They were very hospitable, and it was great to spend time with them, hearing what their perceptions were of America(ns), and learning about their country as well. It was also great to see the Haitian countryside, which was very beautiful and diverse; Dusti, in her previous trip, hadn't strayed farther than a block in Port-au-Prince, so it was exciting for both of us to see. Sunday we went with the Hungarians to Concord Baptist, and they (as always!) were very hospitable and showered us with (too much) praise. Even though it was in Haitian Creole, we were able to feel God's Spirit moving through the church and

touching those present. After church, we went with the Hungarians to their apartment. It was a little sad for Dusti to say goodbye so quickly to her Haitian friends, Youri and Carlot, but it was amazing getting the opportunity to talk to the families about their mission and their families' experiences.

The next day, our last day, brought a joyous surprise. The driver that had been helping us around town was going to take us to a nearby grocery store for Casinos--- the most amazing packaged cookies that's ever touched our lips. We were going to bring some back to our friends in the States. At a stop, about a mile down the road from our hotel, we get a knock on the glass from someone on the street. It was Youri and a friend of his. He said God could not let him let Dusti leave without a proper goodbye. :) He got up early that day and walked all the way to our hotel, but we had left. Keep in mind that from Concord Baptist to our hotel is about 5-10 miles. (The lack of infrastructure makes it hard to tell, but getting anywhere in the city can take 30 min. - 1 hour.) The boys came back to our hotel with us. It was a perfect ending to our trip, being able to spend time catching up and saying goodbye.

Overall, we had a great trip. We were able to reconnect with people Dusti had met on her first trip and make some great new friends. We really appreciated all the things that the Bela and the rest of the Hungarian team did for us, and also for Bill and the Alex's House team. God is truly working in Haiti, and we are thankful we had the opportunity to be a part of His work, confirming Haiti's place in our hearts.



## UPDATE:

THE HUNGARIAN RELIEF TEAM AND VIRGINIA BAPTISTS HOPE THAT THE DELMAS ORPHANAGE WILL REACH COMPLETION MID-JANUARY. A DEDICATION CEREMONY IS PLANNED; PLEASE KEEP THIS BUILDING, ITS PURPOSES, AND THE CHILDREN, IN YOUR PRAYERS, ALONG WITH ALL THE VARIOUS PEOPLE AND TEAMS WHO HAVE MADE THIS ALL POSSIBLE.

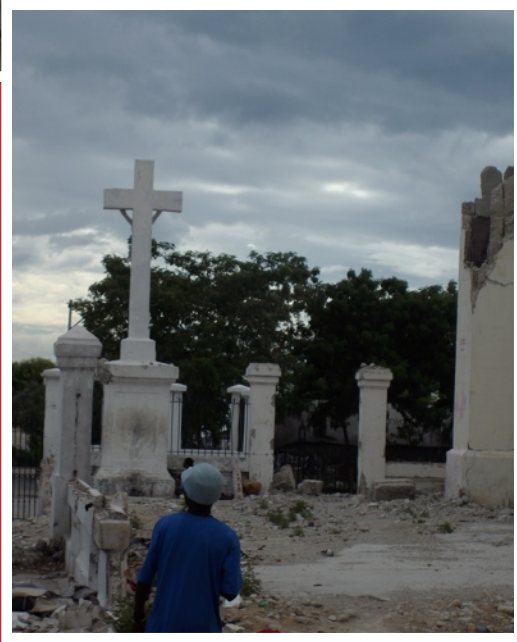
THE CHILDREN WILL COME FROM THE "ORPHANAGE" DUSTI'S TEAM VISITED LAST TRIP; THEY WERE WITHOUT BASIC NECESSITIES, AND WERE IN DESPERATE NEED OF CARETAKERS. GOD HEARD OUR PRAYERS.

IN EVERYTHING, GIVE THANKS. :)

You are receiving this newsletter because you helped us make this trip happen, or because you were one of the ones that **MADE** our trip. Either way, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We definitely feel ties in Haiti, and hope, with God's blessing, that this trip is just one of many. God bless you and your family: "Bon-dye Beniw".

Sincerely,

Nathan & Dusti Marie Belcher



FEATURED: 1ST DAY OF PAINTING, THE RUBBLE INSIDE/OUTSIDE OF THE CATHEDRAL, ONE OF THE HOUSES THE WM BCM CREW BUILT, SOCCER AT THE GRESSIER ORPHANAGE.