



# THE SCHMIDTS to Haiti



The older I get the faster time goes by. My dad frequently shares this fact with me and I'm starting to see it myself. Even more valuable to me is how my Dad (Paul Schmidt, who will be 93 this May) and my Mom (who is home with the Lord), taught me from when I was a baby about our Heavenly Father God who loves us so much he sent His only begotten son Jesus Christ to be our Redeemer and Savior and how crucial a personal relationship with Him is.

As I write this article, and think about the children in Haiti that we, together through Harvest have helped this year, I can not help but reflect back on my upbringing. I am encouraged because I know that in Haiti, in our schools, orphanages, churches, Sunday School programs, and personal relationships with the people (and especially the children); the Pastors and Missionaries instill God's Biblical principles into their lives. As I consider the trips I have taken to Haiti this year, evaluating what value and impact Harvest has had in Haiti for Christ, I'm both encouraged because of what we are doing, and disappointed because there's so much more that needs to be done.

As you all know, with the hurricanes that hit Haiti hard this year there was great physical need in most of the country. Together, we have rallied to meet those physical needs through sending containers with water, food, clothing, and medical supplies. We have also sent several evangelical, medical and work teams. Certainly all these physical helps are very important, but the need I would most like to see met in the lives we touch is through living and presenting the Gospel to the children and adults that we are privileged to have one on one contact with. My Dad and Mom lived Jesus before me each day as I was a boy growing up, and at Harvest we continue to work toward this goal. We have seen teams make a difference proclaiming in word and deed with their hearts and hands the Gospel message found in 1 John 3:16-18. We have the opportunity to teach and live God's Biblical Principles before the Haitian people, so they can hear of God's saving Grace for them, in order to effect a lifelong and eternal change in their lives.

We want to thank you for your support of these missionaries, team members and sponsorship programs, that impact the people of Haiti for Christ. Our goal for this year is to be even more diligent in hearing and carrying out God's plan for Haiti. Our prayer is, God will equip us to do what He calls us to do in Haiti for these precious ones, both spiritually and physically.

On a personal note, the Schmidt family requests prayer for God's direction and help in regards to a possible 2-3 months long trip to Haiti for my wife and I and our three youngest children. This would be the first time back in Haiti for JoHannah, Jeremy and Joshua. They are excited about the possibility of seeing the land of their birth and getting to know the people there. Who knows what God will do in their hearts for a people so close to their hearts. They are already expressing an interest in missions and one even aspires to be President of Haiti one day!



Our purpose for going would be to work with the people, sharing the Gospel, and organizing and helping in Harvest's area of operations to bring encouragement and more accountability with our programs throughout the country.

God continues to bless our family and we are so humbled by what he is doing in the lives of our children. Our daughter Rebekah married Joseph James Canova, April 5, 2008 and they are expecting their first baby any day now. Tj and Susan have 3 precious ones to date, Josiah-4, Suzanna-3 and Ella-1; Kim and Ben have Isaiah 14mos and they are expecting in July. Katie and Justin have Felicity 17mos and they are expecting in August! Benjamin and Matthew continue to be blessed with good jobs, and are growing in God's Grace. JoHannah, Jeremy and Joshua continue to do well in their school work, they are making a joyful noise with their violins and have a heart for the things of the Lord. We have much to Praise the Lord for! *"Let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I AM the LORD which exerciseth lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD."* Jeremiah 9:24

May you be blessed of the LORD as you live to serve Him.

In His Love,  
Tom & Ginger Schmidt and family



# The Schmidts

## in HAITI



*"O give thanks unto the Lord; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people. Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him: talk ye of all his wondrous works." Psalm 105:1-2*



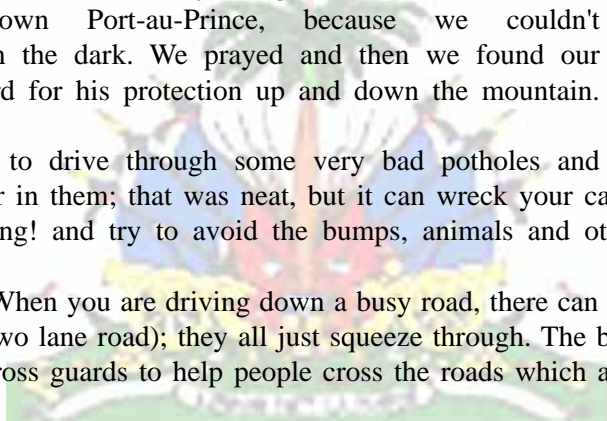
We asked the children for their impressions of Haiti now that we've been here almost 2 weeks.

"One thing about Haiti is that you can't be afraid of heights because the mountains are very steep! One day we climbed to the top of a mountain. From the top of the mountain the scenery is so beautiful! For miles all you could see was mountain after mountain. On the way home we had to drive through the dark. It was kind of scary because there were many cars and people everywhere. For awhile Daddy thought we were lost in downtown Port-au-Prince, because we couldn't see any of the usual landmarks in the dark. We prayed and then we found our way. We are so grateful to the Lord for his protection up and down the mountain.



On the way to Gonaives we had to drive through some very bad potholes and some big "puddles" with deep water in them; that was neat, but it can wreck your car. The roads are very bad, you must be careful and be ready for anything! and try to avoid the bumps, animals and other cars on both sides of the road.

I think that Haiti needs some laws. When you are driving down a busy road, there can be two cars going one way while another is going the other way (on a two lane road); they all just squeeze through. The biggest cars and the loudest horns get the right of way. Haiti also needs cross guards to help people cross the roads which are so crowded with cars and people.



We also saw cactus that were tall trees! There was a whole grove of them. Some of the regular size cactus are used for a fence around the houses to keep the goats from getting in their yard.

Things that I was amazed at; so many of the people go to church; I like that. They walk to church and sometimes it takes them a long time, because they live so far away. Also they love to talk to you. I like talking to the people, I wish I could say more. (The children are practicing and learning more each day.)

In Haiti people save everything and use it for something! They take their cars apart on the road and get the parts they need and repair it right where it stopped, sometimes right in the middle of the road! They use old vegetable cans to measure food in the markets. I saw a little boy pulling an old water bottle with wheels made from flattened bottle caps as a little car. Laundry is done in the irrigation ditches along the roads, in rivers and at the oceans edge. It is "hung" to dry on the ground, on cactus and some people in the mountains have clothes lines on their rooftops.

The UN drive big white: SUVs, Hummers, and huge tanks. They have an airplane, I saw it at the airport, and a helicopter that flies around all the time. The UN men and a few women are from all over the world. They stand around busy streets, busy schools and places of business with their guns, and in some places, their tanks, to keep the peace. I think they're doing a good job, because I haven't seen any trouble.





Haiti is a land of contrast. The mountains are very high and beautiful, the ocean is very pretty but a lot of the homes are in bad repair, the streets are dirty and rocky and there's a lot of trash every where!"

I'm thankful that Ginger and my three youngest children have been able to join me on this extended trip to Haiti. They have been a blessing and encouragement to me and ambassadors for Christ to the people here.

The boys were a tremendous help to me as we worked side by side breaking up an old cement floor in an elderly lady's home. It was a lot of hard physical labor, but we got it done in time for Cullie Woodall and his crew to pour a new floor. She is now able to use another room in her home, and we were able to help a poor old widow woman in Jesus' name.



We have been able to visit several of the Harvest Mission schools and orphanages



as well as the other works and, Lord willing, we will see them all over the next few weeks. One of the major things we are trying to accomplish is to get food for the Hurricane victims in the north and south of Haiti where severe devastation took place. Many lost homes, crops and all their belongings; some land is still under water and food is scarce. We are also trying to arrange, in partnership with First Baptist Church of Ocala, FL, for a well to be drilled in a village on the Island of LaGonave that is totally dependent on the rains for their water needs. Life is not easy in Haiti and things are very expensive. It is a wonder how the people survive, especially those without Christ as their Lord and Savior.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SCHMIDT FAMILY

- The Lord's leading and direction during our time in Haiti
- Wisdom for the meetings we have with Nationals and Missionaries
- Safety on the roads and protection in our travels throughout the country
- Health during this busy time in Haiti
- Patience in a land where "Murphy's Law" rules
- Finances for these projects and their travel arrangements

We are grateful for your prayers and support, we could not be here without you.  
God's blessings to each of you.

In Christ's Love,  
Tom and Ginger Schmidt



# The Schmidts

## in HAITI



*"Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen." ~ Jude 24-25*

### *Our Children's Perspective on Haiti*

We got to go with Daddy to Ma Pou Village to survey the area, check on the progress of the buildings and the work being done there. Daddy was able to meet with the people in the area and evaluate the site where they are planning to put a well, so the people won't have to walk so far to get water.

To get to Ma Pou we had to take an MAF plane to the Island of LaGonave. That was fun! We went to the little airport and had to get weighed along with our bags. The plane only holds 5 passengers. When we got in, we buckled up and the pilot gave us life jackets because we would be flying over the ocean. Then our pilot checked to see if there was enough gas in the plane, and then, before he started the plane he yelled, "clear prop". We taxied down the runway and did a "check" and then went full speed ahead and into the air! We could see the houses stacked one on top of another, the cars looked like little matchbox cars. Then we flew over the ocean, it was a splendid sight to behold! I saw the nice looking landing place, but it was not so nice as we got closer. It was bumpy and rocky and right along the ocean. We landed smoothly and got our bags out and walked to the place where we would spend the night. Along the way we saw women at a water pump pumping water, some buckets were so heavy when full that it took two people to get it onto the lady's head, so she could walk home with it.



The next morning we got up and left at 6AM. The road to Ma Pou was very bumpy! Mom and JoHannah got to sit in the cab of the truck, and Daddy and us boys sat on wooden boards in the back. It was bumpy when we first set out and then it got worse and worse, 'til we were in the air more then we were on the planks. We were sore almost from the start!

We made it to Gran Ma Pou, in the middle of nowhere, but we were in the wrong place! We had been driving bump after bump and pothole after pothole for 2 hours, going into the air each time. We were so sore after each bump and we were nowhere near done! There were some men working with hoes, made from sticks with a metal thing on the end of it that looks like an axe. One of the men came over and told us of a different Ma Pou. So, off we went to Plen Ma Pou, but we did no better than the last.

Our chauffeur was getting tired, he was a good driver and drove slow over the bumps, ruts and potholes. Going up the mountain side was very scary because it was narrow and steep. But the part that was the most scary was the part when the chauffeur stopped half way up the mountain at the steepest part to fix the car. It felt like we were going to roll down the hill, but thankfully he always put a big rock behind the tire to keep that from happening. We stopped many times so he could put water in the little tank in front (the radiator) because it kept boiling over (it had no radiator cap) and if that wasn't the problem, it was the tire. The road was so rocky that the tire kept loosing air. Whenever he had to stop, it was so hilly that he would jump out, put another rock behind the tire, get his bicycle pump out and pump up the tire, little by little. Sometimes when we were driving along boys would jump on the back of the truck to get a ride, but Dad made them get off so they wouldn't get hurt. After about 4 hours of driving, our chauffeur put one gallon of gas (which he kept in a jug behind the girl's seat) in the tank. Each time we came to a hill, he would shut the motor off and coast all the way down the hill. Finally we came to the right place, Ma Pou Village. The last couple of miles of the road was like a walking path. Along the way I saw many poor little children, they like to wave. The older children aren't quite as friendly, I think they are a bit shy, but they are nice too. We saw many little piglets, goats, some donkeys and a few horses. We saw the church they are build-





ing in Ma Pou Village and the place where they are hoping to drill the well. It took us 8 hours to drive less than 25 miles and we made the whole trip on two gallons of gas!

We got back to the place we were staying, ate dinner and went to bed. That night it rained, and so the road we had to walk back to the airfield was very, very muddy. The mud stuck to our feet and bogged us down. When we got to the airfield we had to find a stick or rock and scrape all the thick mud off our shoes. The runway caretaker used a trowel to get the rest of the mud off our shoes. Before the plane landed he went up and down the landing strip with a Haitian flag and blowing a whistle to get animals and people off the runway.

The pilot came to pick us up and Jeremy had a lot of fun sitting in the copilot's seat and talking to the pilot with the headphones. When we got back to Port-au-Prince we had a lot of laundry to do. Laundry is hard. This is how you do it: The first thing you have to do is collect the clothes that you want to wash. Then you put the clothes in the kivet (key-vet) and turn on the water to fill the kivet (basin). Next you add soap and scrub the clothes to make a good lather. To do socks, you rinse the socks and scrub a very good lather. Then you have to turn them inside out and scrub the inside as well. Then you have to rinse the clothes and that is a little harder than washing because you have to make sure that you get all the soap out. After the clothes are completely rinsed you wring all the water out, squeezing very hard and hang the clothes to dry. It takes all night and part of the next day for the clothes to dry. Doing laundry is a lot of work, but it is fun.



One day in Port we got to tour the biggest cement block making factory in Haiti. When we first got there we got to talk to Tebo, the man who owns the business. His great-grandfather started it in the 1800's and now they are on the 5th generation. This is how they make the "blocs". They scoop the dirt (cement mixture) onto a shaper and put it in a machine that makes the blocks, Then they put the blocs onto pallets and drive them out into the yard to cure. Men pour water over them so they dry slower and harder. They make 21,000 blocks a day with one shift! It was really neat to see.



Daddy was also able to meet with two of the Pastors from Gonaives to work on making arrangements for getting food for the orphans. They also spoke with "Food For The Poor" and are now in the process of making application with them. In the meantime, we found out about "Feed My Starving Children" and were able to arrange, Lord willing, to get some food to the children. Another thing Daddy's been able to do was to make some arrangements for the three teams coming in and get some meds for them to administer to the children in three different areas of Haiti. He's also been working on a co-operative with other mission organizations to bring some food containers into Haiti for the flood victims.



On our trips to Gonaives we saw where the road has been completely washed away due to the Hurricanes of last year. One road is now a lake, while another is gone completely. In both places they've had to build new roads to allow for traffic to continue around these flooded areas.



## Please Pray for the Schmidt Family

In Christ's Love,  
Tom and Ginger Schmidt



# The Schmidts

## in HAITI



*“For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” ~ Romans 8:38,39*

### Children’s Impressions of Haiti



Haiti a land of Contrasts. These are some of the things the children noticed during our time in Haiti:

Haiti has lots of good foods, and they are very generous, they give food to others in need even when they do not have much. I like all the different kinds of bananas, mangoes and fresh roasted cashews. I also like pineapples and avacodoes.

But you cannot drink the water, and some of their food is very spicy, like pickles (“pick lez” made from shredded cabbage and hot spicy stuff). I don’t like pickled beets very much and you can’t eat the food prepared on the side of the road, or you could get very sick. And they eat cats!



There are some beautiful flowers and wild flowers growing everywhere.

There is also garbage everywhere; in the streets, in the ocean, in disgusting drainage ditches along the roads; and the smell is terrible! We see huge pigs at every corner standing in and eating the garbage laying around.

The mountains are beautiful! It is fun driving up the winding, newly paved roads and seeing far below; it is fun hiking in the mountains too.

The roads are very bad, with big potholes and narrow places around steep bends. I don’t like it when the trucks and buses pass you on a hill or curve. I don’t like the bumpy, rocky roads and steep hills where it feels we might fall off the mountain. The drivers do not drive well, they do not think of others when driving; Haiti has no rules. We saw many cars on the side of the road, some get fixed right on the road the rest stay right where they died.



Haiti has lots of nice people, they work very hard and they do not waste stuff and they love to talk.

They do not wash their hands and there are few public or private restrooms, so people go in the streets.



They have some nice beaches, with beautiful blue water, and the sun always shines.

Some of the ocean water is polluted, and they have prickly sea urchins and jelly fish that bite you!



Lots of the people love Jesus and they love to sing about him too! They walk long ways to go to church and sit for hours on hard benches memorizing scripture and listening to God's word being preached.

Many worship Satan and go to voodoo services and are part of the rah-rah bands parading through the streets.

I like trying to speak the language, riding taptaps and seeing their simple hut homes.

I like the city of Port-au-Prince and Jacmel.

I don't like people staring at me, I don't like walking the muddy roads, seeing iguanas and I don't like the rocky roads on the Island of LaGonave.

### **What our trip to Haiti meant to us:**



This trip has been a whirlwind trip, it truly has been a trip of a lifetime. To me Haiti is a country in need of God, because they have dedicated the country to Satan. The thing I enjoyed most was being able to see the place where I was born. I also enjoyed all the mountains and the wild flowers. The people here are very nice and they have not yet been influenced by the outside world. Some day I want to come back to show my family where I was born and where I lived. I think Haiti is one of the most beautiful countries. I think that Haiti needs a president that is a Godly man so he can turn this country around. JoHannah

This trip to Haiti has meant a lot to me. I've noticed that Haiti needs God the best. They might be able to make a better country if they loved Jesus. They drink bad water and eat without washing their hands, so they get diarrhea and some die. Others die because they do not have the proper food. This trip we have been able to do what we came for. I have enjoyed it very much. I like the country of Haiti. If they loved Jesus they would care more about others and their country, and would try to make it better for their country. Jesus would help them too. Haiti is very pretty and full of nice people. Jeremy



My trip to Haiti meant a lot to me because I got to see the place where I was born and the orphanage where I came from. I really like Haiti. I like playing soccer and all the nice people. I like the bumpy roads and walking in the mud. Joshua

**In Christ's Love,**  
Tom, Ginger Schmidt, JoHannah, Jeremy & Joshua