

Ministry Program Updates

Touching Hearts on a Farm in Haiti *Haiti Dairy – Caribbean Committee*

What is it like to serve as a HarvestCall missionary on Good Vision Farm in Haiti? Bro. Eric and Sis. Melanie Stoller (Rittman) have been living in Haiti for about a year and a half. Before that, they lived and worked on a dairy farm in Ohio. In some ways, it's not a lot different and in some ways it's very different. Haitians speak French Creole. A wonderful tutor comes to the farm to help the missionaries learn to speak and understand Creole, but the language barrier is a challenge. And of course, they are distant from family and friends. It helps to have good internet, return home from time to time, and have family come to Haiti too. But like home, there is a routine to the days and many things to do to fill the time. Eric and Melanie care for the dairy animals on the farm, as well as processing and bottling the milk, and Melanie makes a lot of ice cream that the local Haitians love to purchase! Eric oversees the daily milking process, manages the cow herd, and spends plenty of time on a tractor to name a few things.

There is a wonderful peaceful feeling at Good Vision Farm in Haiti. Many of you are aware that the country of Haiti has been in some turmoil since the

assassination of their president. And certainly the day this happened, even on the farm, faces of the Haitians were drawn and there was much concern. But in visiting with the missionaries, they feel peaceful and protected.

The people in the community around the farm interact very closely with the missionaries. People (and many children) walk past the farm every day. Recently, Melanie saw several little girls rinsing their laundry in the canal that runs through the farm property and she asked them, in somewhat limited



Creole, if she could join them. They were so excited to have her interested in what they were doing.

Eric loves to wave at the children. Once, Eric was plowing a 400' field, so it took a little while to make a round on his tractor. He saw a little boy and a little girl, maybe 6-7 years old, and they were watching him. Eric made a round past them and waved. They turned around to see if he was waving at someone else, and when they discovered he was waving at them, they didn't wave back but they continued to watch. The next round, they got big smiles when he waved, and

the next round they waved back. After that, there were vigorous waves, and then more children came. When Eric was finishing the field, a group of happy children were watching him go around with great big waves and even bigger smiles. It touched his heart that even though he still has trouble communicating with them in their language, he most definitely connected with them.

We are so grateful to have two missionary families at Good Vision Farm. Bro Daryl and Sis. Debbie Knobloch (Bradford) have now been serving for 3 years, and at four years, their time serving will be done. Daryl manages the employees, maintenance and agronomy decisions on the farm, while Debbie does the financial accounting. Daryl's maintenance and mechanical abilities are especially important, as there is no "service department" in the area. This brings a wonderful opportunity for another missionary couple to serve and live at the farm. The missionary house is simple but very comfortable.

There are opportunities to visit the farm. For example, during the winter months, there is such a need for someone to come down and help plow fields or do mechanical work, even for one to three weeks. It would be a great way to see what life on the farm is like. We would encourage you to visit with Bro. Les Kaeb if you wish to discuss any part of this missionary journey. Is this something God could be calling you to do? Bro. Les can be reached at lckaeb90@hotmail.com. – **by LuAnn Troxel**

When You Look For Something In Faith, You Find Hope

Hospital Lumiere – Caribbean Committee

In the U.S. we take prompt access to good medical care for granted. In many parts of the world including Haiti, that medical care can be difficult to come by. It was difficult for Gedson Metelus. Gedson broke his ankle in 2018 and it was never treated. They just put a brace on his ankle and he tried his best to adapt. Gedson managed to slowly hobble around, but it was extremely difficult and very painful.

Gedson lives in Les Cayes with his parents and six siblings. His father makes a living there

as a rice farmer. Gedson's parents are Christians and attend the Mission for Christ Church in Les Cayes. Gedson's mom, Gerlaine told me her favorite Bible verse is Matthew 7:7 *"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you"*. Gerlaine says "When you look for something in faith, you find hope".

Gerlaine's hope recently came to fruition when a friend told her about Hospital Lumiere. They had been at Hospital Lumiere for six days when I visited with them. After they arrived at the



Hope Realized – Gedson With His Mom.

hospital, Dr. Robert Belding performed surgery on Gedson's ankle. Dr. Belding cut out a wedge of bone to properly align Gedson's ankle and secured it with two screws. After several years in misery, Gerlaine's hope for her son's condition was realized in a surgery that took about an hour. Gedson is now able to walk around on crutches and should return home soon.

There are many more families like Gedson's in need of medical care. Their hope is that they too will find it someday. Hospital Lumiere is a beacon of hope. Your prayers and faithful support are what keeps the Hospital Lumiere beacon shining.

– **by Rich Bertschi**