July 4

Today brought on a lot of anxiety and anticipation! We used the greater part of the afternoon setting up tents, rehearsing the skit for camp, and getting everything ready. It's hard to express my excitement for the first day of camp with my Haiti first-timer Sophie. However, I'm more excited to see the familiar faces of previous campers and how much they have changed in two years. Thank you for the love and prayers you've sent our way!

In Him,
Briggs Braswell

Today was our first full day in Haiti. This morning we went to a church we had never visited, and they were so welcoming and thankful that we came, which is not abnormal for Haitian people. It was super cool to watch the people on our team who have never been to Haiti experience church here for the first time. It was exactly what I needed to be reminded of - the community we have with children of God around the world. I forgot how passionate worship through singing is here. It is genuine and heartfelt. They aren't just going through the motions. I think that is something we can learn from these people and take back home with us. The rest of the day was filled with camp preparation, team bonding, and obsessing over Julmice's baby. Can't wait for what this week has in store!

Hannah Ray

Haiti Day 3-
My life has changed already and we just started camp. And, you might be thinking, “Madi, how can your entire life be changed if you have barely seen any kids?” Well, all my life I wanted to be like the cool kids (being my parents) and drink coffee and now I finally can (insert cool face here)
But in all seriousness, today was awesome and way better than I remember, I recognized so many kids and my favorite camper in the whole world, Fransley remembered me, that's enough to make a grown man cry. Our team won the dance battle because we're so awesome and I asked Queen Jenny how to say “I'm 18 about 23 times.” I don't know how to end this so the end.

Madi Sanders
Day 1 of camp

This trip to Haiti has been unlike any other I’ve ever taken. For starters, it’s been a full two years since I was previously here. The first few days have just been reflecting on how I personally have changed and life circumstances have changed in these two years. When I was last here I had just completed Freshman year. Now, I’m a Senior, soon to be off in the world. Not only have I changed, but so have the kids. My friend from last year, Junior, happened to be in my group again this year and he has grown so much! Camp today went so smoothly, and its efficiency once again reminded me of growth. We all knew what to expect, as did the kids, and because of that everything flowed. The day was filled with so much, from soccer, to dance parties, to coloring, to hair braiding, everything was filled with joy. The highlight of the day was the kids' discovery of the purple streak in my hair. “Violet!” they all gasped upon the discovery and much to my amusement they all took turns touching the purple section. The translators were helpful as always, but I tried to refrain from using them as much as in years past so I could test out my two years of learning French. Yet another example of change in the past two years, I found myself making rudimentary small talk! What stuck with me the most today was one boy’s inquiry as to where Andrew Butcher was. Andrew hadn’t been to Haiti in four years. This simple question reminded me in ways a thousand sermons could never do just how impactful our presence here is. No, we aren’t cleaning up the trash in the city, we aren’t fixing the poverty in this country, we aren’t even a medical team, but what we are doing is lasting. As Christians in America we often get caught up in correcting people's sins and being perfect, or at least appearing so, but what Jesus taught isn't that. Jesus wants us to live in a way that glorifies God, but above all is love. Showing love to Haitians and everyone is the most God-glorifying thing we can do and for once I feel like I’m doing the right thing by being here. I just pray I can take this overwhelming feeling of love into the coming year, as I navigate my ever-changing crazy life.

Patrick Russell

7/6/21

Today was Day 2 of VBS in Haiti! We worshipped, played TONS of games, and did some arts and crafts. I'm on the GREEN TEAM (Vét) with Briggs. I've loved every second of it.

These kids are truly something special. I've loved getting to know their hearts and how much they love each other. Can't wait for the days to come!

Sophie Hadfield

7/6/21

Hey everyone, today was day two of camp and we played the slap game all day and the kids were so joyful. It is amazing to see how much these kids care and love each other. The older ones are always looking out for the young kids, their bond is so strong and they are always happy even with their circumstances. We play a TON of soccer and the kids love it, that's all they want to do. I have never seen this kind of happiness before and it's an unbelievable thing to witness. I can't wait for the soccer tournament tomorrow and the water balloon fight on Thursday!! It's gonna be a Blast!

Emery Gravitt
This morning, I didn't need an alarm. The excitement of day 3 of camp was more than enough to get me out of bed. As all the kids walked through the gates, I got to say Bonjou (hello) and high five each one. Smiles were brighter than the Hatian sun. Some special things that happened today that the lord had his hands all over is I finally got comfortable with the kids. After lunch, it was futbol (soccer) time. My team, wouj (red) got their tails whooped unfortunately, but that's okay because we still had a fantastic time. Possibly my favorite memory from this trip happened today. I was sitting watching the other teams play soccer and Christopher, who has a disability and can't walk without assistance, came up behind me and patted my shoulders. This is camp talk for, pick me up. So up he went, grasping onto my shoulders. He pointed over to the soccer field and off we went! I could feel his smile as he got to feel like he had a part in the game. After this, we went back to sit down and 4 kids surrounded me and sat on each leg and started braiding my hair. In this experience, God showed me his love. The child on my left leg grabbed my name tag and said "Haydynn best friend." I had to stop myself from crying. After all of these amazing events, another highlight has to be late night 4-Square. We all were having the time of our lives. Today reminded me how fun it is when you slow down and take time to enjoy the little things.

Haydynn Fike

7/8

I write this with bittersweet emotions. Today was the last day of camp. It has been a blast getting to love on these kids for the past 4 days. Hearing the kids say that God loves them, God gives them courage, God gives them friends, and that God helps them is a beautiful thing to witness. Camp concluded with a massive water party that consisted of water guns, pools of water, and water balloons chucked from 3 stories high down on the kids. It was a beautiful display of unbridled joy and chaos. I'm sad that the majority of the kids will not be back for sometime. But I'm happy in knowing that God is watching over them, a theme that was emphasized this week. If anyone is reading this, I ask that you stop what you're doing and take a second to pray for this community, these kids, the staff here at See Him, and this country. Pray for peace. Peace that passes all understanding.

Andy White

7/8

Throughout our time on this trip we have been taking time each night to journal. One element to our journal time has been boiling our day down to one word. My word today was contentment (I was torn between “contentment” or “peaceful”). Today was the last day of camp, and therefore we had to go out with a bang. Tradition on this trip has been to have a massive water-day on the last day of camp. It was an absolute joy to get to experience this for the first time today. Before this was the finals of the soccer tournament that we put on for the camp, and my team was participating. Prior to this was all the daily camp elements of crafts, songs, Bible stories and fellowship. It was an utterly packed day and was honestly completely chaotic by the end. That all being said it would seem odd that my word would be "contentment" or "peaceful" because the day was certainly a wild ride - not to mention all the political uncertainty in the country currently. I chose those words though because as the day concluded, though there was sadness with the kids leaving and saying our goodbyes, there was contentment in knowing that the job we had set out to do was done. We were here to deliver the gospel to kids in this area that we are praying will receive it and take it to this community. Through his power, we did exactly that. I am closing out this day in peace and contentment knowing that this group has been used by God to further his gospel and make his name known just a little bit more in this area.

Michael Chambers
Our time in Haiti has come and gone in a flash. If I’m honest, getting asked to come on this trip happened in a flash. It was a last minute call from Bonnie and a quick yes from me, and then a couple weeks later we were on our way. In many ways, coming to Haiti feels like coming home to a place that is familiar and a coming home to myself. My love for other cultures, my dream to become a nurse at a young age, and my belief that we become more ourselves when we surrender to Jesus every day began in Haiti. This week both at the See Him compound and during camp has been powerful. I have seen the Lord’s beauty and experienced his kindness in both small and big ways. Holy Spirit has been generous in bringing this unique group of people together under one mission, and in bringing each individual child to camp each day. The Lord is raising up a generation of people in Haiti who will be the hands and feet of Jesus to their neighbors and families, all by the Lord’s faithfulness and grace. While this week has held much beauty and answered prayer, it has also felt heavy and frustrating. There is still so much need in Haiti spiritually, physically, and emotionally. It is hard to hope that things will one day be different or better for these kids and their families and these communities. It is disheartening to yet again see corruption, fear, and political instability discourage my Haitian friends. This is a call to my fellow team members and those who have supported and prayed for us at home. May we not misplace our hope, relying on our efforts and strivings to bring about the reconciliation our hearts long to see. May we rest knowing that there is no place we could go that He has not already been, where He is not sovereign. May our hope be rooted in the truest reality that God is never far, and always good. People at home- you are apart of the work the Lord is doing. Please pray for our travels home tomorrow, that they would be safe and smooth. Pray for our brothers and sisters in Haiti, that they would feel God draw near to them.

Lauren Van Eaton