



Haiti Mission Team Daily Reports (July 3-10, 2021)

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Please pray for our mission team members as they go to Haiti.

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 Bonjour (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
