



Randolph World Ministries, Inc.

Medical - Economic - Spiritual

Providing Sustainable Ministry Services in the Spirit of the Gospels

April 2014 Newsletter

Family Fundraiser benefiting Randolph World Ministries

Sunday, June 15th
Love Park
2239 Mason Lane
Ballwin, MO
Kicks off at 12pm

- Lunch by Ron McGhee of Café Agape
- Outdoor games and events
- Two Bounce Houses
- Haitian Handicrafts
- Concert by Marty Cummings, Christian artist at 3pm

Tickets \$25 adult

\$20 children 3 to 12

Or \$100 per family

It has been many months since our last newsletter. This is a reflection of the growth we are experiencing in the ministry that is consuming a bit more of our time. As a result of this growth, much has happened with the ministry among both our US and Haitian partners. Please allow us to share a few examples.

In summary, the past two medical mission trips were very successful. As usual God provided an excellent team for both trips, all of whom worked hard to accomplish our goals. The free mass screening program and eye clinic continue to provide critical services to the people of Haiti to diagnose disease and restore vision. We see both programs as having sustainability once initial instrument purchases are made. The new women's health program continues to develop. We are accurately diagnosing and effectively treating

a variety of vaginal infections, and with the help of some St. Louis Cytechnologists, we are diagnosing cervical dysplasias and cancers. Liz is prepared for the next step in the evolution of the program which is to treat the women with medium and high grade dysplasias to prevent cervical cancer. We have established a partnership with **Project Help - Haiti** and our first task was to extract parasites from the hands and feet of people living in a remote mountain village infected with this parasite. We plan to continue this relationship.

Randolph World Ministries, Inc. (RWM) is constantly reminded of people who need our medical services, the financial support our businesses provide, clean water through **WaterWorks**, and many other basic necessities like clothing, food, toiletries, and shoes our programs provide. The economic downturn, however,

these past few years has had a dramatic effect on our ability to meet these needs. To those who have been able to continue support through these lean years, THANK YOU. If you are able to give in place of those who have been unable to continue support, THANK YOU. If you know of others you think would share our vision and would be eager to join the **RWM** family, please share our work as the Lord leads. With this in mind, we are preparing for our second large **fundraising event** to be held in **St. Louis** on **June 15**. We will have food, family fun and music by my friend **Marty Cummings** who is a gifted Christian singer/songwriter. Please consider supporting our work by attending the fundraising event. If you are already booked on June 15 or live too far away to make the event, please consider supporting the event in your absence.

Family Fundraiser

Join us for our second major fundraiser. The event will be held on **Sunday, June 15** at **Love Park** located at **2239 Mason Ln, Ballwin, MO 63021** near Town and Country and Manchester. Love Park offers a new playground, two picnic shelters, lots of open space, in addition to a lovely wooded area with hiking trails, a great walking path, modern restrooms and a soccer field.

The event will kick off at noon with a meal by "Chef" Ron McGhee, owner of **Café Agape** located in **Collinsville, IL** www.cafeagapeonline.com/. Ron will be serving a variety of freshly grilled meats and several of his famous sides. We will have a

number of outdoor events set up like horseshoes, washers, Frisbees, baseball catch areas, soccer, etc. as well as a bounce house for the kids. The afternoon will culminate in a one hour concert by **Marty Cummings** beginning at 3:00. Marty and I played in a rock band together when we were young, and Marty has never stopped writing and performing. He found the Lord a number of years ago and has been pouring his heart out in song to Him ever since. Marty is a gifted Christian songwriter and has two CDs out with a third nearly finished. I would describe his music as modern pop with broad appeal and a clear focus on beautiful melodies and Christian lyrics.

You can sample his music at <https://www.facebook.com/marty.cummings.35/music>, click on music, and scroll to the bottom of the page. Liz and I will present the activities of **RWM** while you eat, and there will be a table for donations along with Haitian handicrafts and Marty Cummings CDs for sale. We are proud to provide for you an all you can eat lunch, access to the park, family games, two bounce houses, and a concert for \$25 per person/\$20 for children 3 to 12 or \$100/family.

If you are unable to join us for the event, please consider supporting the event in absentia.

Summer 2013 Medical Mission Trip

Six members of the nine member summer team piled into the ministry van on June 15 for an eight-hour journey to Birmingham, Alabama where *George and Margaret Fritsma* have faithfully hosted our layover each summer for the past several years. Following a hearty evening meal, a good night's sleep, and a nutritious breakfast provided by the *Fritsma's*, we arrived at our hotel in Ft. Pierce, FL ten hours later where we met up with the remaining three team members. These nine people served the people of Haiti for almost five weeks by servicing eight of our Haitian clinic partner, conducting the free mass screening program, testing vision and distributing glasses, delivering the women's health program, continuing the sickle cell program, and

introducing the Friday night praise and prayer services at local churches.



We spent 11 days in the North sector before traveling to Gonaives in the central plateau after which four team members left for home. The five remaining team members served Eben-Ezer

Hospital in Gonaives for a week before traveling to Fond-Parisien for the remaining week. We were able to deliver all of our programs at each location. In total we screened 122 people for six conditions, distributed 548 pair of glasses, evaluated 166 women for vaginosis while collecting PAP samples for dysplasia analysis, and checked in with our four businesses.

While traveling to Gonaives, we met a full-time missionary, *Andy Snyder*, who asked us to evaluate a mysterious parasitic infestation in a remote mountain village. More information on that will appear later in the newsletter. As you can see, God blessed us with a great team and ample opportunities to serve.

Women's Health Program

Liz and I are very proud of the progress we have made with the women's health program. This program was prompted by the observation that many Haitian clinics prescribe three to five medicines for every woman who describes symptoms of vaginosis. In nearly every case a thorough pelvic exam is not performed. In many cases laboratory testing is not performed, and in the cases where testing is actually performed, most physicians still prescribe three to five medicines regardless of the lab results.

"We seek to select medical areas where we can make a difference in ways that can be sustained in our Haitian clinics in our absence. Our women's health program is an excellent example of this."

This concerns us for four reasons: a) Difficult to obtain medicines are being wasted on women who do not have vaginosis or who have only one kind of vaginosis but treated as if they have three different forms; b) Taking antibiotics unnecessarily can increase the risk of developing secondary yeast infections that would also need to be treated; c) A number of patients are scamming the system to sell the drugs that they don't need on the street; d) Overprescribing antibiotics increases the risk of creating drug-resistant bacteria which force clinicians to use more ex-

pensive second and third generation antibiotics which will be cost prohibitive in Haiti and potentially creating a very serious situation.

Our solution is to combine a thorough pelvic exam with a comprehensive, yet inexpensive laboratory work-up to identify definitively the presence and exact cause of vaginosis to limit unnecessary prescriptions. Rather than attempt to transplant a very expensive and technically complicated western system into Haiti, we have developed or identified methods that are very inexpensive and effective, making them within reach for underdeveloped countries. So far Liz's clinical evaluation is correlating very well with the laboratory observations, providing us a high degree of confidence in the medicines Liz prescribes (or doesn't prescribe). In addition, we have found a few Cytotechnologists in the St. Louis area who are excited to work with us to screen PAP samples Liz collects and to classify the cervical status of our patients. The beauty of this system is that cervical cancer is a very slow developing process that passes through a series of dysplastic stages over the course of several years before becoming cancer. There exist several minimally invasive treatment options for women with high grade dysplasias that have curative potential for their condition before it becomes cancer. Liz and I have investigated these treatment options and have decided to pursue a device called the CryoPen. It is a small, portable cryogenic freezing instrument that boasts excellent success while minimizing ad-

verse events like bleeding.

Liz and I seek to purchase such an instrument to keep in Haiti and travel with it so Liz can effectively treat and potentially cure cervical dysplasias that, if left untreated as is the case for almost all women in Haiti, would otherwise evolve into fatal cervical cancers. The instrument and the gynecological adapters cost about \$6,000.



There are innumerable health conditions that exist in Haiti that need intervention. However, most conditions require expensive and/or complicated diagnostics and/or treatments that place them out of reach for the Haitian people. We seek to select medical areas where we can make a difference in ways that can be sustained in our Haitian clinics in our absence. Our women's health program is an excellent example of this.

Winter 2014 Medical Mission Trip

Although our 2014 winter team was a bit smaller (8) than our summer team, they were equally as awesome. The winter trip was compressed into two weeks, because my time off work is so limited over the winter and we decided to spend Christmas this year with our family. Cost limitations forced us to drive to Florida, but we made up time by driving through the night with many of our team members. After gathering all of our team's members and giving our usual team briefing while on US soil, we made it to the North part of the country to start our work.

We spent one week there and one week in the central plateau. While in the North we served six of our clinic partners, conducted the mass



screening program, and delivered the women's

health program which included seeing new patients and conducting follow-ups on the women who had PAP smears collected the preceding summer. The first half of the second week was spent in Gonaives serving Eben-Ezer Hospital as well as performing follow-ups on the women we saw previously there. The last two days proved to be the highlight of the trip.

We partnered with a new organization, **Project Help - Haiti**, to evaluate and treat the citizens of a poor, remote village infected with a debilitating parasite. You can read more about the parasite infestation later in this issue.

Update on Biomedical Research and Patent Progress

God has really been moving in this area of our work. As many of you know, about 10 years ago God called me to redirect my research at Saint Louis University to a focus on Haiti. God took a floundering research agenda and ignited it in ways I could not predict. To date we have earned one US patent for a new method to detect sickle cell anemia called *SickleConfirm*, and we filed a second provisional patent last September for another new test to measure fetal hemoglobin that is connected to our sickle cell program.

We are in the final stages of development of a test for total hemoglobin that does not require electricity or batteries that we are hopeful we can also file for a patent. It usually takes 1-3 years for a provisional patent to endure the patent process and be issued as a full patent. Not only do we see these new tests being implemented in the clinics of our Haitian partners, but we would like to see them in use in every underdeveloped clinic across the globe. Although the profit margin must remain very low to maintain affordability and maximize the penetrance, the

sales volume has great potential when we include many underdeveloped countries in Africa as well as India, China and across the Caribbean. Therefore, we are looking for a person with experience in international business to champion this initiative.

We are hoping God will send us an experienced business person who is in that season of life where they can take this project on as a ministry until such time as it grows into a lucrative international business.

Project Help Haiti—Solving the Mystery of the Tunga Penetrans Parasite

After hearing the description of the debilitating condition from *Andy Snyder*, a missionary we met on our way from Gonaives to the South last summer, Liz and I agreed to commit to doing whatever we could to help these people. After much correspondence between Andy, the Haitian physicians and us, we determined the cause to be the *Tunga penetrans* parasite (a type of sand flea).



This sand flea is about the size of a gnat that lives in topsoil and burrows into the hands and feet of people who work or play in the soil. It feeds on the blood of the host, grows to the size of a BB pellet and initiates an inflammatory

response in the host that deforms the infected area. If the flea is female, it lays eggs in the host which hatch into larvae. Either the eggs or the larvae exit the host and mature into adult fleas where they reinfect other hosts. Since it is a multicellular organism and is located just under the surface of the skin, no medicine is effective, leaving surgical extraction as the only treatment option.

The team traveled with Andy between 3-4 hours up a mountain on very rugged terrain to a beautiful village atop a lush mountain. The village had a building that had once served as a clinic where we conducted the extractions. We set up a foot and hand washing station, a disinfecting station, an extraction station, a wound care station, and a shoe and antibiotic distribution station. Liz and I had packed all the materials to accommodate each station while Andy provided the all-wheel drive vehicles to get us to the village along with the food and sleeping gear.

We set aside two days for the parasite extrac-

tion clinic, but due to the long drive to and from the village and the set up and tear down time, we were only able to treat about 15 patients over two half days. However, we distributed over 40 pair of shoes which serves as the most important preventative care.

We plan to return to this village as often as possible to continue extractions, distribute more shoes, and study the parasite to determine possible ways of treating the soil.



Donations may be sent to:
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Spotlight on Newsletter Editor, Kerri Thompson

It has been a pleasure serving my brother and sister-in-love (the best way to classify our unique family relationship), *Tim* and *Liz*, as the Newsletter Editor since its inception in November 2010. They have been incredibly easy and pleasurable to work with and most of the work is done by Tim anyway, so my role is simple: to provide Tim's words a format that flows, pleases the eye, represents **RWM** well

and, until this edition, to print and mail a few hundred newsletters. Of course, correct any grammatical or structural issues as well (Nice sentence fragment!).



I am not a trained editor; I have an MBA in International Management, a certificate to teach English as a foreign language, and a heart to serve God and RWM in any way He calls me. In Sept 2007, my life and purpose changed significantly when I became a wife and a mom at the same time. I married *Ryan Thompson*, the husband of Liz's late sister Shannon, and became mom to three fun, fearless and feisty tween/teenaged girls and one sweet little instantaneous momma's boy.

Currently, I am a restless stay at home mom, with 3 of 4 kids still at home. I hope that I can join one of the mission trips one day, but for now I had the pleasure of sending my middle daughter, *Maddie*, on last year's summer trip. She fell head over heels in love with Haiti, especially the people. I am grateful for her to have had this experience, and for *Tim & Liz* and the amazing stewards they are with the resources and responsibilities they've been given.

Prayer Requests

As you know, **Randolph World Ministries, Inc.** operates out of our home and functions with almost no overhead costs. Nonetheless, our continued growth has placed several important needs before us that we share with you, our prayer partners. Please pray for the following:

- Liz and I make Godly decisions as the ministry grows and develops
- An experienced business person will volunteer to champion our laboratory supply company
- Someone to donate more storage space
- More financial contributors
- A successful fundraiser in June
- A trucking company that will donate shipping space to Florida
- A donor for the CryoPen instrument, a cryotherapy tool for our women's health program
- More medical professionals to join our mission teams
- That more past team members will return to future teams
- Some of our current partners will commit to conducting one fundraiser each year for RWM

On behalf of the people of Haiti who benefit from our work, THANK YOU for your partnership. God is smiling on the **RWM** family as together we sacrifice for some of the least of these.

All for Him,
Tim and Liz