

World Wide Village Incorporated Update

***One
I am only one, but I am one.
I cannot do everything, but I can do something.
What I can do, I should do and,
With the help of God, I will do!
(Everett Hale)***

A Spark of Optimism



In the midst of devastating news of skyrocketing costs, widespread hunger, and rampant violence in Haiti, a handful of elite athletes have for a moment ignited a spark of optimism and national pride. Seven athletes competing in the 2008 Summer Olympic Games in Beijing are representing Haiti. Though most currently live and train in the United States or other countries, they've proudly chosen to represent their native homeland in the prestigious games. They include boxer Azea Augustana, judo experts Joel Brutus and Ange Mercie Jean Baptiste, and track and field competitors Dudley Dorival, Ginou Etienne, Nadine Faustin, and Barbara Pierre. (Photo: Nadin Faustin)

We wish these athletes well and pray that peace and safety prevail for all in attendance.



Volunteers Needed!



We need you! Please consider volunteering a little time and a big smile at our Festival for Haiti fundraising event on November 1. Encourage a friend or family member to join you!

- * Be the first friendly face our guests see at the **Registration Table** (6 people needed).
- * Warmly **Greet** and direct guests to activities (2 people needed).
- * Mingle and **Sell Raffle Tickets** prior to the program (2-4 people needed).
- * Use your retail skills to help tabulate **Silent Auction** sales and collect payments (4 people needed).

Interested? Fantastic! Please contact Pat Mortensen at pmortensen@worldwidevillage.org . 651.777.6908 or

***Festival Date:
November 1, 2008***

Superstitious Setback

Superstition is an intensely powerful force in the minds of many Haitian people. It can profoundly influence an individual's decisions, actions, and beliefs. Jeronne is a woman whose life changed dramatically when she was a little girl simply because of her grandmother's superstitious beliefs. She now works helping Tara and Troy Livesay, country directors for World Wide Village in Haiti with their family. Here Tara shares the sad story of what superstition has stolen from Jeronne:

This morning we were chatting with Jeronne, the beautiful woman that works with our family. We've grown to love her and are so impressed and blessed by her work ethic and her sweet, loving spirit. We want to try to find ways to impact her life far beyond the time that we're here, so we've been praying about what that might look like and hoping to encourage her.

We have told her we want our kids to improve their Creole from talking with her, and if she is interested she could learn some basic English to communicate with them as well. So as we chatted we asked if she had any interest in using the Rosetta Stone language program to learn English. We said if she did we'd teach her how to use the computer and get started.

The expression on her face grew serious as she responded with a story from her childhood. We learned that when Jeronne was a young schoolgirl, in about third grade, her book bag was taken. Whoever took it brought it up to a mountain village many hours away and when it was later returned there was money in it. But Jeronne's grandma made her throw the money away along with her school books and the bag, saying that a curse (often as a result of voodoo) had been put on that money. Jeronne told us that she couldn't learn after that due to the curse. She quit going to school after fourth grade.



Jeronne is 36 years old and genuinely believes to this day that she is unable to learn. There is no truth to it. The woman is capable. She is smart. She is hardworking. If she sees me do something once, the next day she has done it before I can get there to do it. She clearly has the ability to learn because she's doing it every day. Troy told her that he believes in her, knows she can learn, and that we will all help her if she wants to try.

Stories like this of the damage that superstition can cause are heartbreaking. The belief in curses and their power has crippled many lives in Haiti and this is the stuff that breaks our hearts. People are walking around believing complete nonsense about themselves due to superstition. If it is the last thing we do, we will convince Jeronne that she is loved by God and by us and that she is smart and can learn.

(Photo credits: Jeronne and Lydia (the Livesay's youngest) by Tara Livesay; Jeronne by Troy Livesay)

For more from the Livesays visit their blog at: <http://livesayhaiti.blogspot.com/>

Make it Your Mission

Ever thought about a short-term mission trip? It's a rewarding way to experience a new culture while reaching out to suffering people in the name of Christ. Haiti is quick and easy to get to, yet its culture and poverty set it far apart from the relative wealth and ease of American life - one week in Haiti can be a life-changing experience. So consider joining us this fall or winter for the trip of a lifetime. Here are a few questions often asked by people considering a trip with us:

How many people will I travel with? How long will I stay?

Most groups consist of 8-10 people and stay for 7 nights. Some custom trips can also be arranged.

Where will I stay? Is it safe?

Our teams stay in secure and modern private homes, guest houses, or hotels. World Wide Village does everything within its power to keep all members of our teams safe. We provide Creole speaking leaders at all times and make sure that only safe food and water are served.

What will I do?

We want you to experience the people of Haiti, so we plan a variety of activities for our mission groups such as assisting in medical and eye clinics, working on construction or painting projects, leading Bible camps for kids, or helping in orphanages. Since our groups work hard, we also try to schedule in a day at the beach or in the mountains to relax, debrief and enjoy the beauty of Haiti.

(Photo: 2008 team with kids in the Village of Arcahaie.)



To join a group or schedule your group contact Pat Mortensen at 651.777.6908 or at pmortensen@worldwidevillage.org.

Please keep World Wide Village and the people of Haiti in your prayers and consider contributing to its vital work in one of the world's most impoverished nations.

Unitl next time,

Randy & Pat Mortensen