WE DID IT

We exceeded our $16,000 goal! A heartfelt Thank You to everyone who participated in our end-of-year giving campaign. Volunteers in Medical Missions is in its 34th year of service! Your faithfulness and generosity further the work of this ministry. We are but mere vessels to carry out the great commission and spread the gospel of Jesus Christ to the sick, wounded and hurting.

“Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us...” Ephesians 3:20

NEW LOGO ALERT

We are very excited to share our new logo with you!

WORK IN PROGRESS

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Traditionally VIMM completes two trips per year to the Dominican Republic. Due to COVID-19, we were only able to complete one Dominican trip in January and the March trip was cancelled just days before departure. Our work in the Dominican has been in conjunction with another US based non-profit, Solid Rock International (SRI).

SRI has several medical clinics located throughout the country which are still operating. VIMM is supporting SRI’s barrio clinics as they focus on health education related to COVID-19, providing medical care and administering medicine to Dominicans in need. We will continue supporting SRI and their staff throughout these unprecedented times.

HAITI

In March of this year, a medical mission was completed in Haiti. 16 Haitians, 1 Haitian-American and one VIMM team leader, Kirby Phillips, worked together beautifully for the glory of God and the good of the people in 4 locations desperate for medical and dental care.

Here is Kirby’s testimonial of what happened: I preached in a Haitian church that Sunday. Then, we saw 189 patients that afternoon in Poulie. This does not include the dental patients and the dentists worked into the night pulling teeth and cleaning teeth. The next day was the tough day. A very difficult trek up a horse path over a steep mountain to Gwo Moulen, a place of 4000-5000 people. (continued on pg. 4)
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
January 2020

There definitely is progress being made. The children now seem better vaccinated. Also school treatment with anti-parasitic meds is much more available. We have somewhat switched our tact from just doing interventional treatments with hopefully longer lasting educational efforts. This results in lower numbers of patients being seen but hopefully more real progress. As always it’s amazing how a group of people who come from multiple often widely separated parts of the country unite and bond as a team. Plus just have a lot of fun together.

Dr. Keith Hannay
Georgia

A VIMM team of 13 traveled to the Dominican Republic in January of 2020; many of us coming from all over the United States. I am from Kansas and so the trip down to San Juan took about 6 hours for me. Once we landed, we stayed overnight at a hotel (with a great pool) and left the next morning for a three-hour car ride to Solid Rock International in San Juan de La Maguana.

Solid Rock is a wonderful organization to partner with as they are solely focused on God and ways to make an impact for His Kingdom. They have medical and construction teams; a clinic that is free to the impoverished; support 5 local Christian schools; and are building a hospital that will offer the uninsured population proper medical care.

As a team, we would travel each day to the remote areas surrounding de La Maguana and set up clinics in churches and schools. We traveled to Banina, which is close to the Haitian border, Los Tranojos, Jorgillo, and Batey. Over the course of 4 days; through triage, checkups, and pharmacy, we saw and treated over 500 people. It was hard work, but is always rewarding.

During home visits with a local pastor, I had the opportunity to pray over a sick man. We had a Dominican translator who translated my prayer from English to Spanish. I was amazed once again by God’s heart towards his people and that he was able to use me even though I know very little Spanish.

This trip to the Dominican Republic was one I will remember all my life. Not only because of the patients and landscape but because of the amazing team I got to work with. After just one week, they all became like a family. Through genuine conversations, laughter, and faith talks, I feel as though my week in the Dominican Republic has impacted me emotionally and spiritually. I look forward to next year and all God has in store for Dominican Republic 2021.

Clara Jackson
Kansas

Right: Dominican baby girl

Middle: 1st clinic day in a tiny Dominican church near Haiti

Bottom: 2nd clinic day line forming early in the day

Clara blowing bubbles with Dominican children
2020 VISION
God Encounters

I do not need to tell you that life has a way of weighing you down at times and just when you think, “Lord, why hast thou forsaken me?” A beam of light, a glimmer of hope, or a testimony appears and reassures us of his faithfulness.

One morning I dropped my daughter off at elementary school and then my son at our local high school. On my route to work I usually grab a bite to eat. This particular morning I felt led to go to a specific place. As I pulled into the parking lot I noticed a very tall gentleman, with what I will describe as a “Moses” rod, tinted glasses, and a backpack.

A lot of thoughts ran through my mind very quickly, but fear was never present in any of my thoughts. I wondered if the man was partially blind; if he was homeless, as the transient population in our area has increased over the past couple years; what was he doing carrying such a large stick? I was immediately intrigued…it was if my spirit was naturally drawn to him.

We greeted each other with a “Good Morning” and a smile and proceeded inside to place our orders. I asked the lady behind the counter if she could add butter and cheese to my grits, as the tall man is watching this exchange. He looks at me and says, “there is nothing like grits with butter” and I said, “and cheese.” We shared a laugh and then he says, I’m Greg, and reached his hand out to shake mine, I reciprocated, and said I’m Msiba.

He goes on to tell me that he is a “walking missionary” from Kentucky and how he has been walking for several years now as he felt God was calling him to do. He mentioned that he has been pretty much all over the US, even out to California. He shared a newspaper article with me that was written about his journey, along the way. As I skimmed through the article, I noticed that he started on this trek after losing his parents and grandparents all within one year.

I thought to myself: WOW! God is all he has. But then again, God is all he needs. After he finished his story, like rapid fire, I asked him question after question: What do you want to accomplish? Do you share the gospel of Jesus Christ? How can you afford to live? Do you have a cell phone to communicate? How do you navigate?

And one by one he so graciously answered my questions: he wants to tell people about Jesus Christ and his faithfulness; he tells people who he is and what he is doing, and they give him cash jobs; he does not have a cell phone and relies solely on people navigation.

Out of everything we discussed, one thing really stuck with me, and it was this: he said that there was a time when his supplies – food, water and money had all run out and he asked God, “what should I do now, I am hungry, thirsty and tired”…and he said as he continued to walk, he looked down and in a ditch was a $20 bill. He said he started rejoicing and the Holy Spirit had him look down again, and there was another $20; this continued for a few hundred feet. He found $160 in total. Greg said it was at that moment he knew that where God was leading him, he would surely provide. After listening for a few minutes, I shared how his acts of obedience touched me and that I wanted to be a part of his story. I went over to the ATM, located in the store, withdrew some cash, blessed him and went on my way.

What a sweet reminder of the faithfulness and goodness of God! There are so many things to glean from my encounter with Greg Jones: “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.” – 1 Corinthians 15:58

After losing my grandmother and then three year later both my biological parents within a one year of each other, I too realize that – God is all we need. He is enough. “Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.” – 1 Peter 5:7

I am so thankful that God chose me to be a part of Greg Jones’ story. That he trusted me to be obedient and listen to the still small voice inside that said this man is a friend, bless him as I have blessed you. The fact that: where God leads, he provides! I have such a sense of gratitude to have had such a miraculous encounter. “And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.” – Philippians 4:19

Amidst my wild, crazy, messy morning – God placed a faithful servant along my path and because I had ears to hear and a heart to receive – I was able to be a blessing and was also blessed.

“Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.” – Psalm 19:14

Msiba Dalton
VIMM Executive Director
HAITI

In recent years VIMM has not been able to send teams into Haiti due to political unrest and a number of unsafe conditions. Dr. Gaelle Turenne, a Haitian doctor working in the capital city of Port au Prince, has been a long time partner of our organization for over a decade.

VIMM has supported Dr. Turenne for years in her efforts to conduct mobile medical missions in the most devastated regions of the country after the earthquake of 2010 and the hurricane of 2016. By the grace of God, this year is no different. We are supporting Dr. Turenne and her team this summer as they conduct clinics in mountain villages not too far from Port au Prince.

Dr. Wilneton Antoine of Laschabos, Haiti is another long time partner of VIMM. Throughout the years, VIMM’s leadership has come to understand that working alongside and establishing a great relationship with native medical personnel and churches in the countries we serve is vitally important, but not enough to sustain the work. Some form of healthcare must continue after the VIMM trip is complete.

VIMM’s response to the need for continuous aid was the start of a health and education initiative known as the Village Healthcare Worker Program (VHW). The idea that select villagers learn first aid and first response techniques along with basic evaluation skills, ensures that men, women and children who are ill with no access to a local doctor or hospital can be evaluated by a local who is trained in rendering these types of aid.

VIMM has four established VHWs throughout remote villages in Honduras which is the model being used to expand this program in other countries. Haiti is the ideal location to begin another VHW program as our teams have not been able to travel to Haiti for some time to offer support. Dr. Antoine and RN Kathiana Bellevue have led VHW educational efforts for the past 8 months in 5 different Haitian locations - Poulie, Platanal, Gwo Moulén, Dobwarouj, and Tifon. We look forward to updating you on their progress in the months to come.

2021 Trip Schedule

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<th>TRIPS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dominican Republic</td>
<td>January</td>
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<td>Peru</td>
<td>January</td>
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<td>Sri Lanka</td>
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<td>Honduras</td>
<td>March</td>
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<td>Dominican Republic</td>
<td>March</td>
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<td>Vietnam</td>
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<td>Peru</td>
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<td>Honduras</td>
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<td>Colombia, S.A.</td>
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<td>Nepal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Haiti</td>
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Early 2021 trip schedule will be posted Sept 2020. Visit our website for more details; www.vimm.org
Dear Friends,

In this unprecedented time, the world has experienced monumental change – and hardship. The coronavirus has impacted us all. Despite this, we have risen to the challenge and continue to love, to appreciate, to pray – to live with gratitude.

That said, I am writing to express my gratitude to you, personally.

Volunteers in Medical Missions (VIMM) depends on your willingness to GO and be the hands and feet of Jesus and to GIVE financial contributions to reach our sick and hurting brothers and sisters around the world. Amidst such challenging times, our medical mission work and other planned fundraising efforts have come to an unexpected halt.

Through it all, I have not once felt like you aren’t supporting our cause.

I have felt – and continue to feel – your prayers, well wishes and blessings for this organization, our volunteers, and the thousands of men, women and children that need our help.

And for that, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Due to the coronavirus crisis, VIMM was forced to suspend many of our trips for 2020. And while we understand that canceling our trips and complying with world-wide travel restrictions is for the greater good of our global community, the most vulnerable populations are suffering from the lack of care our volunteers provide.

The good news is, we are currently organizing trips for 2021. We are excitedly planning to send teams out again. And as you know, these teams will provide life-saving medicine, supplies and treatment in various developing countries.

Now, I’d like to ask for your support.

VIMM must continue to operate throughout this year to foster the great work established over the past 34 years; we must continue to provide resources to our partners who are still ministering to the sick and hurting; and we must fund our Village Healthcare Workers so pregnant mothers, children with fevers, and elderly people in remote villages can continue get the help they so desperately need – in our absence. Your gift of just $25 will make a significant difference in the lives of the people we serve.

Your monthly recurring donation or one-time gift of $25, $50 or $100 will help VIMM continue fulfilling the great commission and one of the greatest commandments – loving your neighbor as yourself.

Thank you for your support. Your generosity is a gift of hope, faith, and the assurance that God is with those in need – always.

With Gratitude,

Msiba Dalton
VIMM Executive Director
VIMM
265 South Cove Rd.
Seneca, SC  29672-6712

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Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability

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