



HBS Newsletter

Hôpital Bon Samaritain

Limbé, Haiti

Fall 2006

From Joanna

Joanna's trip to Haiti

On June 20th, I flew to Haiti to help with the work at the hospital and was warmly greeted by many old friends. Staying at the Rose Cottage, each day I would get up at 6 AM, do my stretching exercises and then walk to the Triage where the patients waited for the doctor to decide the patients to be seen each day. Roland, the archivist, would greet each one and then have a short service with hymns, a few verses from the Bible and a prayer. As we would await the doctor to arrive, I would see that about half of the patients were small children who were often fretful. Once the doctor arrived and gave out the tickets, a happy smile would appear on their faces. Later I would see them in the clinic being consulted.



After breakfast, I would do small chores in the hospital office. After, I would make rounds of the wards, visiting and encouraging the patients. I always loved to visit maternity and to see the new babies and to congratulate their Mothers. In pediatrics, the children would love it if I could find them a small toy like a ball or car. The girls especially loved coloring books with crayons.

One young lad of four did not talk, but I put a string on a toy car and showed him how to pull it and he gave me a big smile. Two of the young girls with anthrax who were getting daily serums pleaded for a doll, so I finally found two small ones from the warehouse and they rejoiced.

On the medical ward, I would visit the patients and their family members offering words of encouragement. They often told me how they prayed daily for the hospital. One gentleman who had a bad case of diarrhea, learned that he and I were born the same year. He asked me to hold his hand and pray for him, the next day he was much better and thanked me.

Each afternoon, I would visit the children in Kai Mira orphanage to play with them. They had some big balls but also wanted some small toys too. I rounded up several small cars and tied strings to them. They enjoyed getting them out and sharing them. I also sang songs with them and made them laugh. It was a fun time for all. Before I would leave, I would blow up several balloons so they could play with them after their supper. With all the exercises, walking and climbing stairs, I was able to put my cane aside and came back to Florida with it folded in my suitcase. How surprised my family was to see me without my cane so I feel blessed. I have now returned to Haiti early November. The needs are very great and I am glad to be of help.

Donation of Medical Supplies



In August we received a phone call from one of our suppliers for diabetic products, Adam Reiver from Ryvmed Medical Products, Inc. He wanted to donate a couple truckloads of syringes and surgical supplies. We were very

happy to receive this generous donation especially the 1cc syringes that we use in our daily clinic for approximately 150 diabetic patients. We have been working to palletize and organize everything to be able to ship it to Haiti. We thank Adam Reiver for this generous donation.



Container Shipped !!!

We were finally able to load and ship our container of medical supplies and supplies for Kai Mira that many of you so generously donated towards. Other than the surgical and medical donations, we received clothes, toys, food, milk and donations for the orphaned handicapped children. We were able to order them two dozen new chairs and mattresses that they were in desperate need of.



The empty container was delivered to the back of our warehouse which we decided to load by hand to make the most of the space available. We had about 22 pallets with donated supplies in our warehouse and had to decide the priorities. We were able to squeeze in twelve pallets. The container left here the beginning of October and has arrived in Haiti just in time for

our November surgery team.

We want to thank everybody that donated towards this project especially Marg & Jim Brickman and the children from their neighborhood school that donated towards buying the chairs for the orphans.



Anthrax

In September there were 3 cases of Anthrax in the hospital. Ludlyne was admitted to the Pediatric ward with a small black pustule on the back of her left upper left arm. On the Medical ward that same week, 2 other cases were admitted. Marie, a young woman of 25 years from Bas Limbé, had a large black pustule on her upper right arm. Later that same week, Madeline was admitted. She said what started as a boil on her face under her left eye, later erupted with extraordinary "bubbling" at the edges. Her brother was worried that she had "charbon" which is what the local people here call anthrax because of the black color. He insisted that she go to the hospital for treatment. By this time there was a frightful swelling or edema extending into the soft tissues under the eye.



Anthrax infection can occur in three forms: cutaneous (skin), inhalation, and gastrointestinal. Most (about 95%) anthrax infections occur when the bacterium enters a cut or abrasion on the skin, such as when handling contaminated wool, hides, leather or hair products (especially goat hair) of infected animals. Skin infection begins as a raised itchy bump that resembles an insect bite but within 1-2 days develops into a vesicle and then a painless ulcer, usually 1-3 cm in diameter, with a characteristic black necrotic (dying) area in the center. About 20% of untreated cases of cutaneous anthrax will result in death. Deaths are rare with appropriate antimicrobial therapy.

These three patients were all treated daily with antibiotics which brought about a rapid regression and soon they were able to be discharged and on their way home. HBS continues to provide help and hope for many patients like these three women on a daily basis, thanks to your continuing support.

Volunteers

HBS is slowly recovering from the unrest of this last summer. Though we have managed to remain open and operational, our needs are greater than ever. As you can imagine, the number of foreign volunteers that HBS regularly welcomes has greatly diminished over the last couple of years with security being a major issue. Thanks to the local police and UN providing renewed security to the hospital, we are now encouraging medical and administrative personnel to come to Haiti help us out. We have had a lot of requests from volunteers from all over the world. As a result, we have volunteers coming from Canada, Australia, South Korea and the USA. We have doctors, medical students and two surgery teams scheduled over the next few months to help us out. HBS needs urgent help to revitalize and restructure the present day services. For that reason we are actively looking for longer term medical personnel especially doctors, surgeons, anesthesiologists, physician assistants and nurse practitioners.

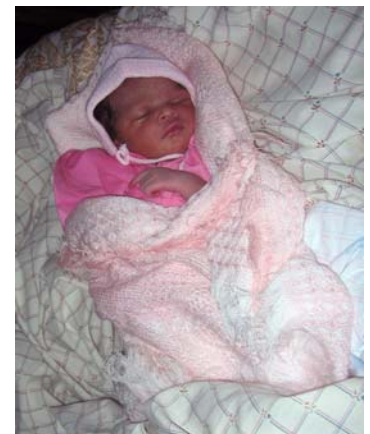
THANK YOU !!!!!!!

We would like to thank everybody that responded and donated after our newsletter this summer. We have received money to cover some of our debts but we still have a lot of outstanding bills. As the socio-economic situation in Haiti continues to deteriorate HBS needs more financial aid from donors to cover expenses that patients can no longer afford. We have many areas of need. Our Kai Mira, Diabetics and the General Fund are very low at this time. Please help us help the needy and donate to this good cause. We very much appreciate your help!

Please send your much needed donations to:

HBS Foundation, Inc.
PO Box 1290
Lake Worth, FL 33460

Phone : (561) 533-0883
E-mail : hbsfl@bellsouth.net
Website : www.hbslimbe.org



Happy Thanksgiving!!!!!!