



# HBS Newsletter

## Hôpital Bon Samaritain

Limbé, Haiti

**HAPPY**

*Thanksgiving!*



### *The Battle of Vertières*



The west side of Saint-Dominique, now known as the country of Haiti, was the largest French colony in the Caribbean. The wealth generated in Haiti through sugar and coffee production for the French Empire was lucrative. By the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century the number of slaves outnumbered the French settlers and their heavy-handed tactics on the slave population led to a slave revolt.

The Haitian Revolution from 1791 - 1804 led to the establishment of the Republic of Haiti. It was one of the first, bloodiest and most successful slave rebellions in the new world.

In 1802 Napoleon Bonaparte announced that he wanted to re-establish control in the Caribbean and prepared the largest expedition with the best officers and generals of the French Army.

Napoleon sent his brother-in-law, General Leclerc, to lead the French Army. Toussaint

Louverture, Haitian leader at that time, heard that the French had restored power in Guadeloupe and alerted the other Commanders, Henri Christophe, Jean-Jacques Dessalines and Alexandre Petion to be ready for the war. The French were welcomed with heavy cannon fire in Cap Français (now Cap Haitian). Even though General Leclerc was well prepared, the French faced another challenge, the deadly yellow fever which affected 9,000 French soldiers yet none of the Haitian Army as they were already immune to the deadly disease. General Leclerc himself succumbed to the yellow fever.

One of the last battles for the Haitian Independence, the Battle of Vertières, happened on 18 November 1803 in the north of Haiti right outside Cap Haitian. A large rebel force under the command of Capois "LaMort" fought so fiercely and brave that when Capois "LaMort"'s horse was shot out from under him, the French General Rochambeau stopped the battle and sent him a new horse commending him for his bravery.

A bronze monument of the Heroes in Battle of Vertières, is located right outside the City of Cap Haitian. It symbolizes the courage of the Haitian Army and the birth of the first black independent nation in the new world. It remains today an inspiration to all, celebrated each year on 18 November.

### *New Mattresses for HBS*

After raising the funds, we were able to purchase new mattresses for Kai Mira, the Adult and Pediatric Wards this last month. Once the shipment was delivered to our warehouse in Lake Worth, we immediately shipped and replaced the mattresses in Kai Mira as they were in the worst shape.

Kai Mira staff and the children were so very happy to receive the mattresses. There was cheering, clapping, all hugs and big smiles. Many thanks were said.

Again, a special thank you to everyone who helped contribute towards this worthy project making it a reality.





### **Madeline Pierre**

Madeline Pierre, an eight-year-old girl from Limbé, came to the hospital with a lower lip, crusted, vascular lesion that had been present for weeks. It is called Pyogenic Granuloma, a common skin growth that is small, round and usually red in color. These skin growths mostly affect children and young adults though they can develop in people of all ages. If left untreated, it would continue to grow and bleed.

I brought a container of silver nitrate sticks, useful for cauterizing vessels if an electric cautery is not readily available. Madeline came to the clinic 3 times per week for an application of Silver Nitrate and before I left, the lesion had virtually disappeared.

Gail Nield, M.D.

### **Record amount of volunteers at HBS in 2016**

This year HBS was very fortunate to receive approximately 145 volunteers, more than any year prior. We have had several volunteers that came between two and four times this year.

Six surgery teams visited HBS so far and one more team is scheduled for the beginning of December, bringing the total to seven this year. Another six teams are scheduled to come the beginning of next year. A few work teams spent time raising funds and continuing replacing the roofing and upgrading buildings.

Volunteers in March organized the annual birthday party for the children in Kai Mira. The ward was nicely decorated with banners and balloons. The children were treated with popcorn and a big birthday cake.

We really appreciate all the efforts to help make a difference!



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Hurricane Matthew formed on September 28<sup>th</sup> and passed the west coast of Haiti on the 4<sup>th</sup> of October. For the most part, Northern Haiti was spared the wind and damage from it. Following Hurricane Matthew, the North of Haiti has experienced torrential rains and flash flooding resulting in several deaths and property damage. HBS has weathered well so far.

*"Requiescat in Pace"*. We are saddened by the passing of Margaret Joanna Hodges (04/18/1923-11/07/2016), a truly remarkable woman and inspiration for HBS. Stay posted for a tribute to her next month.