

Newsletter March/April 2010

Grace & Peace Missionary Fellowship

Medical Missions: A Story about Ava

By Karen Rumple



Isabella Conti, Ava and
Ava's Mother



Ava after Her
Burn debrided



Pastor Ron and Isabella
Praying for Ava

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In April, Grace and Peace hosted 2 teams. Each team came prepared to do several free medical clinics in different areas around our town as well as evangelize and hold VBS. Our first medical team came down with New Life Baptist Church in New Wilmington, Pennsylvania. Total patients seen during their time with us: 360. We set up our first medical clinic in Batey Alt-gracia (predominantly Haitian), when a family showed up with a little girl all wrapped in gauze. Nurse Isabella Conti wrote this account of what she saw and experienced taking care of her. "The little girl's name was Ava and she is 3 years old. Her mother Kenya accepted Christ as Savior through our ministry in caring for Ava's burns. She was burned over 65 percent of her body, both front

and back from falling backwards into a boiling pot of oil. When we first saw her, she was in immense pain and had extreme shears of skin barely hanging onto her little body. When we left 7 days later, there was a remarkable difference. Nurse Lorena Knott was blessed, at the last minute before leaving on the trip to the DR, with a jar of burn cream called Silvadine. Though she says she has been here to the Dominican nursing for several years without ever bringing this cream for burns, it was such a time as this, that God enabled the miracle of healing to begin. On our last day of ministry, Pastor Ron and I were able to find Ava only by God's grace. We had no interpreter and no specific directions to her house. There were 5 of us in the mission vehicle. Somehow we were guided to a

faraway house her parents brought her to stay at while they were away on errands. Pastor Ron and I prayed over her and I put a pair of pink cros on her little feet, gave her a book, and a stuffed animal. She kissed me several times before I left. We left several "maintenance" packs with her mother and passed the baton to the incoming medical team from Grace Fellowship in Niles, Ohio." That was Isabella's account of what she saw and experienced. What is so incredible about this whole situation is that Bill and I have never had 2 medical teams back to back in the 10.5 years we have served here. The 2nd medical team coming in with Grace Fellowship was added just 30 days prior to their arrival when Tanna Michaels received a text from Pastor John

Medical Missions: A Story about Ava Continued....

<p>Temple, asking if she would like to go to the DR. Then Nurse Jim Guzan from the Cleveland Clinic was added to the team. I was shaking my head thinking, "How in the world am I going to organize a 2nd team in less than 1 month," but the Lord took over and everything fell into place. The Lord knew why they were coming, not only to hold a medical clinic but to take over in the care of Ava. His amazing provision. The nurses held a medical clinic and treated 225 patients all in one day. This medical team took over Ava's care and here is their Youth Pastor's (Brad Gustafson) rendition of his experience in supporting them as they cared for Ava. "As a Youth Pastor I had never experienced an aspect of Missions like I had during my past trip to Grace and Peace in the Dominican Republic. One day during this trip, I decided to go with our two nurses, Tanna Michaels and Jim Guzan, to assist with a 3 year old little girl who was severely burned. Ava was her name. She was</p>	<p>beautiful and had a wonderful smile that could cut right to the core of you. As we arrived she immediately was overwhelmed with emotion. Watching strangers arrive in scrubs, she was aware that she was going to experience some immense pain in a short time. Eva had 3rd degree burns covering 65% of her body from falling backwards into a boiling pot of oil. In my opinion, I was shocked she was still walking around instead of bedridden with pain. We didn't have anything to give her for her pain. With burn victims, the burned area needs to be debrided regularly. This act consists of taking a sponge and scrubbing the dead and infected skin off until you get to fresh new skin that can heal healthy. You scrub until you come to pink skin that begins to bleed, that's when you know to stop debriding. In the States people who go through this procedure are typically given a bath to soften up the tissue, given morphine for the</p>	<p>pain, another drug to put them to sleep, and a third drug to give them short-term memory loss. There, in Barahona, people who are severely burned are not so lucky. We gave Ava a child size dose of Tylenol and Benadryl. It is all we had. One nurse was chosen to perform the actual task of scrubbing Ava, the other was in charge of refilling the sterile water that we were using to try to "soften" her skin. My job was to hold this beautiful little girl down so that she could not squirm or try to run away. The procedure took about 10 minutes and consisted of her screaming, people shouting around us, and myself feeling absolutely sick to my stomach. Half way through, in an attempt to calm Eva down in anyway I could, I started singing "Jesus Loves the Little Children" into her ear. It helped. It calmed her down enough for Jim to conclude the procedure. When we were done, Eva was in a trance. An Immediate blessing was that she fell asleep within minutes of</p>	<p>us completing the task. We walked away, saying our goodbyes, and were impacted for the rest of our lives. We decided to go back two days later to see how Ava was doing. To our amazement she was doing great. Her burns looked amazing. She was walking around and in better spirits than the first time I saw her. Myself and Jim were quite emotional. The part that impacted me the most was when I saw Ava smile at us and when we said "Te Amo" (I love you) she responded with "Te Amo" and gave Jim a kiss on the Cheek. As we were getting into the truck to return to the Mission House, we were again overwhelmed with emotion. Then her dad came out of their hut and pounded on his chest towards us. I came to find out a little later that this means "I love you". I will never forget the family that I inflicted so much pain on, yet they turned around and extended a loving gesture towards me. God is good." Please keep this little one in your prayers as she slowly continues to heal from these burns.</p>
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Relief to Haiti Continues by Bill Rumble

GRESSIER, HAITI: 3 Days after returning to the D.R. this year, I went to Haiti. I hadn't been to Gressier, Haiti since 1995 when my oldest son, Billy, graduated from high school. Him and I, for his graduation gift, spent time in Gressier, Haiti and traveled the whole country. On this first trip in, I hadn't seen some of the younger kids for years and now they were adults. It was a happy emotional reunion as they all started coming up to me asking about Billy. I guess that's how God works. Every year I've lived in the Dominican I would say, "I'm going back to Haiti to see my friends." Because of all the projects and programs we have developed over the past 10 years, I never was able to do that. In 2004, Karen, Mary, Lee, Nicholas and myself all traveled to the border with the possibility of going in. Karen wasn't ready, so we turned around and drove the 2 hours back home. Then Karen was the first to go into Haiti after the earthquake. Since that time, Karen and I both know that God wants the work there resurrected and wants Grace and Peace to help the people rebuild. Gressier is on the road going out of Port-au-Prince to a place called Leogane. In Gressier, close to where we worked, there had been a nice school that was totally destroyed, both churches on the road, which included the one we worked with were destroyed and all kinds of houses had various degrees of collapse. Right near the church we work with, 2 people died. Already people are rebuilding in the same dangerous unsteady manner as they had before the earthquake. I told the people that we are going to bring in our cement mixer and buy cement and the correct size rebar to construct things in a manner that should withstand another earthquake. That first day back visiting was neat. We passed out the rabbit meat for the first time. One of my friend's wife made us fresh lemonade and we fried up rabbit to feed everyone there. They had never eaten rabbit and really liked it. They were so excited. I guess the thing that's always amazing about the 3rd world, especially when you see Haiti in the condition it's in now is this: if you ever on your worst day think you are having a rough day, trust me, you're not. You can just thank God that even though you haven't gotten to the heavenlies, you are basically living, relatively speaking, heaven on earth especially knowing God on top of all the material luxuries. I told Karen almost in a sense that I didn't want to work there in Haiti because it's like standing on the rim of a volcano and spitting trying to cool it off. But I can't not help them. The devastation is so great. And now, this handful of people we can bless, letting them know it's coming from the Lord, will bring glory to His name. So, after that first visit, I've returned 3 more times. And most likely as this newsletter is being delivered to you, Karen, myself, Rhonda and Eric Dodson will be working in Haiti May 3rd through the 7th doing a medical clinic and analyzing the best way to go about helping there. Anyone wanting to be on the email update list, please email us at gracepeacemissn@aol.com. We send out periodic email letting everyone know how things are progressing in the Dominican and in Haiti. Thank you for all of your financial support and prayers. We raised almost \$35,000 to help rebuild Haiti. Bill