

In Our Community...

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Carol and JoAnn (two nurses also with us) were in the pickup, and to my left throughout the trip sat her worried and frantic mother. To my right Debbie lovingly held the woman's arm, prayed quietly for her and fanned the flies away from her bloody face. To my right sat the woman's 13-year-old daughter, with one large tear slowly winding its way down the side of her face for the entire 45-minute trip. As the wind howled across the back of the truck, another tear would slowly replace the previous one along the same track.

I tried to "will" the pickup to go faster, but I knew our driver Rony was being very careful and safe with all of us. We all breathed a sigh of relief when we finally drove into the rocky entrance of the hospital. While our friend lay in the back of the pickup in the blazing hot Haitian sun, I ran from place to place until I found the American doctors in charge (part of our friend, Dr. Juan Padilla's group). Then four Haitian men grabbed the carpet beneath her and helped us carry her into a triage tent set up by the United Nations troops.

Debbie quickly explained her diagnosis of what she had learned so far, and two nurses and Dr. McDougal began to treat her. Her blood pressure would not register, and they could not find a vein in her arm to start an IV. They quickly located a vein in her neck, and started her on saline solution, a strong antibiotic and something for pain. Because we had to bring the group from Middletown back to Santiago, we were forced to return to Ouanaminthe. At this moment, I do not even know if our friend lived through the night. I can only hope and pray so. But this one thing I do know. We did everything possible to give this child of God the opportunity that she deserved to receive such love, care and compassion. And if she dies, we gave to her the dignity of a hospital bed to die in and wonderful doctors and nurses to care for her as she walks into eternity.

Aslan has been ready for almost a year to build a clinic and hospital. Our only obstacle is the funds with which to begin construction. Thanks to an outpouring of gifts for our Haiti Relief Fund, we are closer than ever to begin laying the foundation for our medical center. Your prayers and your gifts will make the difference! With proper funding, this clinic and hospital can be built and operational within two years! I just received a notice that the IRS has decided all gifts given for Haiti before February 28 through a recognized 501(c)(3) organization will still be deductible on your 2009 tax statement (as long as you itemize deductions). What an opportunity you have. Rather than carrying this poor, sweet mother some 20 miles away, we would have been able to treat her long before this infection began raging through her body. One More Life . . . One More Day.

Craig Bogard
(Submitted by Gary Kochman)

R.I.S.E. 2010

Middletown UMC will again be sending 3 teams to RISE during the summer of 2010. We are tentatively signed up for the week of July 11-17th (this won't be confirmed until March, though). Registration forms will first be sent to those who attended last year then open to other Senior High involved in Sunday School or UMYF. Cost to attend is \$175 per person. Registration forms will be mailed shortly after January 1st. Please be on the lookout. For more information or any questions, please call Janet or Gerry Ferrara at 732-706-0819.

ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 3, 2010

The Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held at the Middletown United Methodist Church on Saturday, April 3, 2010 from 11:00am - 12:00pm. All children ages 2-8 are invited to attend and participate. Parents or Grandparents must accompany their children at all times.

The Hunt will be held on the Church lawn. In the event of rain or inclement weather, the hunt will be held indoors. All children of the community are invited to come. There will be a Program & Snacks. Mark your calendar now! For any questions or more information, please call Eleanor Collier at (732) 942-8597.