## Bringing Light to Northern Haiti



# Haitian Christian Ministries May Issue - 2020

Preaching and teaching the Word of God

**Planting Churches** 

Meeting the Physical Needs of the People

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# Susanne – our Superstar Nurse

This month we wanted to highlight the medical clinic at Pillatre and one of our amazing staff members, Melus Pierre Marie-Susanne. Susanne has been a nurse for 24 years and got her training at Justinien University of Medicine in Cap Haitian,



Haiti. She started working at the clinic in Pillatre in 2000, making her a long-time employee of the clinic. Susanne has many responsibilities at the clinic. Many of us lovingly refer to her as "The Boss" because no matter the question, or situation, she knows the answer.

Some of her responsibilities include making sure the clinic passes inspections by the Haitian Board of Health. Much like the US, patient records need to be kept, the pharmacy needs to have key medications stocked at all times, and the lab needs to pass unannounced inspections. Susanne makes sure that the clinic is ready at any time and ready to pass the inspections. This past year the clinic received outstanding scores from the Board of

Health. The recognition included a financial award that has been shared with the staff and used to make updates to the lab.

Susanne's favorite part of her job, like most nurses, is the part that includes patient care, especially the smallest of her patients, the children. She provides all the care to

expectant mothers, ordering routine blood work, Ultra sounds, HIV tests, teaching them about proper nutrition and good food hygiene, monitoring their vital signs and fetal heart tones, providing antibiotics for any infections, iron for anemia and vitamins to ensure that a healthy child is

born. She also provides all the vaccinations for the children and infants in the community. All children are vaccinated for diphtheria, whooping cough, measles, type B influenza, rotavirus, and tetanus.

Most women in the community of Pillatre deliver their babies at home with a midwife, with a few delivering in hospitals. The care they receive in the clinic is so important and ensures that Moms and babies stay healthy throughout their pregnancies and after their birth.

The clinic at Pillatre has remained open and busy during this COVID 19 crisis. Many hospitals and clinics in Haiti have shut down due to lack of





supplies and funding. Our clinic continues to function and provide care in these challenging times. We have secured personal protective equipment for our staff and have shipped medication from the US to make sure that the clinic is able to function.

Each patient that is able, pays 30 Haitian Goudes for their care in the clinic. That is the US equivalent of 30 cents. For that small charge, they see Dr. Evans or Susanne, have any necessary lab work done, and receive any recommended medication that is in stock in the clinic. Medication in Haiti is similar in cost to what it is in the US. Therefore, the small amount paid by the patient does not even begin to cover the cost of their care. Because of the generous support of those who give to HCM, the clinic at Pillatre is able to provide lifesaving and life changing treatment. The clinic at Pillatre is blessed to have all of our amazing staff as employees but, this month, we wanted to say a special thank you to Nurse Susanne "The Boss" for the amazing job she is doing!

# Food Distribution - From Pastor Bob

As of May 12<sup>th,</sup> there are 209 total confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Haiti with 16 deaths and 17 recoveries. In this time of crisis, each of God's leaders or people might ask themselves, "How is God calling me to serve?"



There are so many tangible needs in our communities. There are so many inconveniences, challenges, and frustrations in times like these, but God always makes a way to prove his love.

On May 4, after preparing our team to share the food bought for the kids at the Pillatre school, with their families, more than 3,000 people showed up. After determining God's desire in the situation, we were able to serve 1,300

parents and 800 individuals and families in the community. I observed some angry and hungry faces when people first arrived and excited faces after being served. They were praising God for the gift of meals. Praise God everything went well!

As Christians, I think we need to reach out in tangible ways to let the impoverished ones know that they are not alone. Even in times of social distancing, we can safely reach out in mercy and love.

Dear supporters, God is calling us to be a blessing and, most importantly, to provide hope to those who are fearful and in need. Keep this in mind "When we serve others, we are showing them a sign of love". I believe in this time of crisis; God is at work in each of us.



"Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward them for what they have done." Proverbs 19:17

Thus, let us keep praying for those suffering from the coronavirus, those seeking a vaccine, those who are dying of hunger and tuberculosis, and all others who serve in these times.