

David Way and his goddaughter Estè. David arranged a party for Estè's 5th birthday. Kids were everywhere! Estè is the daughter of Guinel and Anid. Guinel is the village leader and church deacon.

# Ties That Bind...



Jeff Becker and his goddaughter Chrisianna. She told her dad, Pastor Gerguens, "I'm getting bigger. I don't cry anymore when I sit on my god daddy's lan"



Shared intensity. Jeff Becker and Patrick (our operations manager) having a great time on the boat to La Gonave.



Dear Friends,

... and in Him all things hold together

Haiti is not a very comfortable place.

Heat. Germs. Dirt. Bugs. Noise. But don't sweat the small stuff, right?

In June, leaders from God's Mercy to Haiti (U.S.) David Way, Jeff Becker, and I, travelled to Haiti to spend time with our Haitian leadership team.

Our purpose was simple. Strengthen the bonds between us. Thankfully, God had more in mind.

His first lesson for us... comfort is relative.

Escalating gang violence had altered our transportation plans. Guinel, the village leader, wisely arranged our transport to the village in a police vehicle. This is a stark contrast from previous trips where ladies and teens rode without fear to the village in an open Haitian tap-tap (Haitian taxi).

Unless you ask him to paint something, David seems comfortable anywhere. Whether a Colorado 14er in a blizzard, or in a sweltering Haitian hut. Jeff Becker and me... not so much.

Don't let anyone tell you 95 degrees in Iowa feels like 95 degrees in Haiti. Not even close. Spending our nights in the village was like sleeping in a pizza oven. I couldn't tell if I was sweating or if bugs were crawling all over me. Haitian roosters can't tell the difference between 3am and 7am. And cockroaches never sleep. Don't ask.

That morning we were gathered around the table lamenting our "harsh conditions" when Jeff Becker got a text message from a friend in the States. He shared these words...

When we share the gospel with others, our love must be like Jesus – willingly giving up our own comfort and security so that others might join us in receiving God's love.

That was a wake-up call.

Haiti is not a very comfortable place for Americans. But our "discomforts" in Haiti are mild when compared to their hunger and oppression. Our Haitian friends gain spiritual strength from fighting these physical and mental battles. God gave us perspective through our discomfort.

When discomfort is not shirked, but rather understood as a blessing from God, it opens the heart to the Holy Spirit. To accept discomfort is to learn determination. It's not easy. But this determination to fight for Christ and His gospel becomes our joy!

God's lesson was clear. Spiritual leaders must be bound to their people the very same way Christ bound Himself to His people. Through love and sacrifice.

God sure knows how to teach the gospel.

It was an unforgettable week. Thanks to Jeff and David for making the trip, and being a blessing to so many. And thanks be to God for strengthening *all our bonds of love* - through all our joys and discomforts.













### The School of the God of Perfection Graduation Day!

In June our kindergartners and 6th graders graduated. What a joyous day! This was our first 6th grade graduation since our school began 6 years ago. Our staff, and Jacelyn our principal, did an outstanding job. We thank God for those who have faithfully blessed these children through the years. We pray for their future.



#### Our Greatest Bond... Our Union with Christ!

The Church of the God of Perfection is strengthened by our participation with Christ in His sacrament. His sacrifice for us -our faith in Him- form our sacred bond. We are forever grateful for His covenant. Life is hard in Kilbitè. But Jesus is our Hope. And we will continue to proclaim Him until He returns.

Christ prepared the table. The Church of the God of Perfection is strengthened in our participation with Him through His sacrament. His sacrifice for us -our faith in Him- form our sacred bond. We are forever grateful for His covenant.



#### \$87 for 87... Getting Closer...

Our annual fundraiser for uniforms and curriculum is almost complete. Our 87 students need just \$87 from 87 folks and school will be ready. We only need 25 more donations of \$87. Please help our kids! Thanks to all of you who donated. 100% of your gift goes directly to our kids. Be the one that puts us over the top!

## Jesus...We believe you!





#### The Church of the God of Perfection - proclaiming the cross of Christ. Amen!

Last January we raised the cross of Christ on our church building. That very day God crushed a local voodoo cross with a huge mango tree. It's great to see our faith win a cultural victory. Christ is indeed with us!

Whether we are feeding, building, teaching, worshipping, no matter what... Christ and the message of His cross will always be the center of what we believe, say, and do. Thank You Lord! To God be the glory!

GOD'S MERCY