



Update – November 12, 2010

Listening to God

Remember those Indian trackers who helped the white settlers, tracking wild game... or fugitives. How did they do that? Why is it they were able to see, hear, or smell what others couldn't? Their senses had been trained to detect what others ignored.

While in Texas, on my first walk through the woods, I saw an armadillo. Every day that I got to walk there over the next few weeks, I hoped to see another one, so I kept looking and listening. By the end of my time there I could walk through those woods and hear and catch glimpses of those armadillos on a regular basis. Now armadillos aren't the most subtle of creatures – they don't seem to much care if you hear and see them, but still, in the beginning I was totally oblivious to them.

Can you hear God? Some people can. Is He trying to communicate with you and me? Can only some people hear Him? Is it just that we haven't trained ourselves to hear Him? It's very difficult in our fast paced world to "be still and know that I am God" (Ps 46:10) isn't it? I've been challenged to seek to walk closer to God, to listen for His word to me, as I pray, read the Bible, and quietly wait on Him. How about you?

Gateway, continued...

So, I'm back home in Jonesboro, GA now. With the last update I left off in the midst of my fourth week of the Gateway training program at the Mercy Ships International Operations Center (IOC) in Texas where my classmates and I were undergoing our week of Basic Safety Training. The last few days of that week were focused on Personal Survival Techniques and Water Survival. On that following Saturday we all went to the pool at a local college for our practical exercises – what fun! Getting into the Immersion ("Gumby") suits within the 2 minutes allowed is quite challenging, as is maneuvering about in the water while wearing them. Then there's the getting of everyone in your group into the life raft (we did that both in the Gumby suits and with life vests). Finally, we each took a turn righting the 12 man life raft...



Yep, that's me!



Pulling that raft with all my might!

Our two week field service in Haiti was hard... but good! We began the time there by “kidnapping” a German short-term missionary who we found out the next day was actually bound for a different ‘Mission of Hope Haiti’! She got a ride to her correct destination the next day with tearful good-byes all around. Once we loaded on the school bus sent to pick us up at the airport, we found the battery was dead, so we began our adventure by having our bus “jumped” by a vehicle from another ministry.



Getting the bus going



Home sweet home

What was it like in Haiti? HOT! Heartbreaking to see so many living in the acres and acres of tent cities. Heartwarming to see the smiles of the children at the Mission of Hope school and orphanage. Encouraging to see and hear the Christians worshipping at the Church of Hope and praying fervently for their needs. Fulfilling to see a young man working with us to paint his newly constructed two room house, for which he was very grateful.



Tents as far as the eye can see



Evidence of the earthquake

What did we do in Haiti? PAINTED... a lot! We painted the homes at the new Hope Village into which the children of the orphanage expect to move this month. We painted a new classroom building at the school where there will be science and computer labs. And we painted the new home for Gabi, his wife, and 3 children. We set up a medical ward in anticipation of a possible need during the Cholera outbreak (which, fortunately we didn't need). We played with the kids, both at the Mission of Hope and at a couple of orphanages in the area. We moved stuff around... beds and bookshelves in the new Hope Village; personal belongings which had just arrived for one of the long term missionaries at Mission of Hope; outdated materials that needed to go to the burn pile; lumber and metal roofing material. We cut grass with machetes, cleared out big rocks, and generally made the spaces between buildings of the new Village of Hope better to be used as a play area. We worshipped and praised and encouraged one another and the Mission of Hope staff. Our nurses helped take care of emergency cases at the clinic, as well as the rest of us when we succumbed to the heat and fatigue.



Cuddling the kids



Painting... again!

We were all glad to get back to the IOC... cooler temperatures, hot water, ice, more personal space, people who speak English. But, we left a little bit of our hearts in Haiti. Please pray for the people of this country.

Support Update

I have been truly blessed to receive the funds I have needed to serve on the *Africa Mercy* this summer, as well as to attend the Gateway training program. Thank you for your contributions as well as your prayers.

Currently I have about 60% of my support budget for the coming year. Please pray with me that the remaining support need will be forthcoming. Contributions can be made online at:

<https://connect.mercyships.org/page/outreach/view/crewmates/juarezc>

or by sending a check made out to **Mercy Ships** with my Designation Code **#2793** (not my name) in the memo line to:

Mercy Ships
Crewmates
P.O. Box 2020
Garden Valley, TX 75771

And always, your prayers for Mercy Ships and for me as we go out to serve the forgotten poor through hope and healing are necessary and gratefully received.

God bless you!

Claudia

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Note: If you'd prefer not to receive these updates, rather get them at a different email address, or know of someone else who'd like to receive them, just let me know! Feel free to pass this on to others who might be interested, too.

If you're new to this email list, you can also find my previous Newsletters and Updates on my website: www.hisfamily.com.