



# Partners in Development

Summer Edition

July 2019



Sandra, Abdias and Nora return to Haiti

## To Haiti and Back

Dear PID Family,

I can't explain in words how much it means to me to be back in Haiti. Abdias, Nora, and I were evacuated to the United States back in February; and although that instability is still present, we are all back in Haiti as of early June!

Coming back to Haiti, the first emotions I felt were joy and relief at being back in Haiti even before the plane landed – seeing the sun shining through the windows of the airplane, over the mountains and houses, then, later hearing the chatter of Creole in the airport, Haitian people joking and smiling with each other.

After Nora and I found Abdias at the airport, we had to come back a few days later to get my checked bag. Retrieving it from the cargo warehouse, the customs officers teased us before giving the bag back- asking about our marriage, my funny Creole, and urging us to stay safe on the streets since another demonstration was set to start soon. They finally bid us goodbye, as if we had been lunch guests at their home. Getting into the car, I told Abdias, "This is why I love Haiti." He looked at me strangely and asked, "Because your bags got delayed?" "No," I said, "because people are so human here." What I mean is that in Haiti, people stay *people* in each other's' eyes, no matter what. Humor and laughter are used as a tool to disarm frustration, fear and grief. Music, spiritual hope, and food are ways to build each other up through the hardships of life in Haiti. (Continued on page 3)

## DULCE : A PID SUCCESS STORY



First of all, I would like to thank God for giving me the opportunity of getting to know people with big hearts, like the people from PID, because thanks to them I was able to continue with my education.

They have supported me since I entered into the Child Sponsorship program at twelve years old; I have had their support ever since. Thanks to the Child Sponsorship program, I was able to continue through middle school and high school and graduated as a kindergarten teacher.

Dulce in 2012

I was able to go to University to continue my education. At that time, I got married and had my kids; and at one point, I felt that I was not going be able to finish my school. But PID continued to support me; and even when it felt like it was a long journey, I was able to do it thanks to the support. ( Continued on page 2)

## Thank you to our Sponsors

We would like to take a moment to thank all of our child sponsors who have been so understanding and supportive of the recent increase in our Child Sponsorship Program. **Here at PID, we have always strived to allow donors of all income levels to participate in our programs. We appreciate all of our donors, at all levels, and could not do what we do without them.**

That said, we would like to give a special thank you to those who have called, emailed, and written to us to increase their monthly donations. Prices are increasing all over the world, and we know that the extra commitment is not made lightly.

Thank you for your continued support of PID and those living in extreme poverty.

If you would like to sponsor a child through Partners In Development, please visit our website at [www.pidonline.org](http://www.pidonline.org) and click on "Be A Sponsor" to learn more.

**Looking for Volunteers** Our Annual Benefit auction is coming up in October. We are looking for dedicated volunteers to help us source auction items and plan our biggest event of the year!

We've changed our website! Check out our newly designed website at [www.pidonline.org](http://www.pidonline.org)

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## Dulce

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It has been rough at times, but I have always felt Gale and Tali's support because they have walked this journey by my side.

Without their support I would have not been able to accomplish my dreams.

I'm also very thankful to my husband because he has always been very supportive and has encouraged me to finish school. He has told me that to reach our dreams could be tough, but not impossible.

And now I can tell you that dreams come true when you pursue it because on June 12, 2019 I passed my final test to be a Middle School teacher!

This degree that I got is very important for all of my family, but mostly for me, because this just encourages me to continue with my education to a higher level.

I pray to God that next November I can finish my major on School Administration and qualify management.

I would like to thank God one more time for allowing all the support that PID has given to me during this time.

I will always be grateful with all the people that belongs to PID.

God Bless you all!



Dulce on June 12, 2019 after she passed her exam to become a middle school teacher!!

- Dulce

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## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MISSISSIPPI



**HOUSES #1 and #2: Lady and Pearlie continue to enjoy their PID houses**



**HOUSE #3: Yolanda's girls enjoying their gorgeous new home**



**HOUSE #4: Framing has gone up! on HOUSE #4**

PID'S affordable housing program in Mississippi is expanding. A special thank you to The First Bank of Ipswich and Hope Credit Union of MS for helping us keep costs low and houses affordable for people in our program.

We'd also like to give special recognition and congratulations to the 3rd graders in our program who (once again!) passed their state exams! They are now enjoying our summer program by swimming, doing computer games, reading, and playing games. Our amazing Mississippi staff have been donating extra hours everyday, so the kids can spend more time playing everyday.

We are happy to announce that we will be having two health fairs every year for Glendora and the surrounding areas in our health center. Thank you to our partners: the Town of Glendora, GEDCO, and U Mass Dartmouth. Thank you to Johnny B. Thomas for letting PID use the building and arranging to put on a new roof.

***My kids are so much happier when they get off the bus, and the girls have been excited about cleaning the kitchen. They are all being super clean, which makes me know that they are taking pride in our home. "***

**-YOLANDA**

## Report from the Department of Social Justice

Part of the work of PID's Department of History and Social Justice is to maintain contacts and relationships with social justice theorists and activists indigenous to the areas in which PID operates. This network includes diaspora communities within the US. Lately, I have been working with a community of Haitian scholars and activists, who struggle for a more democratic and economically just society in Haiti. It is important to listen closely to these groups to gain perspective on how we, as US members of the PID community, can use our citizenship to promote social justice for those who cope daily with extreme poverty in Haiti, Guatemala, Peru, and the Mississippi Delta. For example, our social justice partners from the Haitian community ask us now to be mindful of the historical and international dimensions of the current crisis. These advocates stress that American media, when they do cover Haiti, depict the current situation as a symptom of only corrupt Haitian government and miss the greater framework of oppressive international institutions and self-serving foreign actors that promote the inequity and enable the exploitive relationships on the national level.

For example, the protests that have rocked Haiti since last November (and redirected our service teams to other regions!), targeted a government mandate to increase fuel prices, which affect commodity costs at all levels. This move exposed government theft of billions of dollars ear-

marked for social programs and such subsidies. But the increase in gas prices reflected a directive from the International Monetary Fund to cut social subsidies (an unfortunate historical pattern of IMF demands on developing countries with IMF loans—a pattern that supports foreign capital and large scale projects, which benefit global and national elite and marginalize the poorest of the poor). Moreover, the creative kleptomania of the Moise government and that of its benefactor predecessor, Martelly, never would have gained power without US complicity disenfranchising seventy percent of the Haitian electorate (Parti Fammi Lavalas) and manipulating run off results to favor candidates friendly to US business interests.

At times, our government and corporations promote democracy and justice in the world. When they do, we encourage them. When they do not, we speak truth to power. And we try to direct them to more humane and just policies. To do both, we substantiate our analysis with perspectives of scholars and activists from the regions in which PID works. This fall, PID's Department of History and Social Justice will offer both an online journal and revolving four week courses for PID supporters interested in learning the histories of Haiti, Guatemala, Peru, and the Mississippi Delta from a social justice perspective and serving as social justice advocates for these regions. To learn more, contact James Hull at [james@pidonline.org](mailto:james@pidonline.org).

**TO HAITI AND BACK (continued from Page 1)** I can't write about these aspects of Haiti and the Haitian people without crying. In part they are tears of relief because I am glad to be back, but partially they are tears of sadness because Abdias and I have decided to move to the United States after my contract with PID ends this Fall. It hurts to know that in the future, when I get on the plane to Haiti, it will be as a visitor, not as a resident of such an incredible country. We know it's not a final goodbye. We've built our lives here for more than 5 years, and we will come back as much as we can. Abdias, Nora and I cannot adequately thank our Haitian coworkers, the American teams, and the PID staff in the United States for these wonderful years as part of PID. We are excited about the next chapter and are trusting God for the right jobs and the right timing for a big international move and everything that it entails.

With much love from Haiti,  
Abdias, Sandra and Nora

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## **CRISIS IN HAITI** by Charlotte Emery

Haiti is in crisis. The last ten months have brought increasing civil unrest and widespread protests. In July 2018, a 40% rise in fuel prices sparked demonstrations, and by October the first clashes were reported. Frustration over corruption, inflation, and failed government promises of change came to a head on February 7, 2019, when protestors marched on the presidential palace, demanding the resignation of the President. This marked the beginning of a nine-day lockdown, wherein security quickly deteriorated. Nearly all public services were shut down at this time, including about 95% of clinics and hospitals in Port-au-Prince, with the majority never opening again after. Those remaining are forced to close more and more often, with employees unwilling or unable to get to work due to dangerous roadblocks, volatile demonstrations, and a general increase in violent crime. The climate in Haiti is expected to remain volatile.

The civil unrest has left the Haitian population extremely vulnerable. With violent demonstrations in the street and unpredictable protestors, most people are confined to their homes for fear of their safety. Those who can make it to the stores find mostly empty shelves and prices increased by over 50%. Emergency response, including ambulance service, is virtually nonexistent. Food, water, and medicine are scarcely accessible. Roadblocks and violence make it impossible for patients to get to the few medical facilities that are still open. Many choose not to seek medical attention for fear of encountering looters, violent protestors, or gangs.

With government services out of commission, the people of Haiti must look to outside organizations for help. Patients in need of emergency surgery, mothers with complicated pregnancies, and children and elderly citizens in need of medications are all in desperate need of help, and for many, we are their only hope.

Our Assistant Director, Tali Marcelin, recalls the heartbreaking words of Islanda, a mother of four living in Cite Soleil, the poorest slum in Haiti. "We are crying out for help, but who hears us? No one. We are screaming for help in the dark. There is no water, no food, no medical supplies, no assistance, no security, and no hospitals after the country went into lockdown. We are surviving day to day and thank God for each new day He gives us."

Our clinic continues to remain open most days, depending on the violence in the streets and our employees' ability to get to work. Our American field director has been evacuated to the U.S., but the Haitian staff continues to work hard to provide our regular services, refilling prescriptions, giving out OTC medications, and doing wound care. They are doing an incredible job of keeping things going, but it is increasingly difficult.

The civil unrest has caused undue financial stress on many organizations which have worked in Haiti for years, including PID. Over half of PID's funding for our clinics comes from the teams that travel with us. Early this year, the U.S. State Department raised the travel warning for Haiti to Level 4, and all non-emergency persons were forced to evacuate. Our last team traveled to Haiti on February 3. This was the last time we were able to bring down medical supplies. Every day we see the line outside the clinic grow longer with people in desperate need of our help. As one of the very few clinics still open in the country, our patient load has more than doubled. (continued on page 4) Our doctor is only able to see 63 patients a day, with children and emergency cases treated first. We see another 60 or so patients between prenatal care, wound care, and diabetic/hypertensive and sickle cell patients. We currently have 300 to 350 patients showing up every day, and that number continues to increase. They start lining up at the gate at 3:00 am, waiting to get a number. (continued on page 4)

***"We are crying out for help, but who hears us? No one. We are screaming for help in the dark. There is no water, no food, no medical supplies, no assistance, no security, and no hospitals after the country went into lockdown."***

***ISLANDA from Cite Soliel***

**HAITI CRISIS ( CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)** Our doctor is only able to see 63 patients a day, with children and emergency cases treated first. We see another 60 patients or so between prenatal care, wound care, and diabetic/hypertensive and sickle cell patients. We currently have around 300 to 350 patients showing up every day, and that number continues to increase. They start lining up at the gate at 3:00 am, waiting to get a number.

Our hearts break as we are forced to turn people away at the door, as our clinic is just not capable of handling the patient load. Our limited staff and dwindling supplies further constrains our ability to help those who so desperately need us. Team travel has been shut down for an indefinite period, and with it goes half of the funds we rely on to keep our clinic up and running, as well as the medications and supplies that the teams would bring with them. All licenses to organizations that ship duty free have now been revoked by the government. Subsequently, one of our partners, which so generously provided us with approximately \$100,000 of medicine a year, is no longer able to ship to the clinic.

Our dedicated staff works tirelessly every day to continue to provide urgently needed services. The unfortunate reality is that we are looking at potentially having to close the clinic if things do not change in Haiti. With team travel suspended indefinitely, we are actively looking for new funding sources to compensate for the detrimental loss. We are checking with all our donors to see if they are able to help in this critical time. As Haiti remains in crisis with no foreseeable end, we graciously ask for your help in keeping our clinic open. Every day countless Haitians are suffering unnecessarily. They come to us in need, with nowhere else to turn, and we shudder to think what would happen if we were forced to close our doors. Please, help us in our mission to help those who need it most.

**Please consider a donation to our medical fund. Any amount will help greatly.**



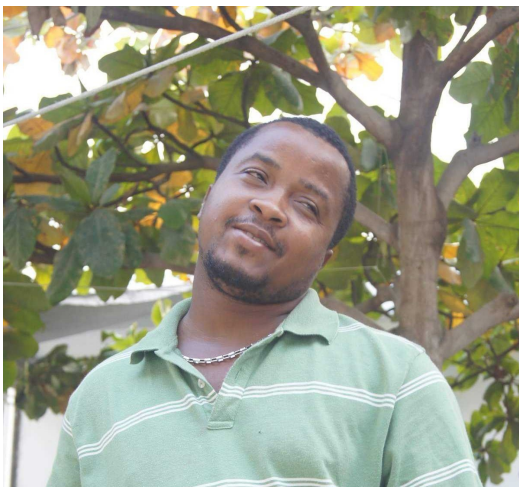
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Please pray for Pouchon

\*photo by Kate Peterson

### **Prayers for Pouchon: A Glimpse into Healthcare in Haiti**

Pouchon is a Director for PID in Haiti. Since late April, he has been suffering with extreme pain and requires immediate surgery. After making the 1.5 hour long journey to a hospital in Mirebalais, he was turned away. There was no one there to help him. Due to the unrest Haiti faces, no doctors will travel from the United States.

Pouchon then went to a hospital in Pignon (this time, a 3-4 hour drive). There, he can get the surgery, but at a cost of \$2300 USD – a price impossible to all but the richest Haitians. Pouchon is lucky, as he can get a loan from to PID pay for his surgery. In order to save money on transportation

to the hospital, Pouchon decided to check hospitals more local to Port-au-Prince. Thankfully, one of these hospitals had a doctor who could perform the surgery.

Finally, after months of living in extreme pain and agony, the day of the surgery arrived. Pouchon went to the hospital and was told that the doctor was not there. Because of unrest in the area, the doctor could not get to the hospital that day. This routine of scheduling his surgery and then arriving at the hospital, only to have the doctor not show up, happened FOUR times. The last time, Pouchon decided to check himself into the hospital and wait. With chaos in the streets, Pouchon figured he was safer in the hospital; and with a little luck, maybe the doctor would show up.

After three days in the hospital, and despite his medical condition, Pouchon was forced to leave. Now, Pouchon believes the doctor has left the country, as he cannot get him on the phone. As I am writing this, Pouchon is traveling the 4 hours back to Pignon, with a promise that the doctor will arrive on Saturday. This whole time, Pouchon has been suffering as he waits for a routine surgery for which no American would wait more than a day or two.

The issues of healthcare in Haiti go far beyond availability of the right doctor, the exorbitant healthcare costs and the ability to find a hospital open during unrest. For those in urgent need of care, the time and costs of transportation to and from hospitals, only to be turned away, only worsens the plight of Haitians trying to survive in these troubled times.