

Haiti

2003

Bonne Fin



Haiti

- Official name: Republic of Haiti
- Language: French Creole
- Capitol: Port-au-Prince
- Population: 7,200,000
- Area: 10,641 sq miles
- Currency: Gourde



Our team consisted of 14 volunteers, all with varying backgrounds.





Haiti is a very mountainous land that was once very green and lush. It has been deforested and is now rocky and barren in many parts.

A beautiful view of the coastline from the airplane before we landed in Port-au-Prince.





Port-au-Prince is never quiet! The streets are always filled with people and cars. Many vendors sell their wares along the sidewalks.



Many of the streets are filled with rubbish. Often, kids play on the trash piles and goats roam around looking for something to eat.



Most Haitians can't afford a car. They hitch a ride on whatever they can find. The truck below is loaded with charcoal and people still ride on top while traveling mountain roads.

A lot of the patients that came to see us would ride for several hours in trucks like the one above. Often, they put 15-20 people in the back.



Hopital Lumiere

- The name means Hospital of Light.
- It is a mission hospital on the side of a mountain.
- We saw 800-900 patients in 4 days.
- Everyone got glasses or eye drops.
- Everyone also got a book explaining the Gospel.

Mary Davis, the wife of a missionary doctor, helped our patients get organized into a line and get their tickets filled out with their name and age.



Christie spent the week doing case histories, finding out what each patient's main eye problem was. She also took the money as they came to the clinic.



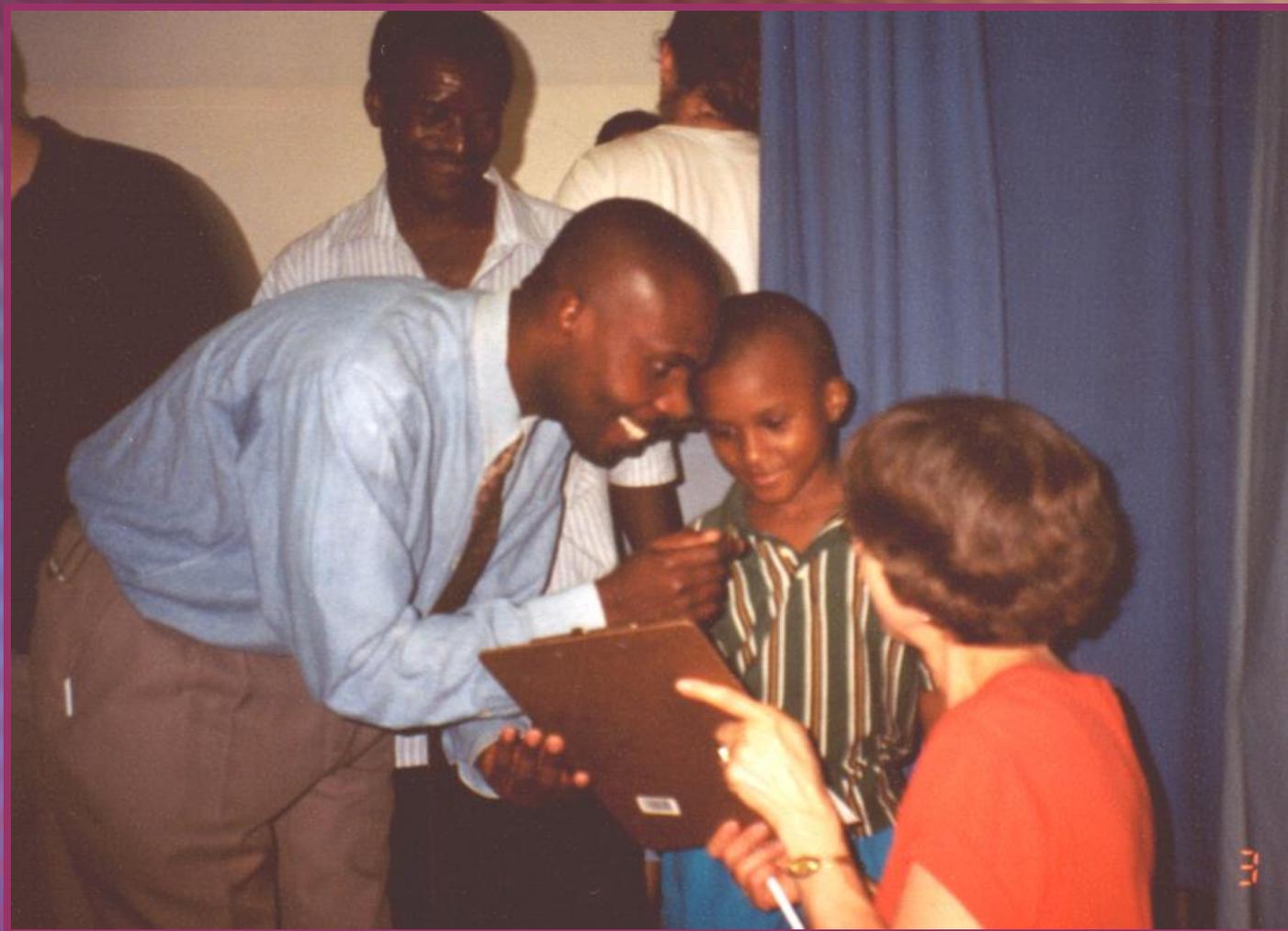


Nancy did visual acuities to measure everyone's vision. Here she is seeing how well they see when looking far away. This is one way we tell if a patient needs glasses.

Here, Lisa is measuring how well this woman can see while she is looking up close. This tells us if she might need reading glasses.



Nancy and Jonel, our translator, are trying to explain to this young boy that he needs to tell them what way the letter “E” is pointing. That is how they measure near vision.





Jon, Deb, and Ann are measuring these patients to see if they need glasses. A light shines toward the patient's eye and we can tell if they need glasses based on how the reflected light looks.



Ann is looking at the health of this man's eye. She is looking for signs of diseases like diabetes, high blood pressure and glaucoma.

Gretchen is using an automated device to check the pressure in this woman's eye. She had glaucoma and we were able to give her some medicine and refer her to an ophthalmologist where she can get more treatment.





Jon and Ann are examining a patient with an eye infection. It worked out well for the students and the patients because we saw eye diseases that aren't common in the US and they got treatment because we were there.

Maribeth is explaining to this patient the proper way to use the eye drops.



Andy was in charge of maintaining the inventory of glasses and finding the prescription that worked the best for each patient, based on what the doctors thought. He had a book that listed every pair of glasses that we had with us.





Each pair of glasses had a number and it was Brian's job to look for the numbers that Andy determined would be best for each patient. The glasses were all cleaned, sorted and labeled back in the US. We carried them down with us in our suitcases.

Rob helped the patients that only needed reading glasses. He helped them find the right pair and then explained how to use them.



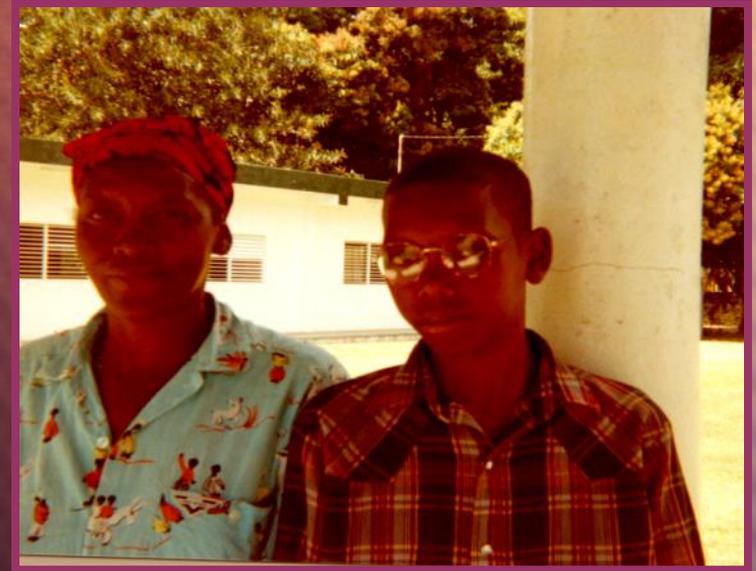
This was the first pair of glasses for many Haitians and they were excited to be able to read and sew!



Doug worked in the dispensary and adjusted the glasses to fit each person.

He was able to see many satisfied patients as they left with big smiles on their faces!





These two children were able to get glasses to help them in school. Although they don't look like it, they really were very excited that we could help them.



This man had cataract surgery many years ago and never had a lens put in his eye. He could only see things clearly when he held them 4 inches from his eye. He was thrilled to finally be able to read his watch with his new glasses!

We had the opportunity to worship at a local church. Although we spoke a different language, we could understand the message of God's love that was conveyed.



Jon, Gretchen and Nancy among a group of kids at the orphanage we visited while in Port-au-Prince.





Jon is drinking coconut milk, while the man behind him used a machete to break open the tough shells so we could all try it.

Can you find the man getting us fresh coconuts?





On our last night in Haiti, we stayed at a guest house that was run by Americans. It had a wonderful swimming pool that we all enjoyed. It was a treat to get “American” food again!

