

Nehemiah's Voice

DECEMBER 2011

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 12

Many Blessings As Another Year Ends

by Kevin T. Emerson, NVM Communications



The new Administration Building is finished and was dedicated on December 15.



A look inside the new Administration Building.



Brandon and Katie Hutchens have taken over as Mission Coordinators in Haiti.



The kids at the Nehemiah Children's Home are growing and ready to move to their new home soon.

As another year comes to a close, we reflect on all the things God has done at NVM over the last year. There were two tragedies on campus, but far more blessings than most would ever realize.

Buildings have been opened, hundreds of volunteers have come and gone, our year-long missionaries have been rotated home, the school and church have continued to grow. So many blessings God has bestowed on NVM!

In January, Jay & Amy Shultz moved to campus to join the Elliotts and our two nurses Aubree Dell and Kacie Davis, as on the ground missionaries.

In April, thanks to the work of Vineyard Mercy Response, the new volunteer portion of campus was dedicated, allowing up to 150 people to stay overnight and dine on campus. This move allowed the old dining hall to eventually become the temporary church, as the congregation had out grown the first building and had been meeting in tents. Vineyard also provided a new generator powerful enough to provide electricity to the entire campus.

Construction also began on the new children's home, which is nearing completion. May also saw the arrival of Jim & Cheryl Warner and two of their girls as GAIN USA missionaries.

June brought a tragedy, as Jay Shultz was involved in a serious accident with the gator. Jay broke several ribs and his back leaving him paralyzed from the waist down.

In July we bid farewell to nurse Kacie Davis, as she completed her year in Haiti. Aubree Dell decided to stay

another year and has been joined by E'Tienne York and Brooke Smalley.

September brought Adam Burgraaf to campus as Jay's replacement in the operations of campus and also another tragedy as one of our security guards was struck and killed by lightning.

November brought Brandon and Katie Hutchens to Chambrun as the replacements for the Elliott Family, who headed back home to Indiana.

In the past, the operation of the NVM ministry was conducted out of 3 small offices. We officially moved into our new office building! Construction of this building started only 6 months ago which is very quick by Haiti standards. Pastor Pierre had made the quick completion of the new office building a high priority. We will now operate out of a 3500 square foot building. A wonderful new phone system was donated and internet access is better than ever. Many thanks to Steve and Jake.

During the dedication celebration on December 15th we started outside with a time of prayer and ribbon cutting. We then moved inside for a short praise service and a few words of encouragement from Pastor Pierre. Those involved in the construction and opening of the building were recognized. We then let the staff tour the building and provided them with food and drinks. It was a grand time for everyone!

We are very grateful for this new facility. God is good and the building will be used for his glory and to expand his kingdom in this part of Haiti. Come down and take a tour sometime soon!

Employee Spotlight: Jolina Désir

by Jim & Cheryl Warner, GAIN USA Missionaries



Jolina works as part of the kitchen staff in the dining hall.



Aubree & Jolina enjoy time together in the village.



It's hard not to find a smile on Jolina's face!



Charlie Becker loved traveling to NVM to work for the Lord.

We want to tell you about an exceptional young lady. Her name is Jolina Desir. Jolina is 23 years old and lives in the community of Chambrun just a 1/2 mile from the NVM compound. She is one of the most cheerful people we know in Haiti. Jolina is actively working on her English and is currently in Jim's ESL class. She is learning quickly! Like many others in Chambrun, she only has a 6th grade level of education.

Jolina was born in this community and has lived there her entire life. In fact, she has only ventured out of the immediate area once. Port-au-Prince is only 15 miles from her home and she has only been there on one occasion. That was this summer when Pastor Pierre took a group of young people on a tour of the city and to his home for Cheryl's birthday party.

Jolina lives with her mother, two brothers and two sisters. Her father was killed by robbers when she was only 12. So at her young age she is actively involved in caring for and supporting her family. Jolina is employed by NVM and serves as one of the staff cooks. She earns approximately \$50.00 per month. She prepares meals for the Haitian staff, the US staff and for the mission teams who are visiting the compound. She has also gone through the jewelry making class taught by Cheryl and is

doing very well making and selling beaded jewelry. She uses the income from these two opportunities to support her entire family. She also raises pigeons and goats so her family can eat the pigeon eggs and the pigeon and goat meat. Jolina receives Global Aid Network's donations of rice and beans often which is a blessing for her, as it helps to supplement her need to buy food for her family. She says she knows God is watching over her family when she receives extra help.

Jolina accepted Jesus into her life when she was a young teen. Since then she has become a leader in the NVM church. She works with the youth, and helps with communion and offering in the church. She has come so far in her leadership abilities over the past two years. Currently her other family members are not Christians so we are praying with her for their salvation. Jolina just recently gave her testimony for the very first time to a group of ladies in the beading class. This was a great step of faith for her.

It has been a joy getting to know Jolina. We ask you to pray for her and her family. Pray that God uses her in a great way and that her family comes to know the Lord through her walk with Him

In Memory: Charlie Becker

by Kevin Emerson, NVM Communications

One of the original NVM volunteers, Charlie Becker, has gone home to be with the Lord after a long fight with cancer. Charlie loved the Lord and had a special place in his heart for the people of Chambrun. He helped build the roof of the school building and loved to spend time with all the Haitian children.

Despite his battle with cancer, Charlie stayed involved and interested in NVM, being visited and updated

by many NVM volunteers like Chip Mann, Jay Shultz, Bill Martin, and even received Pastor Pierre during the final months of his life here on earth.

Charlie's granddaughter, Angie recently returned from a brief trip to Chambrun and will be furthering her grandfather's legacy by planning a project in memory of Charlie Becker on the Nehemiah Vision Ministries campus in the coming years.

Jay Shultz - Six Months Later

by Amy Shultz

So many of you have been asking about an update on Jay's condition.

It's been a while since I've posted an update. You can take that as a good thing because things have been going well. Today is the 6 month anniversary of my accident. We celebrated Christmas with my family tonight and I was very happy to be here with them. During this holiday season I've been very grateful and thankful for the things that I have and the family around me.

I've realized over the last 6 months how blessed I truly am. God just keeps showing me how blessed I am and has taught me not to dwell on my injury. I've had many opportunities to share my testimony and my faith during this trial with people I would never have met if God hadn't placed me in this circumstance.

Please pray that I will continue to be a good witness for God and that I will continue to bring glory to Him.

I'm still fighting bladder infections. The docs are managing them with once a week oral antibiotics and an every 6 hour anti-infective medicine.

I recently purchased an easy-glider exercise machine, which is similar to an elliptical machine. This machine lifts me from a seated position to a standing position and allows me to use my arms to move my legs. The benefits of this machine include: increased bone density, improved circulation, bowel and bladder health, not to mention the only way I can achieve true cardio exercise.

Tomorrow I go in for my driving evaluation. After this, I can begin my driver's training and start on the "road" to learning to drive. I am so looking forward to driving again, achieving another level of independence. Although....I have helped Amy become a better driver with all

the tips I've given her over the last 4 months....Ha! Ha!

We are happy to be moving back into our home before Christmas. We are all very excited about it. My cousin, Gordon is building me an awesome ramp that will allow me to get in and out of the house. This ramp is not only extremely strong, but it is designed to go with the style of our home. Every time I roll over it, I will remember Gordon's big heart and sacrifice of time.

The rest of our home modifications (a roll-in shower, widened doors, wheelchair lift in the garage) will be taken care of through a program called Vocational Rehab, a state program designed to get disabled people back to work. It has taken some time to get through all the paperwork, but we are getting close, thanks to Monica, our awesome counselor.

We covet your prayers for our adoption of Fedlaine. We are still waiting for Pres. of Haiti to sign her waiver. No progress for 3 months. Our hearts are heavy.

Please also pray for our family as the combination of the holidays and moving into our home and not having Fedlaine home evoke lots of memories and emotions. God is good in the middle of times of grieving...pray that we will receive and see His comfort.

And finally, we ask again for prayers that the Lord would restore Jay to full health...and even more importantly, that we would reflect Him to those we come in contact with.



Jay & Amy's return to Haiti in November.



Jay and Amy take time for a picture with Clerice and Nerette.



Jay even got a chance to go to work while in Haiti in November - running the backhoe!



Fedlaine enjoying time with Jay.

Change is Inevitable

by Aubree Dell, NVM Nurse

I am not quite sure how I feel about change. I suppose it is something I cannot refuse to not like, because it happens so frequently around here. People are constantly coming and going, projects and priorities change daily. A year ago a family moved to Haiti that I have grown to love. Aaron and Shelli Elliot moved their three kids and dog to live in a big, blue and white circus tent. They left their beautiful home, their cars, their steady jobs, their family and friends to join Nehemiah Vision Ministries. I had known Aaron for a while because he led my first trip to Haiti in February 2010. He also helped mentor me and guide me through the process of moving to Haiti.

Shelli and I became instant friends. In fact, it was a few weeks after she moved to Haiti that she told me I could not leave in July and I can move back in November with them. Thinking yeah right at the time, (mom you have Shelli to blame for this second year), I felt the Lord tell me I was indeed staying.

Aaron and I have been to the hospital together too many times to count. Most times involved him jetting through traffic with me in the back of the pick-up praying for safety, but I learned I could trust Aaron and count on him no matter the circumstance. Shelli and I have shared many laughs and tears over the past year. The night we held a lifeless baby that weighed less than a pound in our arms, made us life-long friends. I do not know what it is like to go to war but at times I felt like we all went to war together fighting against the enemy that is unseen. We struggled together and I think we came out stronger on the other side.

Aaron and Shelli moved back to Indiana last week. Their presence here will not be forgotten. The impact they made on me alone cannot be forgotten. They may not know the impact they had on the people they served while here, but knowing is not what is important to them. Their

faith and trust in God is so clearly seen that they know God led them to Haiti and that is enough. They do not need to see the tangible results. I am pretty sure that is the kind of faith that moves mountains.

The "requirement" before leaving Haiti is that you find your replacement before you leave. Brandon and Katie Hutchens came to Haiti last January for the second time, and it was then Shelli told me they are going to take our place. Not really knowing Brandon and Katie, I was like cool, whatever, how can you possibly know that? Well, the Hutchens returned to Haiti, November 3, and have done an extraordinary job filling the big shoes the Elliot's left behind. It feels like they have always belonged here and they fit into our family perfectly. I am so excited for Brandon and Katie to be here and to see where God will take them while they continue to serve the Lord here.

Another big change that has happened this month is Jay and Amy Shultz returned to campus together. Amy has been back several times, but it was Jay's first time since his accident. I have never blogged about his accident, because it was too painful at that time. June 15th is a day I will never forget. The Shultz family moved here in January 2011. Jay and Amy also left the comforts of their home, along with their three children and moved to Haiti to help decrease the work load Pastor carries daily. They were also in the process of adopting Fifi, who lived in our children's home.

Jay was in an accident with the backhoe and gator that left him paralyzed from the waist down. Seeing him wheel through customs brought back such a flood of emotions. It was the first time I had seen him since June and I was so happy and shocked and just emotional. After the accident and Jay and Amy left Haiti we had about 80 new people on campus and life went on. We were forced to move on and continue to lead and guide the new teams that had no clue who Jay Shultz even was. Talk about stuffing in emotions. Anyways...Jay

and Amy's faith in God moves mountains as well. Their devotion and trust that God works all things for his good was amazing to see as they returned to Haiti together.



The welcoming committee at the Indianapolis International Airport who welcomed the Elliott's back home to Indiana.



The Thanksgiving crew, who served turkey to all on campus for the holiday, sporting their new GIVE t-shirts.



The Elliott family at their last church service in Haiti saying thanks to the Haitian church family.