

Nehemiah's Voice

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Diane Jacobson from VMR shows the cameras the new women's bath house.



Pastor Espérandieu Pierre welcomes the crowd at the VMR Dedication Ceremony.



VMR Project foreman Phil Schissler tells the crowd about how VMR came to be in Haiti.



The generator, which will supply power to the entire campus, was the last piece that was installed to finish the project.

VMR Volunteer Center Dedicated on April 11th

At 10:30 on the morning of Monday, April 11, the new Vineyard Mercy Response (VMR) volunteer center was dedicated amid spectators from all the different groups and agencies who have worked long and hard to make this day happen.

Pastor Espérandieu Pierre opened the celebration by thanking everyone who was involved in seeing the dream become reality. He also recounted how NVM got to where it is today, revealing the vision he and Dianne shared after driving to Chambrun for the first time.

Duane Zook, CEO of GAIN USA, recalled how he and Pastor Pierre first met and how God had provided there to be food on the ground in Haiti when the earthquake struck on January 12, 2010. "We had sent a container of food in anticipation of a hurricane that was heading for Haiti. The hurricane never materialized, but the earthquake did. Pastor Pierre was to receive a portion of the food in that container for NVM, but once the earthquake hit, we realized we needed a place to warehouse the food and supplies GAIN was sending in." Duane added, "That's when the plan for the original warehouse, known now as the old dining hall, was born. We quickly realized that it was of inadequate size to contain all the supplies being sent in."

"GAIN Germany became involved and came up with the idea to use the empty containers as walls for the larger warehouse. They put a roof on it and closed in the ends with concrete and doors. And the present day warehouse was completed in January 2011." Zook added. Phil Schissler, the foreman for the

Vineyard Mercy Response Haiti project said, "I'm so very proud of my team, Chris, Diane, Luke and all the others who came and worked hard and who really put their shoulders into the project and got it done."

"VMR had never tackled a project outside of the United States, but after January 12th, the Vineyard Churches knew something had to be done to help in Haiti, so after a preliminary trip in March 2010 to scout the site, plans were drawn up and the first team hit the ground running in June 2010." he added.

According to Diane Jacobson, another VMR volunteer who has spent months working in preparation for this day: "I went into town today for the last time and said good byes to a lot of dear friends that I've come to know during my time here." She added "it's hard to leave."

With a new dining hall, volunteer dormitories, and bath houses for men and women volunteers, as well as a new diesel generator and filtrated water for the campus, the VMR Haiti project was a colossal undertaking.

Mercy Chefs' Gary LeBlanc also spoke briefly of his organization's involvement in the project in Haiti saying, "I know that Haiti has blessed me more than I could ever return to it with the cooking." Adding, "I have come to love this place and the people here."

The ceremony also featured a performance by the members of the "Children of Chambrun." A wonderful meal was also prepared for all in attendance in the newly completed kitchen in the new dining hall.

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Second Pastor's Conference a Huge Success in Haiti

Pastor Jim Butler and a team of three Godly men from EastPointe Bible church in Peru, Indiana led the first annual Pastor's Conference of Chambrun in early April.

The theme of this year's conference was Bibliology and the God-given priority of pasturing to preach and teach God's Word. The conference also consisted of the importance of inspiration and sufficiency of God's Word along with how salvation should shape our lives.

"During the very first day of the conference, a discussion over eternal security and why we can't lose our salvation became very controversial." Pastor Butler stated. "There seemed to be two strong opinions among the Haitian pastors over this critical issue." he added.

"The Haitian pastors said it is common for many pastors to focus only on salvation. It is their belief

that teaching eternal insecurity would keep their congregations coming back. They figure that without the fear of losing one's salvation, their people would not come back week after week?" Butler added. "However, we would be remiss not to point out that we have to stand firm in the Word, standing up for what the Word says, and preach the Word just as the Bible tells us." I told them, "If you want God's blessing on your ministry, it is simple, just Preach the Word as it is without personal bias!"

The conference really is a passion of Pastor Butler's, "If we can firmly plant these God-seeking men in the Word of God and teach them to preach with accuracy and deep personal conviction, the impact of this conference will immense and wide-spread. If each Pastor takes what he learns and has a flock of 100 people, we can reach 7500 with the Gospel of Christ." That is an impact on world missions that we have been longing for.

The conference will return to Chambrun in October, with a goal of training up the pastors of Haiti. The long-term goal is to teach all the aspects of systematic theology over the next three and a half years. The next conference will focus on who God is (theology proper).

We were very pleased with the passion and interest of the Haitian pastors. We thank God that we brought over 75 pastors to the NVM campus to be better equipped to carry out the sacred commission.



The Pastor's enjoyed lunch in the new dining hall on the last day of the conference.



Pastor Pierre Claude Janvier admires his certificate for attending the conference.



Here are the majority of the pastors who participated in the conference.



As many as 18 pastors were counted in a single vehicle departing the conference.





Chéne Estramé and his new sponsor Barry Rodriguez.



The entire Estramé family assembled in Chambrun.



Best friends: TiBlan, Kiki, and Chéne share a Kodak moment together.

Jumping In

by Barry Rodriguez, World Next Door

On Wednesday I had the opportunity to meet the child I have begun sponsoring through Nehemiah Vision Ministries. Standing in the heat and the dust of Chambrun, it looked like I was giving a child a fun new toy. But what was going on underneath the surface was far more significant...

It was an absolutely unforgettable experience!

Stuck in the Cycle

Six year old Chéne lives in the impoverished village of Chambrun. He is the fourth of five kids being raised by their mother (Chéne's father passed away when he was still a toddler).

Like most children in his village, Chéne struggles daily with malnutrition, illness and pervasive poverty. His mother, who sells charcoal in the city, makes around a dollar a day, hardly enough to care for five kids.

If left to fend for themselves, Chéne and his sisters would undoubtedly grow up without an education, landing only occasional, low paying jobs and someday raising families faced with the exact same problems they dealt with as children.

However, because of NVM's child sponsorship program, Chéne's three older sisters have all begun their education. In the fall, Chéne will as well. For Chéne and his family, the cycle of poverty is beginning to break!

Bearing Gifts

Because he was my new sponsored child, I decided to give Chéne a small gift when I met him. I was also carrying a second gift from my sister because, as it turns out, Chéne's best friend Kiki is the child that my sister Lucy sponsors! How

cool is that?

I went to Chambrun with Clerice, one of NVM's administrators and Kacie, one of the clinic's full-time nurses.

We arrived at the village in the blazing heat of early afternoon, but Kiki and Chéne were nowhere to be found. They were out playing somewhere. Clerice, Kacie and I chatted with the neighbors as one of their children went tearing off in search of the boys.

After a few minutes, Chéne and Kiki arrived, but they were covered in dust from playing. Their moms quickly whisked them away for baths. They wanted their boys to look presentable for their guests! Speechless

When the boys were finally ready, dripping wet and wearing clean shirts, a small crowd had gathered. I asked Clerice to translate as I began my little speech.

"Um, ok. Kiki. Do you remember a blan [white person] named Lucy that was here before? She is your sponsor. She helps out so that you can go to school. Do you remember her?"

Chéne receiving his brand new Tonka truck. He was speechless! So adorable...

Kiki nodded, a bit terrified that this random blan was singling him out in front of a crowd.

"Ok, well she is my sister." I said. He didn't respond. "Um, anyway, she wanted you to have a gift to let you know that she's thinking of you."

I walked over to my bag and pulled out a wrapped package. I handed it to Kiki who looked around won-

dering what he was supposed to do with it.

“Go ahead! Open it. It’s yours!” I said, smiling.

As Kiki began to rip off the wrapping paper the other kids crowded around to see what it was. When they finally saw the gift, a shiny yellow Tonka truck, all the kids oohed and aahed. Kiki held the dump truck, speechless, while everyone else reached in to try out the button on top that made noises.

Next, I brought Chené front and center to give him his gift. After seeing what Kiki had received, Chené was almost shaking with anticipation.

“Chené, you know how my sister Lucy is Kiki’s sponsor?” I began. Chené nodded, nervously looking over to his friend Kiki for support.

“Well, I am now your sponsor. In the fall you will get to start school! And here is a small gift for you.”

I handed Chené another wrapped gift. It took him no time at all to leave the wrapping paper in shreds on the ground. In his hands was a bright yellow backhoe, a perfect counterpart to his best friend Kiki’s dump truck.

To say thank you, Chené ran over and gave me a hug. He had a big smile on his face.
Opportunities

It was a beautiful moment for me, and not just because I’ve never given a gift to a more grateful recipient. It was beautiful because I knew what the gift symbolized.

At that moment, I had joined my disconnected suburban life with the life of a child in need. I had given a small portion of my relative abundance to provide a lifetime of opportunities for a young Haitian boy.

Right now I’m out \$40 a month. I may have to forgo a latte here and there. Maybe choose to eat a sandwich instead of eating out once or twice. But Chené? His life will never be the same. Chené will receive an education. He will have access to quality medical care. He will eat a hot, healthy meal for lunch every day for years.

Yesterday I asked Chené what he wants to be when he grows up. His answer? “A doctor in Chambrun.”

Will he go on to be a doctor? Who knows? But the fact is, he could. It’s actually a possibility now. Chené’s mother finished the second grade. Chené could finish college.

Small Sacrifice

So why am I telling you all of this? Am I trying to toot my own horn or to convince you that I’m a good person? No. I’m telling you this to get one simple fact across: If I can change the life of a child, anyone can. I wonder if Chené will ever know how much he changed my life?

This is my encouragement to you today. Will you consider making a small sacrifice of money to give a huge opportunity to a child here in Chambrun?

Maybe \$40 a month isn’t possible for you right now. But what if you split it six ways with a group of your coworkers? What if your church small group decided to sponsor a child together? Maybe one of your own children would be interested in giving a few dollars from their allowance each week...

The fact is; you and I have the potential to radically alter the course of an entire generation of children here. Our partnership with NVM could actually help bring a village out of poverty. And I am not exaggerating.



Chéne and Kiki with their new toys that they received from their sponsors, Barry and Lucy Rodriguez.

So take a look at NVM’s website. Talk to your friends and family. And decide... are you ready to jump in with what God is doing in Haiti?

Who knows? Maybe someday you too will find yourself in Chambrun, giving a gift to a grateful child...

To sponsor a child visit our website at:
nehemiahvisionministries.org

A BIG THANK YOU goes out to Select Sewing located on N. Keystone in Indianapolis for helping to provide sewing machines to NVM.

We are starting to teach the ladies of Chambrun how they can earn an income by sewing.