

# Espere Kay Newsletter – January 2017



Dear Friends,

We hope the New Year is treating you well. We are excited to be coming into the second half of our first year at Espere Kay. After Christmas break for the young adults, a week of vacation in Florida for us, and a visit from some missionary friends, we are finally back to our normal routine. All the young adults are back in school and we are busy with running the ministry and the home.

This month we will continue to give you a little peek into life here at Espere Kay with a focus on our spiritual walk.

## Sharing the Gospel



Lunch with Stevenson after his retreat

In the December newsletter, we wrote that Stevenson was leaving for a week to go out to the countryside and help evangelize with a Haitian church group. He returned with great news. The group had 30 people give their lives to Christ and he personally helped lead 3 by sharing his testimony with them. Way to go Stevenson! We also continue to share the Gospel here in Haiti. Besides sharing with our own young adults, we have had opportunities to witness to visitors here at EK, to share Jesus with the children at Loving Hands Orphanage and to hand out tracts and Bibles as God directs us.

## Weekly Scripture



We have begun placing a weekly scripture verse on the wall of our living room. Everyone is reading them daily and some have even been memorizing them. They all have said how encouraging these verses are to them.

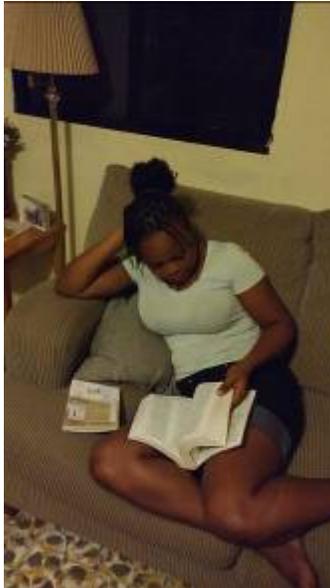
## Adore (Praise and Worship)



Jhonn, Peterson and Stevenson

Almost every night we have a time of worship and prayer. On this particular night we were having a little fun with some instruments. Stevenson's friend was letting him borrow his electric guitar and Peter was posing with Stevenson's acoustic (he is learning to play). Normally we have Stevenson on acoustic guitar, Jhonn or Peterson on the cajon (a Mexican drum) and someone playing the shaker egg. We take turns bringing scriptures and we chante (sing) both in English and Creole. These young adults love to sing and they have beautiful voices. Most evenings Espere Kay is filled with God's praises and you can feel His presence here. After adore, someone takes a turn praying and then we close with a few more songs. Some nights our time is short and other nights it continues for awhile. It is the highlight of our day. This worship has even spilled over into our daily lives. You will often hear someone listening to music or singing while they do their daily chores. The worship of God here is endless.

## Bible Study



Denise

Dave continues to present the Word every Saturday night. After spending some time using an advent devotional, we have returned to studying the book of Ephesians. Dave not only explains the scriptures but asks the young adults some great questions. They are really beginning to think about what is in the Bible and how it applies to their everyday lives. We are noticing some of them reading their Bibles more. Beyond our study we are always offering discipleship and prayer. It is a blessing to be able to spiritually guide these young adults and to encourage them in their individual walk with Jesus.

## Sunday Worship



Sunday morning on our way home from church

Every Sunday we attend a worship service. Sometimes we walk to the local English speaking, missionary church in our neighborhood but most Sundays we pile into the car and go to the Haitian church. We have found a Teen Challenge based church that is geared towards supporting young adults in their faith walk. They have some worship in English but most in French and Creole. They provide English translation for the sermon so this is a great fit for our group. Some of the young adults have signed up to help in ministry at the church and two have decided to approach the pastor about Baptism.



We would like to end this month's newsletter by sharing with you some of our reflections over the last year and how you can be praying for us in the year ahead. First of all, let us just say this has been the hardest thing we have done, but things worthwhile often are. The call to sell our home, leave family and friends behind and move to a third world country has not been an easy one but we know this is God's plan for us at this time. Becoming missionaries has been no easy task. We are continually growing and being challenged in our faith. Every day seems to bring a new set of trials and we are slowly (and sometimes painfully) learning to adjust to our new lives. Some may think we are living the dream and that everything is wonderful because we are following God's plan for us. That is not the reality. We are very much on the potter's wheel. He is molding us and shaping us into what He needs us to be and sometimes that is difficult. Moving to Haiti has also brought its own set of challenges and moving into a home of young adults from a different culture has been even greater. It is taking us awhile to adjust to each other's ways of living and thinking but we are brothers and sisters in Christ and that is a great place to start. The main thing that binds us together is the love Jesus has placed in our hearts for each other. The young adults are truly great and we are honored to be here with them watching the plan of God unfold in each of their lives. We are making mistakes along the way but God is using our mistakes to help edify us and to help us grow into the leaders He needs us to be (Romans 8: 28). Would we change our lives right now if we could? If you asked us on a difficult day, we would probably say, "Yes, I'd like the first ticket back home please." If you asked us on a good day, we would say, "No, I wouldn't change this for anything." We know we are where we are supposed to be doing what God has called us to do. As long as He is the source of our strength we will not give up. In all honesty, though, we have been in a spiritual battle here since day one. Some days the enemy's tactics are so clear and other days he has managed a sneak attack. He would like nothing better than to divide and conquer this home. We have all had to fight back by continually putting on our armor (Ephesians 6: 10 – 13) and by being in praise and worship daily. We know the battle belongs to the Lord (2 Chronicles 20:15) but sometimes we can feel a little battered and bruised. So this is where you come in. What we need is prayer. We are not in this battle alone and we know you are part of the army God has sent to help defend us here at Espere Kay. We cannot do this without you. Please pray for us to, "not grow weary in doing good." (Galatians 6:9). We know our God is all powerful and Satan doesn't stand a chance (I John 4:4) but we believe God is calling the troops to stand firm with us in prayer. The enemy does not want to see this plan of God go forth. He wants to prowl around like a lion and to attack when and where we are most vulnerable. He does not want to see these young adults go forth in the power of Christ and to draw people unto Him here in Haiti but we know God's plan will prevail!

We are sharing all of this with you so you can know the reality of what we are facing here and how you can be praying for us. Knowing you are there encourages us to move forward for the glory of God and His Kingdom. Thank you in advance for your prayers!

God bless, Deb and Dave