

Esperre Kay Newsletter – March 2017

Spring has sprung!



Dave doing some planting out front

Dear Friends, spring has sprung here at EK! We don't have the four seasons but we do have wet and dry seasons. As we end a dry season and move into the wet, some trees are shedding their leaves instantly making new ones and some have begun to grow fruit once again. Our seriz tree is producing seriz (cherries), our citwon is growing new leaves and a few citwon (small limes), and our pomegranate is in bloom. We have also begun a few spring projects. We started some vegetable transplants, got a few plants for the front of the house and we will be planting two bougainvilleas near the front wall. It is nice to see some color and variety in the yard. We live in the city but there is a definite feeling of country inside our compound.



Mirese sweeping the yard



Jesula picking seriz for juice (yum!)

Spotlight on Missionaries

For March we continue to give you a little peek into life here at Esperre Kay with a focus on the missionaries. We have often been asked what a typical day is like here at the house. While there is never a completely typical day, we will try to help you understand better what life is like for us here.

During the school week we are often up at 5:00 AM. We have our morning coffee and devotion time while one of the girls goes downstairs to make breakfast for the young adults. Devotion time is necessary to keep us focused on the ministry and to keep us in tune with what God has for us for the day. It also keeps us in the Word which is necessary for our spiritual growth and allows God to speak to us regarding the ministry. After devotion Deb makes breakfast. When breakfast is over, Dave takes five of the

young adults (along with some of the neighbors) to school while Jhonn, Mirese and Stevenson find their own way. On a typical day Dave can have 8 – 12 people in the 8 passenger car. While Dave is at school, Deb cleans the breakfast dishes and then makes sure the downstairs kitchen is ready for the cook. After he returns, Dave often spends the rest of his morning working on the computer (managing the money, filling out budget reports, researching and ordering items for the house, studying Creole, etc), fixing anything that is broken (house or car), running errands, preparing for that week's Bible Study and doing anything else that requires his attention. Deb has the responsibility to make sure the cook is set with what she needs to purchase for food for the day and providing anything she needs to make the food for the young adults. Deb also monitors what food items are running low, spends time in prayer, studying her Creole, working on correspondence for the ministry (emails, newsletter, etc.), doing household chores (cleaning, laundry, etc.) and running errands with Dave. Deb is also currently taking an online course in Biblical Counseling through the Master's University. Shortly after lunch, Dave returns to the school and brings everyone home. Once the young adults return from school we continue with our work as well as occasionally helping with homework and answering questions. This is a good time of day to have casual discussions with the young adults, encouraging them in their faith, hearing what is going on at school, with friends, in their lives and in the lives of their families. We are always available for a hug, an encouraging scripture, or anything else they might need. Sometimes friends will stop by and we are there for them as well. Deb also monitors the chores and gives gentle reminders if they are not done. In the evenings, we have dinner followed by either down time or prayer and praise. We try to have a time of worship at least three times a week. On Saturdays, we either visit the children at Loving Hands Orphanage or we have a more relaxed day here with the young adults. Three of the young adults are taking a class in computers so Dave drives them to school and picks them up. Saturday is also the big shopping day for the week. Deb helps the girls prepare the list, gives them the money and then helps them put food away after they return. Saturday night is set aside for Bible Study and worship. On Sundays, we go to a Haitian speaking church with the young adults and then we go to a second service at the American speaking church (for missionaries). After church Deb helps the girls with making food and then we all gather together for a big midday meal. Wednesday nights is Bible Study for us with friends and on Sunday nights Dave takes some of the young adults back to church for Youth Group. It's a full week, no doubt about it!



Dave fixing the car with Stevenson and Peterson



Deb helping Myrlande prepare Sunday dinner

Going Home to RI!



God made it possible for Deb to make a surprise trip home in March for their daughter, Sophie's, shower. It was by God's grace and provision this trip happened. Sophie was both surprised and blessed by the visit. It has been 8 months since Deb was in Rhode Island.

From Deb:

I want to take a moment to share a few thoughts about my first trip back to RI since leaving for Haiti. There was a strange sensation of, "Am I going home or leaving home?" Once in RI it was wonderful to hug Andrew, my son, after 8 long months. Visiting with family and church friends and being present for Sophie's special day were some of the highlights. There was one sad moment at church where I held both my son and my daughter. I cried saying, "This is the hardest part." I know God is watching over them but I also know we miss out on what is going on in their daily lives. Not much has changed in RI since Dave and I left last August. The weather is definitely better in Haiti right now; it was cold and rainy on the trip. I missed Dave and the kids. I heard about some of the things going on back at EK and wished I could be there. Dave did a great job holding down the fort while I was away. While in RI, that continuous need to stay connected to God because the enemy is pressing in was lifted and nobody was calling on me 24/7. This was both a blessing and a curse. I was able to relax for awhile but I found it harder to press into God and I missed the young adults. I felt like I had to fight more for God time in the states. My spiritual walk seems richer in Haiti but this is where I am being called to serve right now. Coming back to Haiti, I realized the answer to my original question. Was I going home or leaving home? The answer was, both! We now have two homes, one where we serve God in our ministry and another where we can return to see friends and family. I can't thank God enough for blessing us with both.

Prayer

This month we would like to encourage you to pray for Espere Kay as the Holy Spirit leads you. Please lift up the young adults, us, the ministry, Haiti, Espere Kay, etc. as God directs. Once again, we thank you for standing with us as we serve the Lord here. We pray you all have a happy and Blessed Easter.

Deb and Dave