

**Abiding Vine International
Haitian Refugee Medical-Mental Health Gospel Outreach
Dominican Republic Oct 21-28, 2025**

*Though, the vision tarries, wait for it. It will speak and it will not lie;
though it tarries, it will surely come*
Habakuk 2: 2-4

Mission Outreach Vision/Purpose

As understood and revealed to my heart and mind **God's purpose to reach an unreached, impoverished population of Haitian Refugees** in a village known as Los Cocos, Boca Chica, Dominican Republic. In April 2024 while being on a mission trip to the DR, I had a dream, to....



"go where darkness abounds and bring God's light and love" in caring for the medical, mental health and spiritual needs of the ill, frail and broken of body, mind, and spirit.



Mission Outreach Plan

This would be a Medical-Mental Health Outreach team from the US, partnering with established ministries in the Dominican Republic for the purposes of providing **3 days of medical/ Mental Health/spiritual outreach** to Haitian refugees. Pastoral care would be supported by a local Haitian church for the spiritual health needs of individuals.

Preparation

Share dream/vision/plan and seek support for the assistance of providing a medical team from Joyce Meyer's Hand of Hope Missions, CMDA or from our local church; Grace Fellowship Missions; all three ministries decline to take the lead or provide a medical team. All express prayer and support of the vision that it would come to pass. Abiding Vine International a dba of Green Meadow Mission (est 1994) miraculously arises to sponsor and assume full responsibility in organizing God's plan for this outreach.



Over a year in **preparation of learning to hear God's voice; for direction and instruction; to move in obedience to God's commission** as related by the dream **"to go, where others may not"**

Terry Messina, President of Abiding Vine International, and mission team leader makes three preliminary and preparatory trips to the Dominican Republic in planning, connecting resources between US & DR mission partners, praying and strategizing together for God's plan.

11 Key Strategy & Planning Aspects

- 1. Identify outreach location:** Happiness Now Children Mission in a Haitian Refugee Village, Los Cocos, Boca Chica, DR
- 2. Pray for the Haitian villagers** in preparation of God's love and kindness.
- 3. Secure commitment from Dominican Republic Mission Organizations** 8 lead individuals from 6 different ministries agreed to partner.



practice voodoo and witchcraft. Abuse/trauma, incest, prostitution and human trafficking of children and women is commonplace.

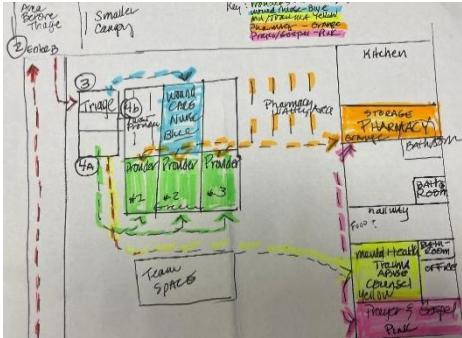
Pastor Eric would be perfect to minister to Haitians in Los Cocos.

4. Secure Haitian Missionaries & Haitian Creole

Translators (Janelle & Fritz Konell) who know the Haitian people and culture that they may begin to establish trust and relationship building with villagers. Need at least 7 Haitian Creole translators

5. Secure a Haitian Pastor

Many Haitians traditionally



just 2 days before the first day; mitigating witchcraft opposition. We will need to be discrete, with a low profile so not bringing attention to Dominican Republic Immigration who might use the opportunity of a crowd gathering to capture Haitians for deportation and hold for financial bribes.

6. Discrete Operation strategy of Medical Outreach

Happiness Now ministry is a partially enclosed open-air compound situated mostly upon dirt ground, there are a few small damaged roofed buildings with broken cement floor for office, storage and kitchen use. 90% of the planned clinic outreach will be under canopy tents. Our Dominican team partners have wisely advised us not to announce the medical outreach until



(From top right to left, Barbara Duffy, RN, Kerry Strnad, LCSW, Laura Toomajian, RN, Kurt Bravata, MD, Katie Greg, NP, Ed Toomajian, Pharmacist, Courtney Joe, ARDMS, Annah Bravata, RN, Terry Messina RN & team leader, Victoria Sokoliuk, MD)

7. Secure the support of partnering with DR doctors.

8. Secure a minimum of 10 medical professionals' team from the US



Medical Mission Team Leader, RN Teresa with Dr. Deoleo agrees to be one of our DR doctors





9. Secure a trauma and mental health professional

Kerry Strnad joins our team in anticipation of counsel needs of those who suffer trauma, abuse, brokenness of heart and mind or have suffered loss.

10. Secure donations for medical supplies (wound care, orthopedics care, gloves, masks, tape, gauze bandages etc.). Jezreel International is a generous sponsor and donor of these supplies.

11. Raise money for the purchase of over \$3000 of medicines and non-pharmaceutical medical supplies, shipping costs, secure items in advance. **Complex pharmaceutical orders by physicians in the US (MAP International, Kingsway, Blessing International)**. Working with an US missionary “doctor” to assist with government paperwork etc. **Sorting, organizing by category and reducing container space of meds and packing in 15 suitcases to bring 2 with each passenger without being stopped and confiscated in customs/DR immigration.**

Months of preparation in solidifying team members by application board review & approval process. Background checks of team members. Vetting credentials and professional licensure. Up to date passports. Team members need to raise finances for cost of travel lodging, food etc. Purchasing tickets, travel/volunteer emergency insurance.



Preparing for Unexpected (Obstacles)

Happiness Now Ministry leader reports **DR Physicians** who had agreed to join our team are reported not able to join our US medical team.



- Happiness Now Ministry and **location of Haitian Village outreach**, reports increase of “troubling” prevailing events: missing/lost children, violent & sadistic acts upon children by other gang forming groups of children.



- Shack fire while 3 children left alone inside, incestual child rapes, a little boy hemorrhages to death, (a recent report of a 14-year-old girl died from syphilis or gonorrhea). Founder of mission reports persistent /intermittent pounding headaches, disabling back pain, and within weeks her assistant is bitten on the leg by a dog. In the months preceding there is a withdrawal of local partnering ministries and volunteer support.



- Founder reports vandalism; stolen items; lights, honey and money, ongoing destabilization of her ministry organization, structural damage to buildings/canopies and overwhelming unsustainability to continue the mission of “feeding the children”.

While being challenged to re-direct initiative priorities, per counsel of local pastor to launch a not-for-profit income generating honey and tea business, and host a gala event, raising money for *Happy Hive* business, scheduled within the week of medical outreach into Los Cocos.

Multiple reports of a of children experiencing unexplained bizarre erratic behaviors, incoherent, running aimlessly, and thrashing on ground in spastic seizure like activity.



- **Haitian missionary team partner is hospitalized** twice for a respiratory infection and then injures her left foot and cannot bare weight, in addition Haitian husband **is unlikely going to join our team due to unexpected financial crisis**, resulting with problems in DR home residence.
- We are notified by founder Jackie Chavez of ministry *Happiness Now* that the Haitian village of Los Cocos has had over a week of **heavy rain making for mud roads** and **creating more roof, tent canopy and property damage**.
- Due to the heavy rain the 12 volunteers /**translators from MMA/MWA** young adult leadership/discipleship program may have **difficulty with transportation to get to our outreach location** and we may have less than the 7 minimum needed interpreters.

“There is no pit so deep, that God’s love is not deeper still”
-Corey Ten Boom

Tuesday Oct 21 Day 1

Our USA medical team arrive into Santo Domingo greeted by our host Frank and Jo Ogle of Day Star/ DR Vision; sharing our gratitude to God for our invisibility in getting past customs and immigration without any of our 20 suitcases being searched and potentially confiscating of over \$3000 worth of medicines.



The unexpected.

We are unprepared that the rainfall is now a Tropical Storm/Hurricane impacting the Dominican Republic /Haiti.



We were notified by our hosts that our Haitian Missionaries (Janell & Fritz) were prevented to enter the Haitian refugee village ministry of Los Cocos. Founder (Jackie Chavez) of Happiness Now, communicates vehicle access prohibited with the persistent rain, flooding, mud creating deep holes on dirt/gravel road entering village.... We are told, "without the cessation of the tropical storm and heavy rain, a bus loaded with medicines and



our medical team cannot make passage into Los Cocos "Unable to notify and register villagers of the 3-day Medical Clinic Outreach location at Happiness Now Ministry, Los Cocos Village location.

There is no panic in heaven, God has no problems, only plans

Corey Ten Boon

Team settles into rooms at a mission house Day Star/ DR Vision, and we pray for direction and guidance.



Team sorts, dosage, labels, bags of meds into the night.

If rain lets up and weather conditions change, we will enter Los Cocos on Wed afternoon, and notify villagers of medical outreach and set up canopy tents.



Wed Oct 22 Day 2

Rain increases as with mud and no access of vehicle access of our medical team into village of Los Cocos. Reports of existing frail tent protection becoming more damaged from the rain with no place that persons and supplies would be safe from heavy rain. The Caribbean hurricane impact upon Haiti & the Dominican Republic will last for at least 4 more days. God's ways are not ours. Many circumstances and details must align, though one might ask *"did God not speak this to come to the Dominican Republic and not be able to get into the village for which God gave the initial vision?"* Not to panic. A faithful response to prayer, God speaks softly **"Be Still and Know I am God"** Psalm 46:0 **"I have a perfect plan unfolding"** I experience in my heart a caution in the unknown space and waiting to create my own alternate plan, **but await for God's plans and directions only** The team spends the greater part of the day to continue to the work necessary in sorting & labeling, bagging meds as we prepare for Thursday Day 1 in the hopes of clinic outreach to Haitian Refugee village, Los Cocos.

Thurs. Day 3 Oct 23

Report received that Los Cocos still not accessible to enter due to tropical storm. **Government shut down** at 1 pm. God directs decision/strategy to pivot location and assist medical needs in another village "Monte Cristi" who has a large village of Haitians refugees.



Team strategizes on how to set up, registering villagers, nurse triage, provider stations, pharmacy, treatment and follow up care. None of this possible without our faithful and dedicated female volunteer interpreters from MMA/MWA.



Villagers, begin to form a crowd outside the church, and are quickly given numbers ready to be triaged. Team sets up and we proceed with our first medical clinic in Monti Cristi.





"Dr Bob" faculty of CMDA Alabama a missionary doctor, consultant to our medical team, who submitted for approval the official government documentation for our medical outreach, joins as part of our team. (photo on right)



Team members assist our pharmacist, so that the dispensing of medication can occur swiftly and without error as we see many patients with multiple needs and diagnosis.



Annah Bravata, RN and Courtney Joe ARDMS fostered and maintain a close friendship which began while meeting on a previous mission outreach to the Dominican Republic



Our mission lead provider; Dr. Kurt R Bravata MD, with sister Annah Bravata, RN care for patients in the adjoining Nursing Home, while our other providers meet the medical care needs in the church. (photo on right)



Fritz Konel (and wife Janell) Haitian Missionaries assist our providers in Haitian/ Creole translation. (photo on left)

Our amazing three Medical Providers; Katie Gregg NP, Dr. Victoria MD, Dr. Kurt Bravata MD see patients independently yet collaborate beautifully consulting with one another. (photo on right)



RN, Teresa Messina administers Rocephin injection treating for STD. (photo on left)

Haitian Pastor Eric accompanies them to Monte Cristi Medical Clinic outreach to share the gospel of God's great love and prays for villagers. (photo on right)



I remember a time of a profound presence of God in a small Haitian Church in a refugee village during one of my preliminary and preparatory trips to the Dominican Republic.

This is where I first met Pastor Eric. Those of this congregation had such a sweet, lovely, and loving worship of God. (photo on right)
With my heart enlarged by love and presence of God, my spirit is quickened ***“this is what I want for the people of Los Cocos”***
God's sovereign love and manifestation of His light must be brought by Haitians to Haitians. They who have come out of darkness, they need to bring the light that is within them to other villages that are in darkness.



They who understand darkness voodoo & witchcraft culture can reach and help their own Haitian communities and begin a church, and grow disciples in Los Cocos, it must be with their own people.
I inquired of Haitian missionary partners, Janelle of and Fritz; *“how did this Haitian church begin?”* Response: *“It started with “One” whose life was changed, sharing and one became two, two became four; and four multiplying to many, a congregation is born.”*



“How did this Haitian church begin?” Response: “It started with “One” whose life was changed, sharing and one became two, two became four; and four multiplying to many, a congregation is born.”

Fri. Day 4 Oct 24 (God reveals his plan and his directives)

As divine providence would have it; God in His wisdom, love and care reveals His sovereign plan for reaching the village of Los Cocos. Pastor Eric of the small church Legliz Batis Ebeneze shares his heart his Haitian Refugee Village; their poverty and lack of access to medical care and that for years he has been praying that his people would get medical care, and dreams of a church clinic one day.

Our 10 medical mission team expands with our Dominican and Haitian Partners; medical doctors, a nurse practitioner, RN nurses, pharmacist, LMSW and other medical assistant, now join with multiple partners of **Haitian Missionaries, Haitian Creole interpreters,** adding to our team, redeeming love. (photo on right)





With little notice **amid the tropical storm**, **Haitian villagers come on foot and in wagons.**

Daystar host missionaries, Jo & Frank Ogle from the Dominican Republic register and give numbers to villagers in the order they are to be seen.



Within minutes, **our team rapidly provides care to entire families, men women and children.** Treating, Respiratory, GI, Urinary infections, hypertension, diabetes and sexually transmitted disease, eye, ear, throat

infections, headaches, back and knee pain, fungal and vaginal infections.



Multiple skin rashes and open draining ulcers are common.

Everyone is de-wormed and treated for vitamin & mineral deficiencies.



Well baby checks, provided by our neonatal nurse practitioner; Katie Gregg are a blessing and reassuring for mothers. (photo on right)



Anyone who has never ran a missionary medical clinic could comprehend the magnitude of **detail and attention that is required to have a pharmacy with a pharmacist** and all the medications necessary at your finger tips, prelabeled and dosed in the native language of the people you serve....What an amazing team we had, pharmacist Ed and his pharmacy assistant Courtney.



Our amazing RN, Barb Duffy **lovingly explains to every individual seen and treated what their diagnosis is, there medication prescribed and how to take it as well as any follow up care.** Barb also takes every opportunity to pray for many and share the gospel and love of God for them. (photo on right)



Kerry Strnad, **bestows the presence of God's heart**, in service to whereever the need presents, with **counsel and ministering comfort with illuminating love that heals beyond human touch.** (photo on left)



Sat. Day 5 Oct. 25

It comes to the attention of the **people living near the mission house** as they **seek medical attention** by our doctors and nurses who brought medicine from the US. We begin caring and treated people in the local community, as a bus, and cars pull up to our door and the neighboring residents enter,



Sun Day 6 Oct 26



More rain; **our medical team is asked to set up a medical clinic in Daystar's Mercy House, a rescue ministry to prostituted women**, (a program that offers alternative work & income, as well as counseling and discipleship training. Female prostitutes are invited from off the street and to receive often neglected medical care as well as STD treatment without shame and embarrassment with dignity.



Mon.-Tues. Days 7&8 Oct 27-28-Team Departure & Mission Medical Clinic Donations

Mission team prepares departure back to the US; dividing **unused medical supplies and medicines to donate to missionary clinics, serving the indigent who lack access to medical care**. We hold back in safe keeping enough medication for a return medical outreach in 6-8 months, and revisiting for follow up care.



US physicians Dr. Kurt Bravata MD and Victoria Sokoliuk MD, personally deliver donated medicines and medical supplies to Centro Medico Cristiano/Score mission clinic.

It is our hope that the **Haitians from the village we treated may safely receive follow up care at this clinic** (while escaping deportation) Praying that the **doctor in this clinic may be willing to go into the Haitian village and provide follow up care to those who isolate in fear of being captured.**



Final Departure

Final good byes before the departure to SDQ airport, a certain sadness and gratitude leaving our mission home and gracious hosts of Daystar/DR Vision, until we return.



We stop to get coffee at the Plaza/Lily house café (ministry for rescue and prevention of sex trafficked girls). (photo on right)

We say our sweet good bye to Jackie Chavez founder of Happiness Now, **knowing we shall return in God's unfolding perfect timing for Haitian Refugee Village of Los Cocos**, steadfast are we, in God's sovereign undefeated love and plan for this people....



Wait and Watch what God will do

The day we are preparing to return to the United States the sun breaks over the horizon and a rainbow appears as soft yet profound reminder of God's promise to never leave nor forsake us as what He speaks shall come to pass...it shall not tarry, this light and love and help for the people of Los Cocos, SHALL come to pass, wait for it.



God's ways are not ours. His plans are far above our plans. He is the one that reveals and brings it to pass.

God is sovereign.

God keeps His promises for His own will and purpose for mankind.

Arise and shine for thy light has come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth and gross darkness the people; but the Lord shall arise upon thee and His glory shall be seen upon thee.

Isaiah 60: 1-2

In this, we trust, His guidance and lead for the next medical team that will follow-up where care was provided. A subsequent medical outreach, will be strategic for making our way to the most needed and unreached locations.

Abiding Vine International ministry is seeking prayer partners as we embark to come alongside Pastor Eric and his wife in their faithful prayers, that ...



A dream build and establish a medical clinic in their Haitian village, where there is no access to healthcare shall come to pass.



Credit and gratitude to our DR Missionary partners:

1. Jacke Chavez of Happiness Now
2. Fritz & Janell Konel Haitian Missionaries
3. Kristen Ogle of SCORE International
4. Yajaida Cruz of The Lily House
5. Frank & Jo Ogle of DayStar Ministries
6. Manny Tucen of MMA/MWA

Wait and watch what God will do

Though the vision tarries wait for it, it shall not lie. Habakuk 2: 2-4

Gratitude and thank you!

In closing, I want to thank the numerous numbers or partners and individuals who have prayed for us and who gave generously with the needed finances to the success of helping to support the medical care needs of many Haitian Refugees. This could not have been done without you.

I also must share this beautiful writing; a message of gratitude by one of the many interpreters who came alongside our medical team, when we only had 3, many unexpected also came volunteering their time and risked their own safety, traveling, miles on foot, through floods in the tropical storm.

This is from Pearl a graduate and a testimony of the of young adults discipled and trained as leaders during in a 2-year program at MMA/MWA.

Pearl dreams of being a neurosurgeon one day

perlamassiel_c._ These past few days, I experienced something that deeply touched my heart. I was part of a medical volunteer mission with a group of Americans who came to serve with so much love and dedication that I couldn't help but see the reflection of Christ in each of them. We went to a Haitian community, and while helping the people, God showed me that serving is not only about providing medical care... it's also about embracing, listening, smiling, and letting His love flow through you.

Even though I still have limitations with English, I realized that the language of love and compassion doesn't need translation. Every gesture, every look, and every word of encouragement was enough to feel God's presence there, among us. I met wonderful people who, through the way they served, reminded me that the Kingdom of God is not about titles, but about willing hearts. This volunteer experience not only taught me more about medicine, but also about the eternal purpose of serving with love. I felt God reminding me: "Perla, every time you touch a life with compassion, you are touching My heart."

I return home with a full heart, grateful for this genuine opportunity from God. I don't know if I will ever see each of them again, but I do know that the bond formed in my heart is eternal. "To serve with love is also to heal."

And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men. — Colossians 3:23



*Teresa Messina, RN
Abiding Vine International*

