



# Dr. Anne Livingston

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*“And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and to the Father by him.” (Colossians 3:17)*

It sure was busy here during July and the first part of August! Esperanza and Bethany arrived on June 30, and the schedule was arranged with the goal of making this time profitable in their professional and spiritual lives. There was a reminder about the need to be flexible, and we laughed several times over changes in plans, sometimes with very little notice.

The major activities included work in the clinic during July, Haitian Creole lessons, Vacation Bible School in Logalite in August (during clinic vacation), and working through Tozer’s *Attributes of God* and Elmer’s *Cross-Cultural Connections*. I scheduled minor surgery cases knowing I would have extra hands to help. By the time we got to the Vacation Bible School, Espie and Bethany were speaking Creole.



We were able to get everything done before elections (for senators and deputies) on August 9. That happened in spite of not having our own vehicle, which needed a couple of parts replaced. It turned out our mechanic was running for office, and the truck lost the contest with the mechanic’s campaign. (But he lost his bid for office.) The elections were noisy as usual. We have open ballots, and there is a lot of persuasion going on even as the ballots are marked. There were concerns about violence, but we did not have any problems in St. Raphael.

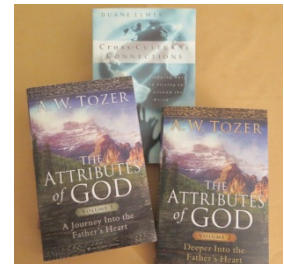
I asked the students to write a paragraph about their experiences. They had a lot more than just one paragraph to share! I hope you enjoy seeing this ministry from a different viewpoint.



## Reflection      Esperanza Gomez

In retrospect, each short-term mission trip in which the Lord has allowed me to participate has changed my life. Six weeks in Haiti taught me much about God, missions, people, and myself. Before I came, I journaled, “What can God do with a sophomore nursing student like me?” This question, however, was tainted with a surprising focus on self and marked the beginning of a trip in which I learned that there’s no room for pride when loving and serving others.

God used many of A. W. Tozer’s comments regarding God’s attributes to show me how much I have yet to learn. Although we can never fully know God on earth, Tozer encouragingly reminds his readers, “He’s infinite yet intimate.” God desires our fellowship, and it’s this fellowship that our souls unknowingly thirst for. Nothing but God, Tozer mentions, can fill the God-space in our souls. In addition, a cross-cultural study opened my eyes to the reality that not everyone thinks like me! (NEWSFLASH :P)—not even people from my own culture. Living with people 24/7 taught me just how much I assume about others. On a more serious note, I realized how equipped we are to serve in our home town: We understand and know the culture, the language, and the people, and we’ve already built relationships. This is what missionaries work on. Question is, “What are we waiting for to reach our own Jerusalem for Christ?”



Nevertheless, medical missions has always struck me as an echo of Christ’s ministry on earth. He not only proclaimed the Kingdom, but He also healed the sick and fed thousands. It was interesting to see Dr. Anne minister to both body and soul. I was blown away by her medical expertise and her skill of incorporating the patient’s need for Christ during the visit. And what a better way to redeem the time than to have Pastor Thelamour preach the gospel to the crowd in the waiting area! Bethany and I also had the opportunity to participate in Pastor Thelamour’s

*“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.” (Ephesians 2:8)*  
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church’s 3-day VBS in Logalite. It was like the climax of our Creole outreach. By that time, we had taken five weeks of Creole, and we used it in song and Scripture memorization. Although hunger drove many children to that packed little church, hundreds heard the Gospel just the same.

Besides seeing the local ministries up-close, I saw snippets of outside ministries in the works. For example, Mrs. Serena Honeycutt, RN, flew in for a weekend, held a prenatal clinic, and used it to share the gospel with many women. Meanwhile, Mr. Don Ross and his team worked on Creole voice-overs for his Gospel films. I love seeing how each person has such a vision

has such a vision for their respective ministry—each very different, yet all advancing the kingdom and pouring out their lives as a drink offering to God.

My Experiences in Haiti Bethany Flaaten

My experiences in Haiti have been very interesting. I made it a goal to not have too many expectations, so I felt I adapted to the situations at hand. Of course, being in a state of semi-wakefulness for much of the time probably helped too! I really enjoyed working in the clinic,



especially once I figured out what was going on! It really helped me relate to everyone once Dr. Anne explained Haitian facial expressions. Assisting with surgery made me nervous, but also gave me a sense of accomplishment and usefulness. It was definitely exciting to see the progress the patients had made by the time they had their stitches removed.

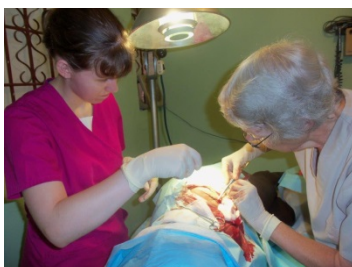


I learned a lot of Creole while I was here through the various experiences that I had. It really encouraged me to try harder when many people were willing to help me learn. I was even able to laugh at myself a few times.

[Saturday morning, four days after arrival and with about 20 minutes of notice, there was an opportunity to go to the Citadelle, our major historic site in the north. It turned out to be a blessing because there would not have been another chance to go.] What started out as an unsettling experience for me was going to the Citadelle on very short notice with some other visitors. In spite of that, I am thankful that we got to see the Citadelle, since it might have been challenging to fit it into our ever-changing schedule.



I really enjoyed working with the children at VBS. It was fun to tell the story and sing songs with them. I also felt happy knowing they were all being fed both physically and spiritually.



Although out time here has been filled with many changes to our flexible schedules, I was able to accomplish my two main goals: work in the clinic and do VBS. The weather was very similar to what I expected, although I definitely didn’t mind the cooler days we had. One faith-building experience came when people tried to persuade us to leave at once because of possible problems with elections on August 9, and began presenting worst-case scenarios. Although I’ve been known to panic about the future, the Lord gave me peace that staying here was his plan for me. Being able to talk to my family helped me not be too homesick.

They were all very supportive of my trip here, and I know I did what I was supposed to this summer.

Overall, this time in Haiti was a positive experience, and taught me many things about myself, other people, and medicine, and how much God still has to teach me to make me Christ like.

This is the first time I hosted students in several years, and it was a blessing to see how God worked out details, gave guidance, and provided for several unexpected needs.

While we were putting in long days in the clinic, sometimes ten or more hours, work continued on the property next door. The wall around the property was completely finished and we now have a well. It is a great blessing that everything has been paid for thanks to generous gifts. We are preparing to buy the batteries for the solar system, and soon hope to have all the necessary equipment on hand for wiring the Ministry Residence. Now, all we need are the people who can do the work!

**Praise** It was a privilege to host the students, and I am encouraged that they had a good experience. The elections went well in our area with lots of noise but no problems. God gave wisdom for missionaries to know how to respond to the news of possible problems in their areas at the time of the elections.

**Projects** We continue to make progress on the new location. It was a bit of a disappointment that we had not moved before the students came, but I was again reminded that this is all to happen in God's time, not mine.

We had a special meal to thank the clinic staff and the major workers on the construction projects. Those people included block makers, water carriers, masons and their helpers. We prepared enough food so meals could go to those who could not be included or were unable to attend.

I am still asking God to send the people we need to do electrical work, plumbing work and general construction/cabinetry.



**Prayer** My present plans are to return to the USA on **September 22**, our Lord willing. I hope to prepare a new presentation, and then attend the Baptist World Mission Annual Meeting, visit churches and have a short vacation. There is much to do between now and the end of September.

Haiti is supposed to have presidential elections later this year. I rather envy the way they do things, because there are short campaign times, measured in weeks rather than months or years. Please pray for a calm spirit during the process, good candidates, and for God's will to be done.

*"Whatsoever ye do..."* is pretty inclusive. That means the cooking of a lot of meals for children and workers—and the eating of all that good food. It means building walls and digging wells. Seeing patients and teaching students and cleaning buildings—all in the name of the Lord Jesus. And as we live for Him, we have the incredible privilege of sharing with those around us the good news that He grants forgiveness of sins and eternal life to individuals as they place their trust in Him. May we live all our lives to the glory of God!



In our Lord's service,

*Dr. Anne*

Anne Livingston, MD

