



CHARIS NEWSLETTER—PART 2

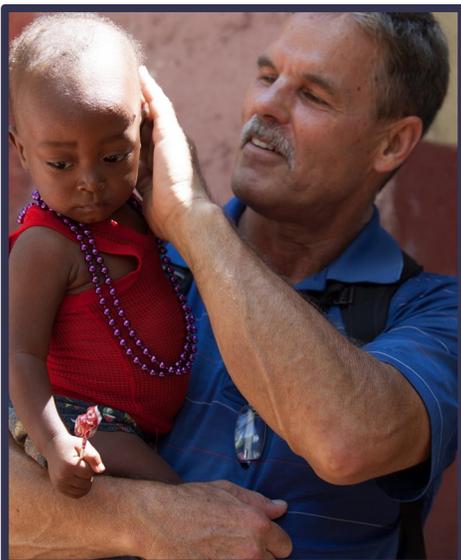
November 2015

CHARIS family! It has been so great being back in the States for the holidays and having the privilege and opportunity to talk with many of you, speak at your churches and small groups, and discuss the ministry with those of you who have questions. Joy and I really do wish that we could spend an afternoon with every one of you and discuss Haiti and the miraculous things that are occurring on an almost daily basis. Before we get into the crux of this newsletter I do want all of you who are reading this to know that Joy and I are accessible and would love to answer any questions or address concerns that any of you may have about the ministry of CHARIS. In case you don't already have our contact information here are our email addresses and website. Malcolm: mhenderson@charis4haiti.com, Joy: jhenderson@charis4haiti.com, CHARIS website: www.charis4haiti.com. Please email us with any inquiries and visit the website for ministry information-- don't be shy, we look forward to hearing from you!

In the previous newsletter I had stated that this November newsletter would discuss demonic opposition in Haiti and how spiritual warfare is being waged on CHARIS by the enemy. After completing that writing though, the Holy Spirit moved me in a different direction prompting me to discuss some of the questions that we have been receiving concerning how we do certain things on the field. I believe that **after reading this month's letter you will all have a better idea of how we make decisions and go about putting things into practice on the ground in Haiti.** So if you were looking forward to the spiritual warfare newsletter I apologize, but that will be the topic of the December newsletter.

There are many theology classes and ideologies out there that focus on missions, and while missiology concepts can be general and broad, they must be altered and reconsidered within the boundaries of the particular culture and country that the missionary is called to work in. I have personally never studied missiology and I believe that is to our benefit as the Holy Spirit can work through us unopposed by bias that undoubtedly results from classroom missiology. This belief is frequently confirmed through our experiences with other missionaries. When I look at other Christian

mission organizations and study their ministries, I am more often than not surprised, and not in a good way. Many Christian organizations become progressively worldly due to a heavy dependence on mission boards, human opinion, and donor satisfaction/demands to lead them and thus coerce decision making on the field. This results in human achievements and material accomplishments to lay at the feet of donors and board members; but I fear that crowns to lay at the feet of God are lacking and this is regrettable. I am sure that Paul would ask many missionaries today the same question he asked the Galatian church, *"Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?" (Galatians 3:3).*



I have also had leaders of Christian mission organizations give me their business cards or hand me literature on their organization and the entire presentation is void of any mention of God, Jesus Christ, or Christianity. Additionally, I have spoken to Christians who head organizations on the ground in Haiti, who have willingly chosen to represent themselves as secular organizations

in fear that funding would not be adequate if they claimed Christianity (this is no lie!). How cowardly and sad this whole state of affairs has become. Many of our decisions have been questioned and judged based on our non adherence to academic missiology concepts, refusal to allow man's opinion to sway any CHARIS decisions, and our

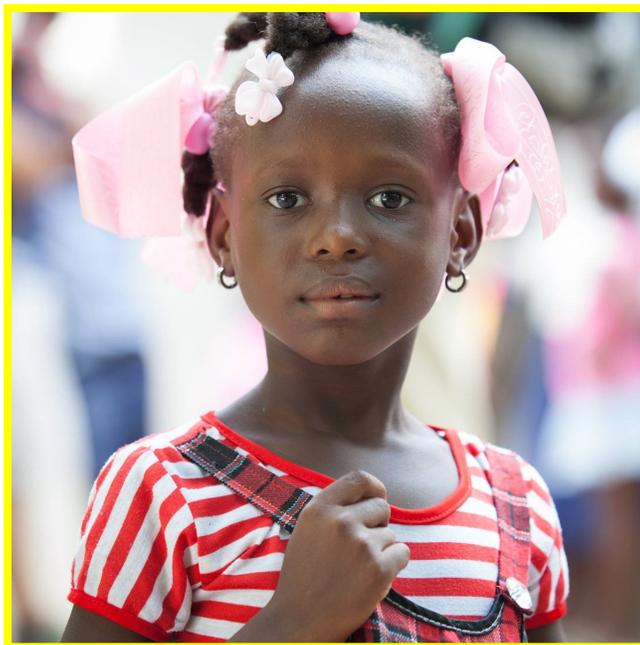
fierce and unwavering adherence to the Bible and Holy Spirit. **CHARIS** has chosen to be fully represented by Christ as all of our decisions are made **ONLY** after inquiring of God and receiving the ok to go forth.

Following this 'Holy Spirit led' model has resulted in our saying no to things that the world would jump at, and saying yes to things that don't make any worldly sense. Through this obedience, fruit that is advancing the Kingdom of God on this earth is being produced almost daily!

Since we leave all decisions to the leading of the Holy Spirit, all glory from the fruit of this ministry goes to God, and it is not shared by any man, institution, degree, certificate, or denomination! This keeps CHARIS in line with Scripture as it plainly states, *"I am the Lord, that is My name; and My glory I will not give to another."* (Isaiah 42:8). Unfortunately countless organizations don't adhere to this truth as the glory is divided and shared all over the place—sad!

I want to share three areas of ministry with you, church planting, future leaders and mission trips, in an effort to help you

understand how God has spoken to us, and what simple obedience has resulted in on the ground in Haiti.



The first subject that I would like to discuss is church planting. This subject is somewhat of an enigma to me in the American world of theology. I see 2 year seminary programs in 'church planting' that earns the student a certificate following completion, there are classes, seminars, and lectures offered on this subject, and as a result of all of this academic attention many believe that planting a church is a difficult and complicated thing to perform. I beg to differ. Sure, this takes work and dedication, but **as long as one is Biblically literate and Spirit led, church planting will and should be the natural consequence of mission work.** I will share with you how God has spoken to CHARIS in this area of ministry and it is my hope and prayer that reading this will encourage and empower you to share the gospel wherever God has placed you today!

The first question of anyone desiring to plant a church would obviously be, where do we plant a church? This is a very simple question that has an even simpler answer. How does CHARIS decide where to plant a church? The answer is, God shows us through our obedience to share the gospel where He places us and sends us. We get up every morning, get on motorcycles, and head into communities and ask who the local vodou priests and priestesses are, where they reside, and we go. We then sit with the recipients of these divine appointments and start building relationships with them. I might not even open the Bible during a first encounter with a priest or priestess, but rather just get to know them, ask about their life, their families, their current problems, etc. **I find that relationship is**

both the initiator and sustainer of an effective gospel witness that produces real disciples. Too many missionaries, pastors, and evangelists chase conversions and balk on discipleship. This is equivalent to handing someone a cure for a terminal disease but never teaching them to administer it to themselves or any other sick person. This is exactly why we must pay attention to the words of Scripture. Notice in the words of the Great Commission in Matthew 28 the words read, *"Go and make disciples of all nations.."*, not, "Go and make converts of all nations". It seems these days that men desire converts to produce impressive statistics, while God desires



disciples to grow His kingdom on earth. On this first encounter with a priest, or any Haitian, I am praying the entire time, asking God to show me what He sees in this person and, more importantly, what He is doing in this person's heart. I also establish whether or not the person believes that the Bible is the Word of God. If they say yes, which they almost always do, then I ask them if they would be interested in studying the Bible during subsequent weekly visits. Once again, they almost always say yes. Then I pray throughout the week and ask God, beyond the initial presentation of the gospel, what I should teach the person. What is interesting to me, is I almost always sense the Holy Spirit telling me to immediately discuss the cost of real discipleship with the given person. In other words give them a real picture of what this Christian life entails, and that it isn't all wealth, health, comfort, and security following repentance and salvation. In fact, it is just the opposite, and the person needs to be fully informed of this as instructed in Luke 14:25-35. As an aside, how many of us in America were informed concerning the cost of being a disciple of Christ before our salvation? Salvation comes at no cost to us. No real explanation is offered us about what life as a 'living sacrifice' is and the power of sin in our life is rarely overcome while the guilt of sinning is completely conquered by the American version of grace—cheap grace that cost us nothing but cost Christ everything. Delve into Scripture and determine for yourself if the Christian life is one of ease, comfort and security, or rather one of suffering, constant trials and tribulations all meant to drive you to a vital relationship with Christ Jesus. But I digress!

What occurs following the agreement to meet weekly for Bible studies is almost expected now secondary to the high frequency with which the subsequent events occur. A few family members or neighbors will become curious about the weekly visits and come over to see what's going on. This continues until 10, then 20, then 30 and even more people start coming on the day of the respective study. Once again, this growth is not due to any fancy marketing schemes that we perform.

We do not have to sell the gospel with gimmicks, advertisements, summer barbecues, or events. The Gospel sells itself, leaving the missionary with two simple responsibilities: show up, and share the truth of Scripture.

Faith that saves is nothing that I can pressure someone into, and conversely it is nothing that the recipient of the Bible study can muster up on his/her own. Saving faith is given, through grace, by God through Christ—but the vehicle through which God chooses to give it is where we come in. Remember the verse, *“So then faith come by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” (Romans 10:17).* The Word of God is living and is able, upon hearing it, to regenerate a heart and establish saving faith within it. Knowing this unloads the burden of results off of me. The result of the hearing of the Word is the Holy Spirit's work, not mine. Some hear and salvation results, others hear and their hearts are hardened. Either way, since I have no idea who will receive faith and who won't, my job always remains the same, share the truth.



After a few weeks there is a large group of people consistently showing up to hear and study the Word of God, many for the first time. This group becomes a church plant! At one point in August we had 9 such groups that we were teaching weekly and the excitement experienced within these groups was infectious and filled our spirits with an unexplainable joy! Always wanting to continue in God's will, my prayers during this time became very child-like as I was simply asking, "what next Lord?". God answered my prayer through the suggestion of an ex vodou priest! Most of you, who have followed us for any amount of time, are probably familiar with Charistan, an ex vodou priest who I had been going to weekly for 3 years before He was saved by the Lord. Following one of our Sunday afternoon services, that we weekly performed on his property, Charistan pulled me aside and said that it was upsetting him that I commonly had to stand in the sun or rain to teach them. So he asked me what I thought about building a small shelter on his property that we could use to shield us from the elements when we had 'church'. I told him that I agreed with the idea, to which he excitedly nodded. I left that day not thinking much of this because raising money for this project

was not on my immediate agenda. A few days later I was evangelizing near Charistan's property so I decided to stop in and share a verse of encouragement with him. As I walked onto his property I saw lots of people carrying wood, others were cutting it and others were overseeing the work. I asked Charistan what was going on, and he said that they were starting to build the shelter for our Sunday Bible studies! I was amazed by this because they were using their own money (of which they have very little), and cutting down trees on their property to provide the wood. God moved my heart strongly to offer our help financially to complete the construction. To make a long story short, for 700 dollars a shelter was built! It was comprised of a large circular foundation of cement, columns made of tree trunks arranged circumferentially around the foundation, and a thatch roof supported by the columns, wood trusses and a center beam of wood. It appeared almost exactly like a large American gazebo. We paid for palm chairs to be made and the whole thing was completed in virtually no time at all (2-3 weeks), and everyone worked for free! The first Sunday that we sat under this new shelter we began by all standing as I prayed and dedicated it to the Lord. Then we sat and had the Bible study!

As I was sitting there God spoke to me clearly and this is what He revealed to me. We were all sitting in a circle which was a perfect setting for the many reasons. First there is no inherent hierarchy within a circle, as no one is in front of anyone else, no one is elevated above another, and everyone wasn't facing me as if it were some kind of performance (like our churches in America). We were all on the same level, we are all facing each other, and thus we are all equal—what an awesome setting! Secondly, we could fit about 30-40 people under the thatch roof. This was a perfect number that maintained relational intimacy, encouraged interaction, and allowed everyone to see each other giving us the ability to discern confusion, happiness, depression, etc. within individuals allowing for specific concerns to be addressed and ministered to. **God told me that morning that this is His definition of a church plant for CHARIS in Haiti: 40 people maximum, under a 700 dollar Haitian 'gazebo' style church, with a chair and Bible for everyone!** No one 'worships' this building secondary to its simplicity, the focus is stayed on Christ, there are no monthly bills required to maintain this structure, and God is glorified, worshipped and honored through worship, teaching, and hearing. If more people show up we begin another church plant and wait until this group reaches 30-40 before we commit to build another one of these structures. We are so excited about this model of church planting as we know that this pleases God due to this being His will materialized through prayerful inquiry and obedience! Please join us in praying that these 'churches' continue to go up all over our range of ministry in Haiti. **Remember that even though these are small, unimpressive material structures in the eyes of men, they are colossal beacons of spiritual light that are illuminating darkness that has been present for centuries!** Satan's demonic realm is beginning to be disturbed, displaced, and defeated, and this keeps CHARIS true to the verse that the Holy Spirit gave us shortly after He called us to Haiti, *"I now send you to open*



their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me." (Acts 26: 17-18).

The next topic for a brief discussion is education and leadership involving the church plants.

This question is important and its answer will determine both the sustainability and growth potentials of the ministry. These 'plants' will only be as sustainable as the quality and availability of Haitian teachers. In similar fashion, the growth of CHARIS is directly dependent on the availability of teachers. Having the ability to leave good teachers in place frees us to go into new areas and plant additional churches. If there are no teachers to leave in place though, it would be irresponsible to allow my zeal for evangelization of new areas to eclipse the discipleship needs of the churches that God has placed in our care. What we do to address this issue is pray! Joy and I constantly pray that

God will, during our interactions with the various churches, reveal His future leaders to us. Once the Holy Spirit identifies these individuals we then take them aside to make them aware of what God is revealing to us, and tell them to go and pray to confirm for themselves what we are saying. Thus far God has identified multiple individuals to us, and the revelations that they are receiving is amazing and humbling. One of these young men, Andreli, along with two other individuals, all had their callings into leadership confirmed through Scripture and a dream while others knew by simply feeling peace about it during prayer. We are humbled that God is identifying these young men to us, and then confirming it to them in Scripture, visions, and dreams—amazing!! Following this confirmation of calling on their lives, one of two things happens depending on their situations in life. Some of these young men have school, or work responsibilities, and thus they come to our home 1-3 times per week, as their schedules permit, and they are taught privately. On the other hand, If the called leader is free from social or family responsibilities they follow me around daily. This is my preference for preparing future leaders because the exposure is daily for 8 or more hours, and they get to witness countless interactions with a variety of vodou leaders. They additionally get to observe how the gospel is shared within a variety of situations.



Andreli is the one standing between Malcolm and Joy

Currently we have 2 young men following me around daily, and 4 others studying every week at our home. I do not have a set increment of time after which these young men are declared ready to teach independently. Once again, we pray that God reveals to us when His servants are ready, with adequate knowledge and preparation, to function autonomously. I am also speaking with pastors in the United States about potentially starting a Bible school in the future. This is a subject which I would greatly appreciate your prayers. It would require buying land, constructing a building, and then getting pastors, and teachers from the US to come down on weekly/monthly terms to teach the Bible to young Haitian men who desire to learn the Word of God and then lead their communities through teaching and establishment of churches. I would want to offer this education completely free so that nothing would hinder God's Word from being taught and spread. I wait with great anticipation to see what God does in His Sovereignty within this arena.

Lastly, I wanted to discuss mission trips with you as we are growing in this area annually with great feedback coming in from the mission trips of 2015! I want to share a quote with you that was said during a recent 'reunion' we had in Indianapolis with a mission team that had come down in September. I believe that this quote reveals our heart concerning mission trips and what we feel they should accomplish. This young lady had been on many mission trips before, including several to Africa. When it came around to her to give her trip testimony she said, **"I have been to Africa on a few mission trips but I feel that this was the first time that I had been on a *real* mission trip"**. That quote was a direct result of her experience with CHARIS in Haiti—so what was this experience? **Every day** she, along with the rest of the team, travelled to different villages and had Bible studies, shared the gospel, or served the community. In essence, we were being missionaries, not painters or construction workers coming along side churches that already exist. Now there is nothing wrong with what I call 'para-church' service trips, but true mission work is going to the unreached and sharing the gospel and she had performed 'true mission work'. True mission work demands that you to hike 22 miles up mountains and through 15 rivers in the blasting heat of the day and by the light of the moon at night. It demands you to love people, be relational with people, cry with people, share your faith and hope in Christ with people. It's physically demanding, emotionally crushing, spiritually uplifting, and faith building. Being tired, sore, spent, hungry, thirsty, sad, and happy, but all along knowing, deep down, that this is living within the heart of God and this creates a very deep visceral sense of joy and peace—the peace "that surpasses all human understanding". **So yes, CHARIS mission trips are difficult, raw, and challenging in all aspects, but would you want anything else on a Christian mission trip?** Our goal is to bring you into complete unity with God and His heart and mind. The feedback that we get back is encouraging as people's lives and, more importantly, their walks of faith are being pushed into arenas that they never thought possible. Suddenly, as we now reconsider this thing we call Christianity in America, things don't add up to Biblical

truth and the experience that you had with the Lord in Haiti. If this happens the mission trip was a success. So if you want to really do missions, consider a mission trip with CHARIS—your heart, mind and soul will never be the same again—and that is the goal!



Within this newsletter you will find a sheet that lists the needs of the ministry and the financial requirements that must be met to fulfill them. Every area of this ministry of the Holy Spirit, through CHARIS, is growing as evidenced in the need list. In an era of rampant deception, misuse of funds, founders of non-profits living million dollar lifestyles, and minimum Christian work being actually performed on the field, it is no wonder that so many are skeptical of organizations and thus donations are down in America. What anyone, who is deciding whether or not to donate money, time, or prayer, to an organization, must do is make sure that their support efforts are actually going toward real, effective work. More often than not, rhetoric fails to represent reality and while it can effectively coerce funding it will never stand under real scrutiny. What is that real scrutiny? Viewing the work for oneself! **I invite any of you to come to Haiti and see if what we are saying and claiming is actually true. We pride ourselves in representing Jesus Christ on this earth and we take this seriously. Many of you have come down to Haiti and witnessed the work being done with your own eyes, and we have yet to hear someone say that our newsletter claims are inflated, exaggerated, or embellished. You will hear the failures along with the successes from us, and transparency will always be upheld.** Therefore, as you read over the list of needs please allow God to speak to you through His Holy Spirit. **CHARIS is an army of light doing battle on a field of darkness and you are all part of that army!** Please pray and ask the Holy Spirit to identify to you what He wants you to do in Haiti through His ministry because mission work requires good support, and support requires good mission work. Joy and I thank all of you for your interest and support in and of this ministry. God is working powerfully through all of our faith and obedience. We will work tirelessly on the ground to spread the gospel in Haiti, please decide to pray tirelessly and support this ministry sacrificially and if we all do what God is calling us to do, we will see possibly one of the biggest movements for Christ in Haiti that has ever occurred. Let's defeat Satan together! Let's stand for the gospel together! Let's look forward to receiving our rewards in heaven for our obedience in this ministry together in heaven! We love you all—thank you!

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Mission Statement

CHARIS operates in complete obedience to God, giving Him His rightful place in determining the path and goals of His ministry that He has, by grace, allowed us to perform. Thus, CHARIS, primarily focuses on the unseen spiritual needs in Haiti, and secondarily on the seen physical needs, always remembering that our success is completely dependent on the will of God, the gospel of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit working effectively through us, His willing servants.