

Thank you for your interest in GAIN's medical project to Carrefour, Haiti this summer!

From June 24- July 1, 2011, the medical team will be based in and operating out of Carrefour, a large city located SW of Port-au-Prince Haiti. Haiti is a hot country and we will be travelling to Haiti during their rainy season. Typically it rains daily but often only in the afternoon or evenings for a few hours. Although Carrefour, was nearer to the epi-center of the earthquake there are not many IDP (internally displaced peoples) camps in the area due to the high density of buildings, rubble and lack of flat, open land on which to settle.

Haiti's population is hugely impoverished, with many lacking their basic daily needs. Haiti's health care system was in crisis prior to the earthquake, with the earthquake only exasperating the need for and lack of access to health care for the vast majority of the population. For many patients at the clinic, this is one of the few times they will be able to see a doctor. The patients at the clinic will be mostly those from the surrounding communities as well as some IDP's. The majority of patients will be women, children and the elderly.

You will find throughout your time in Haiti that often complaints and requests stem not from physical need but from a basic lack of understanding and education when it comes to health and their bodies. Because of this we will be incorporating health training sessions throughout the mornings and afternoons on topics such as basic hygiene & sanitation, breastfeeding & infant care, women's health, germ transmission etc.

The team will be setting up a temporary clinic out of our church partners building in Carrefour. By operating out of this location, we are able to host a clinic for a large number of patients in a safe, controllable and sheltered location. Because the clinic is a temporary one, the only equipment and resources available are those we bring with us. Some medications are available in country but the vast majority will be brought in with the teams through the purchase of Physician Travel Packs and with team members (please refer to attached pharmacy list for commonly needed/used medications). Our church partner is also aiming to set up and staff a small, permanent clinic out of the church compound and the team may also be involved in the set-up and training for the running of this clinic.

Although providing medical care to the community of Carrefour is a priority of this project, this will occur within an overarching goal; GAIN is committed to working with and supporting national partners through coming alongside their community development goals and mandate to care for their communities. GAIN exists to demonstrate the love of God in word and deed, to hurting and needy people around the world, through relief and development projects. We've found that the most effective way to do this is through working with in-country partners who can ensure a long-term and sustainable impact in their communities. Another of GAIN's core values is to equip and empower nationals and again, this occurs through our commitment to working with in-country partners.

In Carrefour, GAIN works in conjunction with “Shabbach Ministries International,” a organization both founded and led by Haitians, dedicated to helping transform the nation of Haiti through education, building solid families and marriages, and teaching life skills. One of the main goals of this project is to support and further the work of Shabbach Ministries by serving their community and providing an opportunity for the church to use this clinic as an outreach to minister to their community. Through multiple schools, including one to the deaf and another in a mountainous region to a poor community, a radio station and large church, Shabbach Ministries aims to transform the mindset of Haitians, largely through educating and empowering those in their community and nation. Because of this we’ll be involved both in health training sessions over clinic days but also potentially in radio shows and the taping of health segments of transferable health skills that will be broadcast across the country. We want to provide more than medical care by both providing education to those in desperate need of it and supporting a vibrant Haitian organization.

Please consider coming with us to Haiti this summer and not only using your medical skills and knowledge to help those in need, but also by choosing to invest your life in taking the first steps of seeing a nation changed and rebuilt.

Sincerely,



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