

Haiti Mission 2015

For many years First (Scots) has worked in partnership with over thirty churches throughout the Southeast to promote adult and childhood education, improve access to healthcare and nutrition, and foster economic



development in ten communities on the Haitian island of La Gonave. Partnership mission teams travel to the island almost every month, creating continuity of care and service. The 2015 First (Scots) team of eleven departed for Haiti April 26 and returned May 2, bringing with us a range of technical skills, helping hands, and loving hearts.

First (Scots) has developed a special relationship with The Bill Rice Clinic in the village of Nouvelle Cite, our own Dr. Fleet Hassell having worked closely with Dr. Rice for years, and representing us at the dedication of the Clinic in 1985. Recently we have supported a full time physician at The Clinic,

Dr. LaPointe, who remains on site to coordinate patient care. In 2015 Dr. Natalie Massie Gregory attended to 116 women in the Bill Rice OB/GYN facility, working with, mentoring, and teaching four nursing students and two local midwives. Many of the women remembered her from past years, and trust her compassionate care.



Dr. Jerry George worked with Haitian animal specialist, Jean Thony, to examine, vaccinate, and deworm over 300 goats and donkeys. Donkeys are the primary mode of transportation on the island, essential for carrying water and supplies over the mountainous and dusty terrain. And recently the La Gonave Partnership has developed a microfinance program based on goat farming. Families can receive a pregnant goat if they attend classes on the care of the animals and agree to return the first female kid to the program. Goats provide milk, meat, hide, and even a source of cash from the sale of subsequent kids.

Two certified nurses on the First (Scots) mission team demonstrated infant and adult CPR to mothers, staff, and traditional midwives. Other members of our 2015 team performed the necessary, but overwhelming, task of counting thousands of pills in the pharmacy to create an inventory. Others distributed reading glasses, changing lives for the women who can now see to sew again. Tita Massie, Anna Crew Kinney and Colleen Condon visited schools, providing Christian crafts and healthcare materials for children of all ages. Smiles, laughter, and hugs made the language barrier disappear quickly.

God has provided each of us with special gifts and talents. Please know that each member of our church is a participant in the Haiti missions, through donations, prayer and encouragement.

Submitted by Ginny Thaxton