

Haiti Mission Reflections - 5 Months later

AMANDA ZIMMERMANN

I would say on a whole the complete experience was the most meaningful for me. Anywhere from spending hours in the hotel repacking the suitcases to playing UNO by candlelight with the youth and Paul's family.

When we got there, the first thing that hit me was the destruction. I could not believe that people were still living in houses that had half a roof and a tarp for a wall. I saw people living in a house half the size of an art desk with four pieces of tin that had been leaned together. We drove past tent city where thousands of people were living in a space no larger than a small park. People say that from above you can distinctly tell where Haiti begins and the Dominican Republic ends because Haiti has very few trees. This is true. In Port au Prince, the capital city, there was rubble and dirt as far as the eye could see. Sewage and garbage lined the streets as well as the common sight of pedestrians throwing the garbage in their hands onto the ground. When we would stop for traffic, little children would come up to the truck all 12 of us were cramped into and say, "sister..... sister, help us".

On this trip, our group stayed in the community of Mizak. This was a small rural town that was located four hours away from the capital of Port au Prince. However, to get to this town our group of 10 individuals had to ride in a vehicle the size of a van with no seat belts. Traveling at break neck speeds up the winding mountain path made me wonder how they knew someone else was just around the curve. Oh that's right, they just honk the horn and hope the other driver heard them. The last half hour was on an unpaved road and boy do they give a new meaning to potholes. It was very close to being on a roller coaster. Some of the turns didn't even have guardrails!

As a youth, this trip really opened my eyes as to how my brothers and sisters in other countries live. Only one word can describe this feeling....thankfulness. I am thankful for the vast array of foods I can eat on a daily basis and how I have the freedom and means to take piano lessons. How I can go to university and study any program I wish. As a teenager in high school, I am constantly surrounded by the greed of my generation and how we must keep up with the Jones'. I wish everyone could go on a trip like we did to Haiti and realize how lucky we are to be living in Canada.

This trip has really changed my outlook on life. Sometimes, we get too caught up with what we don't have and forget to remember what we do have. This has motivated me to stay involved in trips like these as well as inspired me to become a doctor and possibly get involved in an organization such as doctors without borders. I will definitely be returning to do part of my internship at the clinic where we volunteered. I think I have always been in love with the idea of a simple lifestyle and in a way I envy the people of Haiti. I envy the vast amount of happiness they have instead of having the new i-phone 4. I envy their strength and ability to believe that no matter how bad things get, God is always watching over them.

I can honestly say I have added many new members to my family. We were very well cared for while we were there and were given more than I expected. We were always supplied with fresh water, clean clothing, beds, a toilet and a hot meal. We exchanged recipes and had French toast for breakfast because the ladies in the kitchen liked it so much. I would especially encourage others to take a chance like we did and do God's work. Sometimes you can't be afraid to leap!

Amanda Zimmermann

Haiti Mission Reflections - 5 Months later

JOHN LAROCQUE

Upon returning home to Strathroy, I've had time to reflect on what are my favourite memories of Haiti. First and foremost were the smiles on the children's faces when they received a RCSS bag with a handful of school supplies.

Second was learning, teaching and helping the people of Mizak in the construction of a pavilion. Seeing the pavilion finished and providing a place for the people of Mizak to be "Community "in all that they do under its roof is very gratifying to me.

And to sum it up, meeting the people of Mizak and sharing with them all that we have to make a better life for everyone involved was a rewarding experience for me.

John Larocque

Haiti Mission Reflections - 5 Months later

CRYSTAL DENISON

I was immediately interested in the proposed mission trip to Haiti when I first heard about it. After learning more about the mission I knew without a doubt that it was a venture I wanted to partake in. I never once felt like I would be embarking on a dangerous endeavor even though people around me voiced concerns for my safety and wondered why I would want to go to Haiti. I wanted to help the people in Haiti in whatever way I could. I am a compassionate person and truly believe, as cliché as it sounds, that if each of us could help out even just one other person the world truly would be a better place.

My husband kept telling me that our living conditions while in Haiti would fall short of my expectations, and I kept telling him I would be able to handle what we would be given. In fact, I went with an open mind of trying not to expect anything, yet came back with any expectations exceeded. Our living conditions were better than I imagined.

I can't even put into words how I was affected by the people of Mizak. The people were so friendly and welcoming, so happy we were there, and so full of love for us and one another. They may have few possessions, and they may not know what the future holds for them, but they have each other. After watching them with each other I vowed that as soon as I returned home I would spend more time with my children and love them more unconditionally.

Not a day goes by when I don't think about the Haitian people. When I turn on the tap for a drink of water or to have a hot shower, or I'm over indulging on food or looking through my closet for something to wear, I try to remember to be very grateful for what I have. These are just a few things I hope never to take granted for again.

I am thankful to re United Church for believing I would represent them well. My life will forever be changed in being part of re-instilling hope and faith to the people of Mizak because the people of Mizak have certainly done that for me. And now that I am back home, I hope I can do the same for our community in any way I can.

Crystal Denison

Haiti Mission Reflections - 5 Months later

YVETTE ROSS

I feel that the goals we set up were surpassed. Yes, the pavilion was not complete when we left our stint in Haiti, but the work we did with the pavilion and within the medical clinic and HAPI to teach the peoples of Mizak about Canada and our ways and learning their ways made for a very positive experience for the group. The pavilion is now complete and a Canadian flag hangs alongside of the Haitian flag and American flag to commemorate our presence there and our unity between the three countries. What a wonderful feeling to see the completed project.

My long-term goals are to continue as an advisor to HAPI through Valerie Mossman-Celestin for the medical aspects to help the peoples in Mizak and to assist with curriculum and needs as they arise. Valerie has requested that I assist in this manner. She did not work with me in Mizak, but my understanding is that Lorelei was impressed at how the Canadians work so much differently than her fellow Americans. Lorelei is the HAPI worker that accompanied our group to Mizak. Her knowledge helped us very much when we first arrived.

I also hope to be able to return to Haiti at some point to assist with either another group ie. a group from another congregation within Canada or another Mission team from Strathroy United, going into Mizak and working as their advisor since I have already had Haitian experience. I also feel that this is our opportunity as a congregation to partner with a country and help the peoples in Mizak since we have already have left footprints there.

My experience was great as I saw how the people of Mizak work while acting as their advisor and assisting them in the medical aspect. My faith has deepened for the love of peoples and I have found a kindred spirit since sharing with our Haitian brothers & sisters. I am also interested in other world missions but feel we have put an imprint here and should continue sharing with our fellow peoples in Mizak & Haiti.

The social injustices will continue in Haiti and I think that it will take a civil war from within to have the Haitian peoples free of these. I also feel that teaching is a very big part of the system for change...this will not occur overnight but will take generations of continual teaching from a core group of peoples of their own.

I am not really sure if I went to Haiti with any expectations...I did know that our 10 days would not change a lot, but am aware that our brief time did help to show the Haitian people what the Canadian peoples are about.....integrity, honesty and good work ethics.

I am a nurse of 34 years and went to Mizak as the sole medical staff working in Mizak Clinic. I did not feel overwhelmed, although I was nurse, doctor & pharmacist tied up together. I felt very welcomed by these warm-hearted people who would give you the shirt off of their backs for you just even to listen to them.

The Clinic in Mizak has established a "Medic Mamba Program" which is a fortified peanut butter used for the children of ages 2-8 yrs for malnutrition. It is a 6 week program that has the identified children come to the Clinic to have their height, weight & girths taken and the amount of Mamba is distributed by the staff. It is a very worthwhile program and seems to be helping. This Mamba is presently produced in Haiti.

Yvette's reflections continued.

Another program instituted is the Hypertension Clinic that peoples with high blood pressure are monitored weekly and given blood pressure medication as required. These 2 programs are administered by Yolande, an untrained staff member that has been taught the benefits of these programs for her peoples and she continues this wonderful work in a very professional manner.

Fabi, the nurse that is hired now in Mizak is working with us for programs of teaching health related issues and also helping in the other clinics/hospitals of the local area and working in the Mizak Clinic alongside Yolande.

I am so proud to say that we are the first Canadian team to go into Haiti and perform as a topnotch group that knew what we were doing. The National United Church should be proud of Strathroy United Church and their devoted group of 10 people that represented Canada and The United Church of Canada. I sincerely hope that this unity between the two countries will continue and Strathroy United Church partners with HAPI and Mizak.

I sincerely hope that I get another chance sometime in the future to continue my travels and Mission work... as I said previously, my mission work continues based as an advisor for HAPI and I am thrilled to be able to put forth ideas and concerns and am also pleased that HAPI are willing to listen to me and my ideas.

Dare to be different. Dare to believe because you are loved unconditionally everyday, you can choose to love like that too. Dare to dream that because God is in control, you can genuinely want more honour for those around you than for yourself. With all heaven watching, dare to dream like Jesus!



LIVE WELL...LAUGH OFTEN....LOVE DEEPLY

Yvette Ross

Haiti Mission Reflections - 5 Months later

NICOLE LANGFORD

I am a 16 year old high school student. While our youth group was packing supplies for the Haitian earthquake victims in March, I asked if I could go to where these supplies were going. Fortunately for me, our church was able to arrange a Mission Trip to Haiti and I was selected to go.

Before we went, I expected Haitian people would be sad and depressed because of all the problems caused by the earthquake. I was very surprised how happy the families were even though they had experienced so much devastation. I have never seen people with so little be so happy.

When my soccer team-mates heard I was going to Haiti, they donated money for soccer balls. Along with donations from my family, I was able to take 12 soccer balls to Mizak. Most of these were given to the Peace Pals program. On the first Saturday morning we pumped up a ball and gave it to a group of early arrivals. I was amazed how well these barefoot kids played on the stony ground of the compound.

After my trip to Mizak, I have re-examined what I would like to do in life. I was considering a career in photography but now I am planning to take courses in photo-journalism so I can continue to travel and have experiences like the one I had in Haiti.

I now realize that I have taken many things for granted – like having a warm shower with clean water whenever I want to. I was also impressed at how keen the kids were to go to school and learn. If you are 16 and have the chance to go on a Mission Trip like ours – I really think you should!

Haiti Mission Reflections - 5 Months later

TIFFANY BOLTON

The mission trip to Mizak, Haiti was both memorable and meaningful to every Haiti Mission one. It is an unforgettable experience both for the ten of us, and the hundreds of people we met there.

Sitting in the conference room, just hours before leaving for the airport, is when everything hit me. Things like, “This is actually happening, you are about to experience something very few people ever will.” and “Wowza, that’s a lot of crayons!” I never thought it was ever going to happen until I was strapped into the seat in the plane.

Once we arrived in Port-au-Prince, I had no expectations but I was prepared to see the worst. Meeting our translator, Ulrich, definitely made the trip through the airport and up to Mizak a lot easier. We arrived to open and very welcoming arms.

As one of the youth, I may not have brought much physical change for the people of Mizak, but I’m sure there was huge emotional impact. I will never forget sitting around a table, a little bigger than a card table, playing UNO by candlelight, with about 15 people whom I would now call very close friends.

All in all, if I were asked to rewind that trip and change something, there isn’t a single thing I can think of to change. I would go back in a heartbeat, just to see the faces of all those friends I made, and to see that pavilion- finished and standing tall in all its glory.

Nicole Langford & Tiffany Bolton

Haiti Mission Reflections - 5 Months later

CHERYL BOLTON

Reflections of a Nation in Distress

How has this trip changed my life? Well, if I had been asked this question immediately upon my return, I would have to be honest in that I didn't feel it had made much a difference in my life; probably because I didn't feel I had made much of a difference in the lives of the people of Mizak, Haiti. I was, however, very much disgusted with our excessive lifestyles and our horrible entitlement attitudes that our typical North American culture cultivates.

I didn't feel like I had made a significant contribution. I didn't do much building. The guys and local men had that under control. I am not a nurse so while I did spend time at the clinic, it was again mainly in a supportive/observant role. I did teach some English at a local private class for all of about ten minutes. I helped organize craft supplies and distribute seeds at the local Artisans shop but it didn't make a great deal of difference or so it seemed. I had this grandiose idea of what being a member of a mission team was supposed to be like. I was going to go and change their world in nine days and forever leave my mark on the people of Mizak!

Well, wasn't I just a little full of myself! But this trip has changed my life forever. it made me realize just how selfish I AM. I am, or hopefully was, just as much a product of that North American culture as those I criticized. I don't have all the answers. I don't need all the answers and I didn't go to Haiti for recognition and reward. I didn't go to teach the people that God loves them and that they should repent and be saved! They already know more about God's love than I will ever learn in a classroom. Their faith is more real than anything I've ever experienced. I've heard the saying "When your down to nothing, God is up to something". Really, it sounds like a platitude but this is their faith. They had nothing and lost even more but they have faith that God will see them through and it's that faith that keeps them going. When you are surrounded by poverty, destruction, and disease it is easy to give up but it requires the strength of true faith to keep going. This is what has changed my life.

Do I wish I could have done more for the people of Mizak? Absolutely. I wish I could have stayed longer and given back half of what I received. Would I have changed anything? Absolutely not, except maybe my attitude. I am not the same person I was when I left and I hope I never am again! It's hard to put in words but it's a lesson I hope everyone has a chance to learn whether its in your own hometown or half way across the world. Sometimes "it is better to receive than to give". I received a gift from the people of Haiti that I can never repay; the opportunity to see the face of Christ through a nation of people who have been beaten but are not beat.

God Bless Haiti!

Cheryl Bolton

Haiti Mission Reflections - 5 Months later

Peter Sanders

My Highlights of Haiti Mission Team 2010

I am a welder/farmer/ innovator/ world traveller named Peter Sanders from Watford, Ontario. Don, on behalf of the Strathroy United Church Haiti Mission Team asked me to travel with them to Haiti to assist in constructing a pavilion. Don said there might not be much welding involved – and he was sure right on that! Paul Prevost, the local project director had requested a welder and that’s why I was recruited.

It seems to me, most of my time was spent observing John and his crew of 16 other Haitian construction workers “pour” the foundations and the pillars to eventually hold the roof of the pavilion. We had a good discussion with John Johnson, a retired Ontario Government structural engineer before we left Canada and he made some drawings which were a great help in explaining what needed to be done. From the Internet we were able to suggest the new recommendations which had been made for constructing buildings after the earthquake. You can’t make buildings “earthquake proof” but you can reduce the risk of damage from earthquakes and hurricanes.

We suggested John and his crew use additional reinforcing bar to tie the plate of the building to the footings. We also suggested substituting steel tubing for the rebar and cement plate that was traditional in Haiti. After showing John what we meant, he replied, “Why not?” Given the limited tools he had, (he came to work each day with a small briefcase of tools – a level, a square, a roll of cord, a saw, a hammer and a few used nails) John and his crew did an amazing job of building a “square” building.

We ran out of time and material the evening of our last day in Mizak. We had managed to erect part of the steel trusses for the roof and our friend Herve, the welder, assured us he could finish the job if the material was available.

When we left Mizak I had my doubts this pavilion would ever be finished if another team of Canadians or Americans didn’t show up. So the highlight of this trip for me was seeing a picture of the finished building a few weeks after we arrived back in Canada! This was sure a pleasant surprise to me – and they did a super job in the end.

Peter Sanders

Haiti Mission Reflections - 5 Months later

DEBRA TUCKEY

My Haiti ~ My Heart

If someone had asked me five years ago, if I would be one of ten amazing people going on trip to an impoverished, disaster ridden, unfairly politically challenged hot zone; I would have just raised my brow and without haste, shook my head and said “No”. But then, as time has its way, it changes us, moves us to become better people and strengthens our faith *and that faith* God willing, grows deeper within us. Often we are beckoned to do His good works on missions such as this. I hoped to give my Haitian friends something powerful, some sort of wisdom or hope, to instil profound faith in God and mankind. When in fact, I left the island after a short time spent there and I took away so much more than I bargained for. Not only did this mission trip allow our team to bring hope, pride and happiness to our new friends of Mizak, Haiti – it cemented a faith-filled bond of love and peace within each and every one of us who touched that red soil together.

So, this is my way of saying thank you SUC and team mates: Don was our esteemed leader to whom we couldn't have asked for a better role model to look up to and put our trust in. Peter brought his wit and stories and hearty laugh. John was a constant help. Whenever we needed a hand, we knew he was there with his great smile. Cheryl was the “mom” of the group, as I can never get enough of her calming ways to help put one's mind at ease. Yvette, fine lady and great nurse, whom for me, just knowing we had a nurse with us, made me feel safe and more relaxed. Tiffany, smart, talented and oh what a blast we had singing, playing, walking and talking with our new friends for life. Nikki, this girl is awesome, super funny, brilliant and a beautiful soul who is going to do wonderful things. Amanda, smart, talented and a loving person and friend and to call her friend, I am so blessed. Crystal was my cohort the entire trip and we bonded right away. She's sincere, patient, honest and a truly sweet person and I can say I am the lucky to call her friend. Oh the walks and photo moments, we had while in Mizak. We had the pedometer to prove it! These girls are all my soul sisters now, for life and I will cherish those moments we shared, always.

I thank God every day for the blessings He has allowed me and for the paths of the wonderful people I have been fortunate enough to have crossed. If I could do it all over again, I wouldn't even hesitate to volunteer, as this not only opened my eyes for wanting to do more for all people but it renewed my faith, that no matter how bad things can get like in Haiti, GOD still remains true, strong and constant in my heart and the hearts of those who believe! GOD is great and he showed me this first hand while in Haiti with the people of that glorious nation. Even though they are struggling with many obstacles, every Haitian I encountered warmed my heart and renewed my faith in mankind in so many ways and made me a better person.

Bondye beni ak benediksyon pou limanite tout.

Ka renmen jwenn nou toujou ak kè poze domine!

(God bless and blessings to all mankind. May love find us always and peace prevail!)

Debra Tuckey

Haiti Mission Reflections - 5 Months later

DON LANGFORD

Towards a New Understanding of Peace

Peace Pals. Peace Park. Peace Inn. Peace Pole. Shalom (Peace) Zone. From the initial contact with HAPI (Haitian Artisans for Peace International), this word Peace was affixed to many things.

Peace Pals – Valerie explained this program was initiated to provide young kids the opportunity to learn and to play together in a non-violent way. Domestic violence is very prevalent in Haiti and Paul and the HAPI team wished to address this issue via a practical and positive experience for the kids. Before the earthquake there were 70-75 kids coming to the Peace Park to participate in games, singing, and a tutoring program to supplement the rather weak academic program at the local public school. The destruction of homes and jobs in the urban centres by the earthquake sent a multitude of families back to their roots in Mizak. Suddenly HAPI had over 700 kids appear at the gate for Saturday programs! This spike in attendance was also due in part to HAPI providing a simple meal for participating kids, what with food being very short in the area due to the tremendous unplanned influx of people.

This situation prompted HAPI to request our Team to bring school kits for 500 children. These supplies were distributed to most appreciative kids and leaders. It was evident by the smiles and laughter how important education is to these Haitian children. Other programs have recently started in the community and the number of Peace Pals has now stabilized at the manageable number of 200 kids and 10 volunteer leaders.

Peace Park – It is imperative that youth programming take place in a safe place. About one-half an acre was enclosed with a cement/stone wall and the Peace Park became a reality. On a Saturday morning from 10 until 2, you can see kids coming together for singing and group learning. They are then divided into 10 groups of 20 students playing simple games and being assisted with writing and math. It is a testimony to the dedication of the young volunteer leaders who not only commit 4 hours each Saturday, but assemble each Tuesday to plan the programs!

Peace Inn - With the advent of teams of volunteers from the USA and to date one from Canada, short-term lodging became a priority. Enter Paul and Aimab Prevost. Paul is the lay pastor for the Faith at Work Methodist Church in Mizak and co-executive director of HAPI. The Prevosts converted the front part of their home into 3 bedrooms, each with 2 sets of bunk beds, and the Peace Inn lodging was created. To completely meet the needs of these hungry team members, Aimab and several women from the community prepare two ample meals each day.

Peace Pole - Occupying a central spot in the Peace Park at our arrival was a Peace Pole, exactly the same as the Peace Poles we created for our Lenten activity at Strathroy United. One difference was the Creole translation of “Let Peace Prevail on Earth” painted on one side of the pole. This pole was not moved and it now is centrally located at the front of the newly constructed pavilion as a symbol of the importance of Peace to the activities of HAPI in Mizak.

Don's reflections continued.

Shalom Zone – Shalom is the Hebrew word for Peace and is a program created to encourage community based development. Mizak has begun to put the committees and structure in place whereby the community identifies its needs, prioritizes them, and agrees to actions to meet these needs. This approach moves quite slowly as the whole community must take ownership of the programs agreed to. Outsiders may assist, but the decision making is exclusively done by community members. Individual actions are not discouraged, only put in the context of achieving the goals of the community.

Up until my experiences around this Peace programming, I would have defined peace rather narrowly as the absence of war – as in the peacekeeping missions for which we Canadians are famous. However, now I am much more aware that peace is a multi-faceted element of any just and equitable community. It is something to desire and in the reality of Mizak, it is an imperative to strive for. But it was only after chatting with Paul and hearing his theology of actively working towards a peaceful environment in all aspects of community life, I began to connect this peace with the Peace we Christians welcome at Christmas in the birth of the Prince of Peace.

Paul emphasizes the spiritual nature of Peace. For him, without the Christian understanding of the power of God's Peace in our lives, all these other actions will not survive and sustain a community. He reminded me of this truth last night when we chatted via telephone on the first anniversary of the earthquake. I said our group had recently met and were concerned that the political and health problems in Haiti would make HAPI's work more difficult. Paul replied, "as long as we work to bring God's Kingdom to earth, we will succeed".

Given the recent headline violence perpetrated in Tucson, and the underlying violence against women, children, and other vulnerable folk in our own community, I believe HAPI's emphasis on intentionally working for Peace is something we should seriously and intentionally work for in our lives, our congregation, our community, and our country.

Passing the Peace now evokes a whole new meaning for me --- thanks to my new-found Haitian friends!

Don Langford



Haiti - Our Family's Experience

We were very excited about the Haiti mission trip. Amanda had wanted to do something like this for some time. Now the opportunity had arrived.

Being involved with the VBS program, I was involved from the very beginning. We collected school supplies for Haiti with much enthusiasm from the children, parents and leaders. When they were told that the supplies were going on a long airplane ride and saw members of the team with their own eyes they really got excited and listened very carefully. If you had seen the sparkle of delight in their eyes, you could not help but be thankful and blessed to be a part of the process no matter how small.

Michelle was more hesitant and did not feel comfortable to commit to go on a mission trip of this nature. On the other hand, John, Michelle, Amanda and myself had the most amazing, fun time collecting the rest of the school supplies that were needed for the trip by driving all over London and Strathroy. I wish that everyone could have had this experience of explaining our needs to the retailers and seeing their reactions and all the helpful people we met. What a blessing these helpful people were. We even had some teens that were not able to go on this particular trip helping to pack school supplies in the suitcases.

As a family we were in support of Amanda 100%. We, of course, told her that she needed to be careful and never go anywhere alone. We packed carefully, making sure that all items were included from the lists supplied. We also paid a lot of expenses for the trip including vaccines, medications, first aid supplies and travel insurance. (Approx. \$250.00 which we gladly paid.) Most of these supplies would be left behind. We actually started our vaccinations before final approval was given for the trip because time had almost run out. I was also able to meet with Jim Hodgins of the United Church mission office and two other gentlemen that had all been to Haiti and were quite aware of the culture, history, lifestyle, needs, dangers and religious beliefs. This was very helpful in giving us a clear understanding of what we would be involved in and any concerns we would have. I know that others in the congregation did not have this opportunity but this really cleared up a lot of questions for the team and for myself as a parent. Maybe if the congregation had met these people, I am sure it would have put a lot of fears to rest.

We did have an amazing team that volunteered to go to Haiti. I am so proud of them in all that they have done. As a parent, I was also reassured that 3 strong men were on the team with 2 of whom had previous mission knowledge. Pete of course had been to Haiti before and knew exactly what to expect from the upcoming trip and had some good insight. The men and women reassured myself and Tony that they would take care of our little girl and bring her home safe (18 year old). That's all we could ask for. When we (Tony and I) were waiting for that first phone call from Haiti, Tony reminded me that it was out of our hands now and in God's hands. So three days later we got our call that all was well and that the team had been warmly received. It still was a huge relief for me. I gave the message to the congregation with much delight. I even called all families involved to tell them the news. After that I had no worries and let it rest in God's hands. Anthony, our oldest wanted to make sure that Amanda learned something positive from the trip and that it would change her spiritually. Tony went to the Detroit airport with Dennis Adkins. Rev. Julia and Nancy Larocque also drove. We, at home, stayed up till 3:00 a.m. to see Amanda come home, corn rows in her hair and Goulash ready for her to eat as she had requested during the second phone call. Her gifts were pulled out for us and then off to her bed. She was home safe. The trip has changed her. She looks at our life in Canada differently now. We have so much and too much. Sometimes she wishes for that quiet, slower lifestyle of Haiti. She hopes to go back someday.

Tina Zimmermann

on behalf of my husband Tony, our children Anthony, Michelle and John Zimmermann