



SPORTS QUEST SOCCER MISSION TRIP: HAITI MARCH 22 – 26, 2019

Nothing could prepare me for what I witnessed during my jet tour visit to Gonaives, Haiti. Officially, the 21 people who made the trip were tasked with ministering to orphans in partnership with Coreluv – an amazing organization dedicated to defending the orphan. But in reality, those who travelled were the ones ministered to by the people we met & the things we saw. There are SO MANY lasting memories from our short stay, but here are just a few tiny snippets from a memorable journey to the Third World country of Haiti:

- **Sports Quest role:** To provide soccer clinics to orphans, share the message of God’s amazing grace, & donate soccer balls, cones cleats & jerseys to the orphans. Here’s where “flexibility” kicked in, as our well intentioned planning was stretched & sometimes scrapped because of the unknowns we faced at the clinic location (examples included insufficient number of soccer balls, far more kids than expected, communicating through a translator, dusty, rocky “fields”, food & drinks not arriving on time). And yet, these “inconveniences” did not detract from giving the kids a good time. The orphans were amazingly thankful for the opportunity to interact with their new friends from the US. Their gratitude was very humbling, making us realize just HOW MUCH we have in comparison. Contentment took on a whole new meaning as we saw the harshness of life through the eyes of an orphan
- **Staff:** An incredible group of “missionaries” consisting of 10 homeschool soccer players, several dads, 2 talented coaches from uScore (a Houston based soccer program) & a “sold out for Christ” young lady who kept us on track with our daily itinerary. Each person was encouraged to step outside their comfort zone to minister to the orphans through soccer, & also express love to each other by caring & sharing in tangible ways. This group was AWESOME!
- **Coreluv:** Provided tremendous hospitality & organization. Their genuine love for orphans was truly inspiring. It was clear that the staff & volunteers had a calling on their lives as they “*choose to defend orphans, speak for orphans & challenge others to do the same.*” (quote taken from Coreluv website: www.coreluv.org)
- **Church service:** Outdoors in 90 degree heat with a message delivered by a pastor in a suit & tie! Oh how we take air conditioning for granted. The “building” was a tiny concrete area with fold up chairs & a multicolored child’s parachute serving as a makeshift (ineffective) roof to provide shade
- **Transportation:** Quite simply, this was a case of “every man for himself”. The honking of horns took precedence over a flickering indicator. Scooters & motorbikes were used for carrying people (1 to 6) as well as other essentials such as wood, food, metal etc. & yet, “road rage” was not an issue. Despite being unceremoniously cut off, drivers remained calm & seemingly unaffected. This was obviously the norm for the Haitians
- **Guesthouse:** A rustic but functional & comfortable resting place nestled inside a trash ridden, goat & chicken “infested” street of houses – each totally devoid of the luxury living we enjoy here in the US. Cold showers, mosquitoes, cockroaches, armed guards, barbed wire walls, undrinkable water – these were all part of the guesthouse experience. But there was something so right – so pure about our accommodation. We were blessed by the people who served us faithfully every day. And the “front porch” ending to our day allowed us to reflect on the goodness of God as we worshipped through song & the sharing of personal testimonies from our time with the kids
- **Gratefulness shift & final perspectives:** More stuff = Less gratitude. Less stuff = more gratitude. May we NEVER complain about what we DON’T have, but instead, thank God for the MANY blessings He continues to pour out on us. Let us hold on to the things of this world loosely, focusing our attention on reaching the lost (including our neighbors, friends, family, as well as the orphan) rather than accumulating, hoarding & seeking fulfilment in those things which will one day perish. To God be the glory for an incredible experience & your wonderful support!

