

# Hôpital Sacré Coeur

## CRUDEM

Issue 8

Spring 2007

### *Notes from Haiti*

The clinic staff started preparing a week ahead of time. The emergency cart was ready stocked with extra supplies, staff was supplemented so there would be enough help if needed, back-up medical coverage was arranged for. What was all this extra preparation for? Fête Citadelle. It had started many years ago as a religious pilgrimage. People would come from all over Haiti to walk up the mountain to the Citadelle. The walk being reminiscent of Jesus' walk up Calvary Mount. There used to be priests along the way ready to hear confessions. It was a very reflective way to prepare to celebrate the Resurrection. Those religious sentiments have been lost along the way, but the custom of visiting the Citadelle on Holy Thursday, Fête Citadelle, persists. People, particularly the young, come from all over the country. They come with their radios, their picnic lunches, their energy and enthusiasm. For one day the population of Milot swells from a few thousand to closer to 25,000.

The local population views the Fête as a business opportunity, they set up stalls which sell drinks, snacks, hats, whatever they think may entice the visitors to spend their money. So not only t h e hospital, but the w h o l e community had been preparing for days.

They s t a r t

arriving shortly after mid-night! The buses announce their arrival by driving through town horns blaring and the passengers singing at the top of their lungs. There is little chance that even the most sound sleeper can get a good night sleep on this night. Once here, they walk up to the Citadelle, the most important historic monument for the Haitian people, and one of the architectural marvels of the world. The atmosphere is that of a giant party.



This year, "grace a Bon Dieu" there were no accidents. The hospital staff waited in expectation, but had only some minor cuts to take care of. However, we have not always been as lucky. Last year we had two big accidents in which a tap tap was hit by a bus. One accident had 8 victims the second 14. All the doctors, on call or not, came and helped. Unfortunately, one lady had such a terrible head injury she never regained consciousness, though the rest went home carrying painful memories of their day. We can't always save them, but we are here to try.

That is our mission, to be ready to provide care for those who need it. It is true we don't usually have the festive atmosphere of Fête Citadelle, but day in day out, every day, our staff stand ready to care for those who are sick and poor.

*Dr. Chalumeau, Jean-Mary Louis, Mie-Ange Barrella, Raymond Pierre-Louis, Sr. Johanna and Sr. Martha*





## President's Comments



As you read the opening article written by the hospital council, you will appreciate the Citadelle's place in the history of Milot. This identifying historical image of Milot is now accompanied, according to the staff profile article, by a new description- the place where Hôpital Sacré Coeur is located!

At our board meeting in March in Haiti, we welcomed new members of the board, Paul Durnan, Carmel Shields, and Richard Perry MD. We also welcomed new members Charles Dubuque, son of founder Ted Dubuque and Stephen Reese, son of founder Carlos Reese. It was a powerful meeting that solidified the unity of the board of the foundation with the staff of the hospital in their common goal of caring for the poor and the sick of Haiti.

The "Power of One" that Dr Cleary speaks about in his article is the legacy of Ted Dubuque that Hôpital Sacré Coeur illustrates on a regular basis. From the Staff of the hospital to the volunteers to the many donors, it is a story of the power of one that keeps the doors of the hospital open.

A current example of the power of one are donors, Stratford and Kathleen Wallace, who have pledged \$20,000 as a matching gift to fund the purchase of insulin for our growing diabetic population. You can help demonstrate the power of one by giving a donation to allow us to receive this matching gift. They have also donated \$20,000 to purchase formula for the HIV infants.

There are many projects in Haiti but ours is unique in the scope of services we provide, the large number of people that we serve and most importantly, the way we empower the people of Haiti to care for themselves rather than be dependent on others. We are only able to do this because of your continued generosity and prayers. God Bless all of you.

*Peter J. Kelly MD  
President, CRUDEM Foundation*

First time readers of this newsletter are probably wondering what CRUDEM means. It is an acronym:

**C**enter for the  
**RU**ral  
**DE**velopment of  
**M**ilot

When the Brothers of the Sacred Heart came to Milot in 1968 and started building roads and bridges, constructing schools, medical clinics, a tile factory, a lumber mill and bringing electricity and clean water to the village; they called their mission CRUDEM.

In 1986 they built an 8 bed hospital with an operating room and called it Hôpital Sacré Coeur. St Louis surgeon, Dr Ted Dubuque was the first volunteer to arrive, and shortly thereafter with his childhood friend, Carlos Reese, Dr Dubuque formed the CRUDEM Foundation in St Louis to support the hospital. It is a 501(c)(3) corporation.

## Treating AIDS

What is the difference between hope and desperation? Between having a future and a premature death? Of watching your children grow up, or leaving them as orphans? For the HIV+ patients of Hopital Sacre Coeur, that difference is the HIV treatment program.



way they can. Should their path bring them to HSC they can find assistance. Without outside help, treatment with anti-retroviral drugs would be unaffordable.

The path that leads patients to HSC is often paved by ignorance, superstition, and poverty. At the end of their journey, they find a knowledgeable caregiver, compassionate care and treatment. The burden of being poor falls even more heavily on the HIV patients as their families often disown them and throw them out into the street to survive any

Since June of 2004, HSC has been able to offer, HIV counseling and testing through a grant from the Catholic Medical Mission Board, and almost 5000 pregnant Moms have been tested. Every Mom who comes to the hospital's pre-natal clinic or to the mobile pre-natal clinic is tested. This is so that steps can



be taken to protect the most vulnerable amongst us, newborn babies. The Moms who are positive often had no idea that they were sick and even less that they may pass on their illness to their child.

At first, the only treatment HSC could provide was a prophylactic dose given to the Mom's as they delivered, and to the baby to prevent the transmission of the HIV virus.

The mothers will do anything so that they will not pass on the HIV virus to their babies.

Four thousand other patients have been referred for counseling and testing by HSC's medical staff. Sometimes, the patients are virtual skeletons and the test only confirms what our eyes have already told us.

Opening just 20 years ago, the hospital has continued to grow and expand it's services each year

	<u>2002</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2006</u>
<b>Outpatient Visits</b>	29,692	51,081	55,694
<b>Hospital Admissions</b>	2,421	2,756	4,270
<b>Surgeries</b>	846	859	1,190
<b>Deliveries</b>	580	840	1,526
<b>Lab Tests</b>	32,186	70,561	72,045
<b>Prescriptions</b>	68,418	106,992	159,765

Starting with one Haitian physician in 1986, the hospital is now staffed by 15 full time and four part-time Haitian physicians, a dentist and 2 nurse anesthetists. Supplementing the services of our regular staff are visiting teams of specialists from the US and Canada. Each week throughout the fall, winter and spring months, disciplines such as urology, plastic surgery, orthopedics, general surgery, pediatrics, general medicine, gynecology and oral surgery visit the hospital to volunteer their services for the sick poor. Last year 130 came to the hospital!



# PASTOR

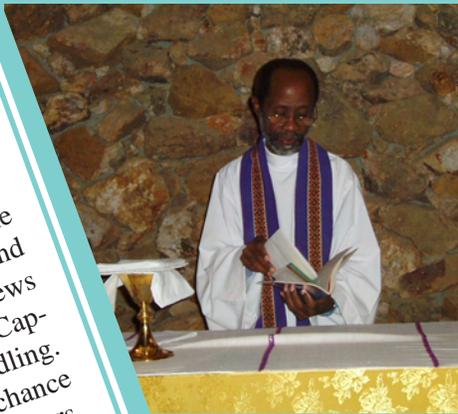
Immaculate Conception Church started on [unclear] at around 6:35 a.m. The pastor, Father [unclear] began the liturgy by welcoming volunteers

I looked around the church that was, at least [unclear] was reminded of the truly universal nature of [unclear] in rural Haiti as much as in any of the grand [unclear] k me that the Milot of 2007 was probably a lot [unclear] ved thoroughfares; meals prepared on open air [unclear] team providing water for cooking, washing and [unclear] on a scale unimaginable in 21st century America...It [unclear] tting like this. And it wasn't hard to find His spirit

And, I joined my fellow board members in praying for [unclear] ges we faced were those that bedevil every board. The [unclear] in many ways, a victim of its own success. Our staff and [unclear] overwhelmed because we're doing such a good job. News [unclear] through word of mouth to outlying villages and into Cap- [unclear] ar more patients than we are currently capable of handling. [unclear] s of Haitian medical schools, who vie not only for the chance [unclear] also for the opportunity to train as obstetrics, ophthalmology, [unclear] s in the world in fields as varied as plastic surgery, orthopedics and neurosurgery. [unclear] hts that were leaving early on Sunday morning, we gathered for [unclear] ecause no priest from the States was with us, Father Tijwa kindly [unclear] e chapel near the Mission House, where most of us stayed. He [unclear] y saying Mass in English, apologizing for not speaking our language

He expressed immense gratitude to everyone involved with CRUDEM. [unclear] of Charity for their day to day work at the hospital. He thanked the [unclear] s. He thanked the members of the board. And he thanked all of the [unclear] in America. He told us we had no idea how much we had improved the [unclear] ot. It was one of the best sermons I've ever heard.

*Tom Schafly is a CRUDEM Board Member from St. Louis, MO*



## Reflections on our 2007 Mission Trip

There is a very practical clinic routine at Hôpital Sacré Coeur. Patients come from a wide radius, usually by foot over 1-2 days. The waiting benches begin to quietly fill at 6 AM, for the 9 AM clinic start. All the patients are seen that morning; many are sent to the lab for basic tests, ekg's, X-rays, smears, blood counts, chemical profiles, etc - bringing the results back to the doctor, who sees them again in mid-afternoon - a working Dx is made and treatment started, and they leave, with a return date as needed. Culture capability is not available in the lab, so good clinical judgment is developed and honed by experience. In the hospital beds, post-partum cardiomyopathies, multiple infectious diseases, ascites and pleural effusions, chronic hepatitides, neuro-myelopathies, diabetic and hypertensive complications, are managed with judgment and available remedies. HIV and anti-TB programs provide free medications and ongoing care for these patients. The staff physicians are knowledgeable about the diseases commonly seen and ever eager to learn and teach. Inpatient's families camp next to the hospital, and feed and care for their relatives while they are hospitalized.

But, concern about the future lies always just below the surface. The modest patient charges (delivery-\$5; clinic visits-50 cents) cover less than 1/3rd of their hospital expenses. The rest is begged from "Friends of Hôpital Sacré Coeur", volunteers, and the Order of Malta. The hospital is busier each year and so many improvements are planned but deferred until funds become available. All the hospital's washing is done by hand by 6-8 ladies, with wash boards, soapy water and Clorox, in a small open pavilion with a rusty tin roof. The clean sheets and bed clothes are hung in the sun to dry before the frequent showers come. One electrical generator is working and 2 others are awaiting funds to fix. Our mission group (7) has pledged \$50,000, from the Syracuse, NY and D.C. areas, towards building a laundry facility, purchasing 2 industrial washers and dryers and a new generator. The main need of Hôpital Sacré Coeur, even more than volunteers, is monetary support. The administration is excellent, and no money is wasted.



The core value of volunteering is in helping one person - one place, at a time. The week spent by our group of 7 at Hôpital Sacré Coeur was personally satisfying and rewarding as always. To paraphrase Mother Teresa, we do not do this to change the world, we do this so that the world won't change us. And, perhaps, Haiti will improve and we will see greater opportunities for its peoples, when we return, in January, 2008.

*Dr. Richard Perry is a CRUDEM board member and an Internist from Potomac, MD*



## CRUDEM FOUNDATION

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## Call It What You Will...

I'm not sure whether you want to call it "paying it forward," or "one good turn deserves another," or "the power of one." But I firmly believe that the influence of one person, at the right time, in the right way, can really change things.

Several years ago while coming out of church one Sunday, Dr. Les Rainwater asked me if I wanted to go to Haiti. Les is a urologist and unbeknownst to me he had traveled to Milot a month or so before. Now he was looking to set up a team of his own. Not really knowing what he had in mind I immediately said, "Yes." I did tell Les that he did have one rather formidable obstacle to overcome in order for me to be able to make the trip. That being my wife. Janie is not against my doing volunteer work, I just figured she might be a bit leery of me going to Haiti for it. As it happened Janie was also looking for volunteers, she needed help at "Chicken Night" for our high school carnival. When Les broached the subject with her, she basically said I could go to Haiti if he and his wife would work the dining room during the chicken diner. A couple days later she asked me where exactly Haiti was and what would I be doing there?

Ok, so does the fact that Les was able to lure me to Haiti change the world? Probably not, but it certainly has changed me. Having the



opportunity to see the CRUDEM project and to be a part of it has made me a different person. The chance to see what the Sisters, the volunteers, the nurses and doctors of the CRUDEM Foundation have accomplished has had an affect on me. What will be the end result? I don't know. Maybe one of the patients we help will

in turn help others. Maybe I will recruit another volunteer to help maintain or expand the services offered at the hospital. Maybe one of my children will see the importance of helping those truly in need. Maybe I can do for someone else what Les did for me.

My goal is to get another person involved. To look at the resources I have, the people that I know, and the options that exist and figure out a way to involve one more person. Maybe that person will be a volunteer, maybe they will be a donor, maybe they will learn more about Haiti, involvement is the key. Whatever the case is, if I can influence one person, that person can do the same and so on.

*Dr. Bill Cleary is an Anaesthesiologist from Bismark, ND*

# Wish List

## Patient Waiting Area

- VCR/DVD player on a tall mobile cart
- Stackable chairs

## Maintenance & Grounds

- Wheelbarrows (4)
- Leaf rakes (8)
- Buckets with ringers & mops (8)

## Staff Quarters

- Table and chairs for 12
- Coffee makers (4)
- Microwave

*Note: If you would like to donate any of the above, please contact either Barbara Fiorda or Joni Paterson at the CRUDEM Foundation offices (314) 754-7471. They can help to arrange for the purchase and delivery to CRUDEM of any item(s) you want to provide. Thank you.*



## STAFF PROFILE

Gabriele Mathiew, better known by his nickname Tatou, has worked in CRUDEM for almost 20 years in general maintenance. His wife, Denise Mathiew, is known by many of the visiting doctors and nurses volunteering at Hôpital Sacré Coeur as she has been working for 4 years in the Operating Room as a Technician. Even with 6 children the Mathiew's have managed to focus much of their time to the Hôpital Sacré Coeur, and because they live so close to the hospital, they are always available in times of crisis.

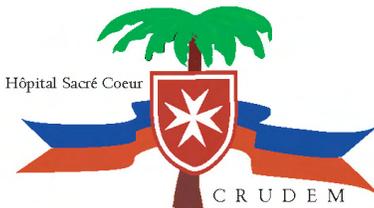
The couple both learned everything they know by on the job training. Denise prepares the operating equipment before surgery and assists the doctors during each operation. She then cleans all equipment afterwards and also takes care of the stock within the OR. Tatou, however, does not work directly with

hospital patients. He is the plumber for all of CRUDEM and when something is broken, he fixes it. He is also in charge of the propane and oxygen stock needed within the hospital.

Denise and Tatou both take great pride in the services the hospital provides. "The hospital here in Milot cares for everybody equally. Other hospitals do not treat people who are unable to pay so the hospital here is unique in a special way" Denise commented.

Tatou mentioned several times how, in the past, Milot was better known for its tourist attractions (the Palais Sans Souci and Citadelle Laferriere), but now the town of Milot is also associated with good quality healthcare and the hospital is the greatest source of employment for

Milot. "Without this hospital the people of Milot would be suffering greatly". Both Mathiew's have given their all to Hôpital Sacré Coeur and will continue to do so because of the outstanding services it provides.



Hôpital Sacré Coeur

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