



## **GATEWAY HAITI SERVING TRIP**

**MAY – JUNE 2011**

777 Route National #1

Titanyen, Haiti

(509) 2-513-4909

### **Haiti Serving Team Values & Commitments**

- We will love God
  - With all our heart, soul, mind and strength
  - Serve Him wholeheartedly
  - Connect with God each day and listen for his guidance
  - Trust in his provision for all things
  
- We will love People
  - Encourage and build each other up
  - Stay unified and resolve any conflicts quickly
  - Work as a team and follow the lead of our team leader(s)
  
- We will Build Character
  - Discover, develop and use our spiritual gifts
  - Clothe ourselves in humility
  - Be flexible no matter the circumstance
  
- We will Be the Body
  - Serve others needs before your own
  - Seek to learn more than you teach
  - Meet physical and spiritual needs
  
- Other Commitments:
  - Follow Jesus example!
  - Ensure that my trip is fully resourced
  - Attend each meeting and notify team leader of any scheduling conflicts

Team and Running Partners:

Sherilyn  
Anne  
Kathleen  
Carrie

Lisa  
Catherine  
Karin W

Karin H  
Sally  
Ericka

Charles  
Georges  
Creighton  
Ken

## **Introduction**

Each day in Haiti, just like each day at home, will present new challenges and new opportunities to grow in our love for God and our love for each other. The following pages will help you consider and fine-tune different spiritual disciplines to help you train for life.

It is helpful to begin a trip like this with ‘the end in mind.’ As we met over the last two months, you were asked to pray and write down three to four hopes or desires for your time in Haiti. These may be desires God has placed on your heart for you personally and/or things you want to learn while in Haiti. Take a few minutes to write down what God has put on your heart and mind:

(The exercises on the following pages have been adapted for our trip from “The Life You’ve Always Wanted – Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary People” by John Ortberg. For deeper study on spiritual disciplines, this is an excellent book. Additional resources for study on disciplines include “Morph: Build Character” by Gateway and “Celebration of Discipline” by Richard Foster.)

Use the back of each page for additional space to journal your thoughts & prayers.

## **Saturday – Showing Up (Transformation Begins)**

A big part of being available to God is just showing up. We're in Haiti now; we've shown up.

*What has caught your attention so far?*

*What are your first impressions as you look around?*

### **Read Exodus 3:1-15**

*How did Moses turn aside from his daily routine and how did this willingness to turn aside impact the rest of his life?*

### **Read Exodus 3:11-15; 4:1-17**

*How does God respond to each of Moses' efforts to avoid this calling for his life?*

*Describe a time when you felt a deep desire to see God transform your life so that you would "morph" and become more of who God wants you to be. How is this desire becoming a reality?*

### **Reflection and Prayer**

Pray and thank God for the many ways he has brought transformation in your life as you have followed Jesus.

What is one area of your life you know God wants to transform, but you honestly don't want to change (or have given up hope of ever changing)? Take time to pray for the Holy Spirit to give you a renewed desire to be changed in this area of your life and to give you hope in his power to bring transformation.

Pray for continued morphing experiences while you are in Haiti where God will move, transform and shape your life!

Use the back of each page to journal your thoughts or prayers from your time with God.

## **Sunday – The Practice of Celebration (Sabbath & Worship)**

### **Read Nehemiah 8:9-12**

*What is one place in God's creation that gives you a profound sense that God is a joyful God and the happiest of all beings in the universe? When you are in this place, how is his joy passed on to you?*

*How does the joy of the Lord bring you strength?*

*If members of the team were asked to describe where you were on the continuum of joy-less to joy-filled, what do you think they would say?*

*Often people closest to suffering have the most powerful joy. Have you ever noticed this? Why do you think they are full of joy?*

### **Reflection and Prayer**

Theologian Dallas Willard says that, "when we are filled with joy we are less likely to be drawn into temptation". Or said another way, when we are joy-deprived, we are more likely to fall into temptation. How have you experienced this principle in your life? Thank God for specific joy-giving gifts he has poured into your life. Ask God to make you so aware of his blessings that temptations in your life look less enticing.

Today you'll have an opportunity to worship and celebrate with Haitians on their 'Sabbath' day. Many have travelled by foot for an hour or more to worship together. Notice the joy they share, even in the midst of hardship, heat, and hunger. Observe how they bring their 'best' to God in worship of him.

## **Monday – Receiving Guidance from the Holy Spirit**

### **Read Psalm 121**

Write down what you think God sees and thinks when he looks at you while you are going throughout your day and while you are sleeping at night.

*What do you learn about the heart of God for you in this passage?*

### **Read John 10:1-4**

*What does this passage teach you about God as your shepherd?*

*How do you hear the Shepherd's voice and receive his teaching in your life?*

### **Read 1 Samuel 3:1-10**

*Have you ever experienced a time when God was speaking to you and trying to get your attention, but it took a long time to realize God was asking you to move? What finally got your attention and helped you realize God was speaking to you? Is God speaking to you now about something?*

### **Reflection and Prayer**

What are some of the things that get in the way of hearing and being attentive to God? Does being in an environment like Haiti make it easier or more difficult to hear his voice? What commitments, changes, or decisions do you need to make this week to remove some of the roadblocks to connection with God?

Take time to thank God for the ways he speaks to you: through his Word, through others, through his creation, through life circumstances, and through the still, small voice of his Spirit. Pray and ask him to help you recognize his voice, the voice of the good Shepherd.

## **Tuesday – The Practice of Prayer**

“History belongs to the intercessors - those who believe and pray the future into being.”  
– Walter Wink

*If Wink is right, what implications would this have on your personal commitment to pray?*

### **Read Luke 11:1-4 and Matthew 6:9-13**

*Which of the areas Jesus prayed for do you tend to focus on the most when you pray?*

*Which do you need to focus on more?*

*What situations and life experiences most naturally move you to pray? What things keep you from praying?*

*Do you have a specific time and place you typically connect most with God? How has this helped your prayer life? If you don't have a regular rhythm of prayer, ask your Running Partners to encourage you to develop this new discipline.*

### **Reflection and Prayer**

Identify one area or need in your life where you need prayer. Write out two prayers focused on the area that you have identified. **First**, write a safe, cautious, polite prayer. In this prayer, don't be too expectant and don't expect God to be responsive. **Second**, write a prayer that reflects the attitude of Walter Wink (in the quote above). Be bold, fearless, and expectant. Ask in a way that takes you beyond your comfort zone and ask in anticipation. After you've written both prayers, read them aloud so you can hear them. Which prayer do you think most reflects what God wants to hear from you?

Tonight you'll have an opportunity to go to a Haitian prayer gathering. Observe how they connect with God. Think about how this experience may challenge you to connect to God in a fresh, new way.

### **Wednesday – The Practice of Slowing (An Un-hurried Life)**

“To be spiritually healthy, you must ruthlessly eliminate hurry from your life.” - Anonymous

If you haven't noticed, there's a different pace of life in Haiti than back home. When it comes to 'slowing' the Haitians may be more spiritually healthy than you are.

*As you've observed life in Haiti over the last few days, why do things move slower? What's one thing you've learned from watching life here that will help you move at a slower pace back home?*

### **Read Mark 1:32-29 and Luke 5:15-16**

*From these two passages and other passages in the Gospels, how did Jesus model an unhurried life?*

“Love and hurry are fundamentally incompatible.” – John Ortberg

*What does Ortberg mean by this?*

*How is hurry the enemy in your relationship with:*

- *God?*
- *Your friends?*
- *Family members?*
- *Other Christ followers?*
- *People who don't yet know Christ?*
- *People around you in need?*

*What Biblical truths do we need to hold onto that will help us love more and hurry less?*

### **Reflection and Prayer**

If I have identified a high level of hurry or busyness in my life, what is it that is driving me to push so hard all the time? Does God really ask me to do all that I am doing? Pray for God's Spirit of peace to fill my heart and mind. Ask God to teach me the discipline of slowing down. Ask God what I need to do when I return home so that I don't forget what I've learned (for example, taking a solitude day each month).

## **Thursday – The Practice of Servant-hood**

“More than any other single way the grace of humility is worked into our lives through the discipline of service... Nothing disciplines the inordinate desires of the flesh like service and nothing transforms the desire of the flesh like serving in hiddenness. The flesh whines against service but screams against hidden service. It strains and pulls for honor and recognition.” – Richard Foster

*How do acts of service, and particularly acts of service done in secret, protect us from becoming prideful?*

*What keeps us from offering more acts of secret service?*

Sometimes it's easier to serve people in a country like Haiti than serve those in our neighborhood, family, or church. Jesus modeled how we are to serve those we do life with.

### **Read John 13:1-17**

*Why did Jesus wash the disciples feet?*

*What do you think it was like for Jesus to wash the feet of the person who would betray him and send him to his death and another who would deny even knowing him?*

*Does Jesus really mean that we are to wash each other's feet?*

*How can we live this out?*

*Is there someone who has 'betrayed' you that you need to serve?*

### **Reflection and Prayer**

#### **Read Mark 10:45**

Ask God to give you a desire to serve in humble secrecy. Pray for ways to serve your 'enemies.' Ask God how you can become more available to serve those around you. Ask him to give you the heart of Jesus when it comes to your acts of service.

## **Friday – Heading Home**

As you travel home today, look back over the hopes and desires God put on your heart before we started the trip.

*Where has God shown up over the last week?*

*Where has he exceeded your expectations?*

*Where do you still have questions that are unanswered?*

Just as we have grown together and served together over the last week, our desire at Gateway is that everyone has a community to grow with and a cause to serve.

*As you return home, what's your next step to participate in community with others to grow spiritually?*

*What's your next step to continue serving with the body?*

*What's your next step to share with others about what you've experienced in Haiti?*

*How can you continue to serve those in Haiti?*

One suggested next step might include joining a Network. A Network is a group of 30-75 people who meet regularly to grow and serve together. Each Network has small groups of 4-15 people who go deeper in their study of God. Each Network also serves the physical and spiritual needs of those around them. When you return, consider finding a Network where you do life. To find a listing of Networks or Groups at Gateway go to: <http://gateway.sochurch.com/groups>

### **Running Partner Guidelines**

The purpose of running together is to provide the encouragement, pacing, and motivation we all need to grow in the way of Christ: Loving God, Loving People, Building Character, and Being the Body.

#### *Be a listener*

Scripture calls us to “be quick to listen and slow to speak” (James 1:19). We will resist the impulse to fill the air with hollow words. If we have nothing to say, we will say nothing.

#### *Be gracious*

Scripture exhorts us to “forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.” (Colossians 3:13). We will extend grace to each other, resist comparisons, and seek to encourage each person in their current season of life and maturity.

#### *Be truthful*

Scripture tells us that Christ came “filled with grace and truth” (John 1:14). We will offer truth with sensitivity, but we will not shrink from exhorting each other truthfully, and we will not encourage perpetual falsehoods in each other’s lives.

#### *Be sensitive to God’s Spirit*

Scripture tells us that God’s Spirit will “guide you into all truth” (John 16:13). We will not take this to presume upon God’s Spirit or assume all we say or think is from God’s Spirit, but we will listen for God’s guidance and God’s voice in each other and in our inner-persons.

#### *Be gentle*

Scripture tells us that when assisting a brother or sister struggling with sin, we are to “restore them gently” (Galatians 6:1). We are aware of our own shortcomings and will not expect perfection from each other. When needed we will work gently with each other to point to each other toward a better way.

#### *Be multipliers*

Scripture tells us we are to take what we’ve discovered and “entrust it to reliable people who will also be qualified to each others” (2 Timothy 2:2). As running partners, we will multiply. We will expand our influence by expanding and multiplying our relationships.

#### *Be sensitive with sensitive information*

Scripture tells us “a gossip betrays confidence, but a trustworthy person keeps a secret” (Proverbs 11:13). We will handle sensitive information with sensitivity. We will guard each other’s privacy and be trustworthy with each other’s vulnerability.