

Haiti: Caring for Those in Need...

In 2013, Fraternite Notre Dame realized numerous projects, together with the MINUSTAH (United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti).

The Peruvian Contingent with MINUSTAH helped us through some of their CIMIC activities (*Civil Military Cooperation Activity*). Indeed, medical doctors and dentists from the contingent came up the mountain on a weekly basis for consultations at the dispensary and they paid visits to the severely ill at home, reaching out to their remote shack dwellings.

On Thursday June 6th, we had the honor to have Peruvian Commander Julio Ruitz Juarez at our Mission, he came up especially to assess living conditions in the mountains.

Following his visit, help from the MINUSTAH has intensified, because their personnel was able to verify the good initiatives performed by Fraternite Notre Dame in these difficult areas.

The same day, a team from the Peruvian Contingent organized some festivities

with the children, and came up to entertain the children at our school. About 350 children participated in the games, got involved with painting in arts and crafts,



or played with the clown, and they also

enjoyed a puppet show, for everyone's greatest joy. Another similar event was organized again, on October 31st.

Commander Ruitz invited us, On Thursday June 20, to an award medal ceremony, involving both the Peruvian and Jordanian contingents. That night, some Peruvian military men and women featured some typical folk dances from their country.

The Paraguayan contingent helped us with consultations for the sick, and we also received help from the Bolivian contingent, regarding dental care.

On Tuesday July 9th, we had a chance to meet with MINUSTAH Force Commander Lieutenant General Edson Leal Pujol. We were able to discuss various projects currently at stake with Fraternite Notre Dame, such as a plan to rebuild a heavily damaged mountain road, not far from our Mission...

On June 25th and September 3rd, we participated in various meetings dealing with safety and the United Nations. We

concentrated our efforts on finding solutions to safely transport food products donated by *Food for the Poor* to Fraternite Notre Dame, to feed large sections of the population, in dire straights. The topic of the meetings was improving security in the country, and measures were adopted to secure vehicles leaving the warehouse.

Early April 2013, UNICEF donated a vehicle to Fraternite Notre Dame, a Land Cruiser Toyota, which, ever since, has been tremendously useful as an ambulance vehicle, to transport the sick from the mountains, onto the various hospitals of Port-au-Prince.

That is to say how the work performed by Fraternite Notre Dame has inspired trust to these various organizations, as they can



see the labor and effective action to benefit those in the population that are most in need, or happen to be forsaken in the mountains.

With the vehicle mentioned, Fraternite Notre Dame was able to work wonders and has literally saved numerous lives.



IOM (*International Organization for Migrations*) has contributed various equipment and supplies, very useful, which were re-distributed to the most destitute, including:

Tarp; bug nets; soap bars; baby diapers and wash cloths; construction lumber and cement; flashlights with batteries; toothpaste; aquatable tablets and cooking ranges.



On November 14th, we met with Sandra Honoré, Special Representative to the Secretary General of the United Nations for Haiti, and Chief of the MUNUSTAH.

On November 28th, we attended another award medal ceremony for contingents from Ecuador and Chile.

Following our meeting with the MINUS-

TAH Force Commander, the Chilean



Contingent started, on November 4th, 2013, the construction of a 4-kilometer



road, to allow quicker access to the city from our Mission, especially when we transfer patients from the mountains to the Hospital.

The project is vital in that respect and will bring enormous improvement to our efficiency in the field. Indeed, it currently takes us 2 hours to reach Port-au-Prince, and the re-construction of this road segment will shorten that trip to a mere 30 minutes!

From early January to end of November, 2013, Fraternite Notre Dame's Mission has

nursed 7,235 patients and facilitated 187 child deliveries.

This definitely meet the goals set by His Excellency Bishop Jean Marie Roger Kozik, Founder of Fraternite Notre Dame, thanks to whom the Mission was initiated:

helping the most abandoned, and offering assistance to remote mountain Haiti residents, who live in unimaginable misery.

Thus, such collaboration with UNICEF and MINUSTAH, and some other national or international humanitarian agencies, along with local NGOs, illustrates how common efforts can yield fruits and bring comfort and moral support, in a country that counts among the world's poorest.



Sister Marie of the Cross, snd.; Mrs. Sandra Honoré, Chief of MINUSTAH and Haiti's Special Representative to the UN's Secretary General; Lieutenant General Edson Leal Pujol, Force Commander for MINUSTAH in Haiti, and Sister Marie of the Gospel, snd.