

## **Report from Phil Anderson, Haiti, May 2010**

At the end of May, I went to work in my capacity as a Paediatric doctor for three weeks in the Bethesda Medical Clinic. This was in the city of Cap Haitien in the north of Haiti. I went with One Mission Society (OMS) an American missionary organisation, with whom I was put into contact through the Glenabbey Healthcare Group. This was a challenging experience that allowed me to use my skills to practically and physically help others but it would be an understatement to say "gained from much more than I received" spiritually.

My work involved reviewing a largely but not exclusively paediatric caseload. The kids presented with common coughs and colds to leg fractures to malaria, typhoid and HIV. This was largely at the clinic base but I also visited a few in the community too sick to attend, and an orphanage on the other side of the city. One weekend we also organised a mobile clinic in a remote mountainous area, in which the nurse practitioner and I reviewed 200 patients that weekend. There were also 2 people who decided to become Christians. This was an exhausting but such an immensely rewarding part of the trip.

The abject poverty and the horrendous accounts of the well publicised earthquake in Haiti that happened in January were hard to avoid. But the humble and self sacrificing faith of the Christians (Haitian and missionary) I met there impressed on my perspective on what to be rich in God's eyes means - that it's in the depth of your relationship with Him, not in money, qualifications or prestige.

I have so much to say about the people I was privileged to meet in Haiti and the emotionally difficult but encouraging and perspective changing experiences! Hopefully I will have opportunity to speak to you all soon!