

## HAITI MEDICAL DENTAL MISSION 2016

By: Dr. Carrie Hui

*Koman ou ye?* 'How are you?' in Creole was asked hundreds of times as Your Neighbourhood Dental team returned to Haiti for a third time in January! This year, the response was of a happier and more positive tone compared to their previous trips. Dr. Carrie Hui, Dr. Michelle Lee and Dr. Frances Hadipranoto, together with Shivvon Hayles, a Registered Dental Hygienist, and a very dedicated group of volunteers are happy to report that their dental mission trip to Haiti was a success. Port-au-Prince appears to be recovering from the earthquake in 2010 that killed hundreds of thousands of people, injuring many and displacing families from their homes. Buildings are being rebuilt, roads repaved and life is starting to return to the busy bustling city.



Our *Tap tap* – transportation vehicle for the trip

*\*Tap tap, literally meaning 'quick quick' are local share taxis in Haiti; name comes from the sound of passengers tapping on the metal bus body to indicate they want off*

Your Neighbourhood Dental team joined doctors, physician assistants, nurse and volunteers with New Beginning Baptist Fellowship Church and an established mission in Haiti called "Oeuvre Evangelique Baptist Bethesda" on a two week medical dental mission to surrounding villages of Jacmel. Dental, medical and optical care was provided to hundreds of patients.

Clinics were set up in the villages of Montange LaVoute, Marbial and Macarie – all very remote villages in the southern part of Haiti. Our journey involved hours of travel on a *tap tap* through dusty gravel roads and mountains with steep rocky paths, along river beds and across rivers.



Gravel path along river beds and across rivers to Marbial

The medical team managed to see over a thousand patients of all ages, some of whom have walked as long as 5 to 6 hours to see a 'western' doctor. Medications ranging from multivitamins to antibiotics, pain killers, birth control to medicines for hypertension and diabetes were prescribed and dispensed to hundreds of patients by our pharmacy.



Patients waiting to be seen in Macarie



Medical team with nurses, physician assistants and doctors (picture on left) and even Pastor Ledain was hard at work (picture on right)



Our optical center with Dave (left) and Dr. Jeff talking to patients (right)



Our pharmacy with Otello (left) and Sherlene (right)

Between Dr. Carrie, Dr. Michelle and Dr. Frances, over 200 patients were treated, with many having multiple extractions. Haitians have LONG roots and very DENSE bone! Our extraction skills and grasp of Creole has progressed immensely since our first trip in 2014. Dr. Carrie is hoping to make it a goal of hers to be able to engage in basic conversation with her patients by 2017! Despite the challenges of no electricity and running water, which translates into no dental lights or drills, our dental team were able to successfully remove the source of pain and infection for hundreds of patients.



Haiti Dental Team 2016 (picture on left) - Dr. Frances (left), Dr. Michelle (center) and Dr. Carrie (right) and our dental team at work (picture on right)



Marijke triaging our dental patients (left) and Michelle, our dental assistant, keeping everything in order, which included babysitting (right)



Thank you to Flight Dental for their generous contribution of instruments and EC Orthotics for their continual support.



Our sterilization center - Phil (left), Ken (middle) and Edwin (right)



Nelson in 2014 after he had two adult molars extracted in 2014 (left) and Nelson in 2016, with aspirations of becoming dentist (right)



One of the most touching moments in Dr. Carrie's career - Nelson covering the eyes of a patient as she received local anaesthetic in 2016

Our dental hygiene team was equally as busy, seeing hundreds of children, providing dental cleanings, topical fluoride applications and dispensing oral fluoride tablets to parents. Oral hygiene instruction was provided to patients young and old as well, keeping our hygienist Shivvon, our dental assistant Michelle and Suzi VERY busy! The dental hygiene aspect of the mission was started in 2015 with many patients seeing a hygienist for the first time in their life. We hope that we will be able to educate our patients so that they too, can enjoy a lifetime of healthy smiles!



Shivvon, our dental hygienist, hard at work scaling teeth while Suzi applies topical fluoride (right, in background)



Suzi dispensing fluoride tablets to parents (left) and Dr. Carrie and her husband, Ken (right)



Michelle, our dental assistant, polishing teeth

This year was also a very exciting year for us! We continue to be very grateful for the generous support of our friends, family and patients. A special mention and thanks goes out to the grade six class at The Stewart School in Perth, Ontario, who worked extremely hard to fundraise for our mission this year. We decided to dedicate a portion of the contributions to providing a meal for all the students in the school at Marbial. The event was a great success with over 1000 meals served consisting of Poul fri (haitian fried chicken), rice and peas and Pikliz (haitian cole slaw)! We were also able to employ some of the local women to help prepare the food.



Our cooks hard at work preparing the Poul fri for the children



*Poul fri* (haitian fried chicken)



Many pots of rice and peas were prepared together with a lot of *Pikliz* (haitian coleslaw)



Dr. Michelle and Dr. Carrie trying to help out in the kitchen (left) while our volunteers are hard at work serving the children (right)



Primary school children in Marbial



There were lots of full tummies that day!



Dr. Carrie and Dr. Frances hanging out with the kids after lunch



Our walk to work on market day (which is once a week) in Montagne LaVoute



Late afternoon hike after a long day at clinic



No trip is complete without enjoying a beautiful sunset - Thank you for another amazing trip!

It goes without saying that the success of our trip would not have been possible without the help of all our support volunteers. Prior to our travels, many events were held to fundraise for the trip. Proceeds were used to acquire Dental Travel Packs from Health Partners International of Canada and allowed for the purchase of sundries, anaesthetics, and medicines necessary to provide the highest level of dental care to our patients in Haiti. Notable contributions and donations also came from Your Neighbourhood Dentist team and our patients, in addition to Colgate and K-Dental. Our team and our patients in Haiti are extremely grateful for the generosity shown by all of you on many levels. On behalf of the children and adults in Haiti, we want to give you our utmost gratitude for helping to make dental and medical care happen, even in Haiti!



See you in January 2017!