

WISH NEWSLETTER FOR OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2000

It Started with Love and Prayer; The Story of Beatrice Continues

by Donna Doan

This is a continuation of the relationship and miracle of Beatrice and Jamie Hammer that began in 1998. For those who did not receive the last issue of this newsletter, Jamie is a college student from Missouri whose heart was touched by a little six-year-old girl, Beatrice, during a Vacation Bible School youth experience on LaGonave. Beatrice was unable to walk due to legs that were rubbery and under-developed. She was withdrawn and unresponsive. Jamie began praying for a miracle for little Beatrice. She kept a prayer journal. And in her Bible next to Ephesians 3:20-21 she wrote, "Beatrice". When Jamie returned with another work team from Missouri the following year, Beatrice responded to her love and attention, this time talking and laughing. For the first time, with Jamie's help, Beatrice shared the same experiences with the other children, including splashing around in the sea. Jamie continued to pray for Beatrice when she returned to Missouri. A Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) plane scheduled to arrive on LaGonave was delayed long enough for Beatrice to make her way to the airstrip to watch for the plane. One of the mission hospital nurses, Carol Earl, was waiting for the plane and saw Beatrice scooting up the road on her bottom. She thought Beatrice might benefit from a nutritional supplement made from the leaves of the moringa tree discovered as a food source for the fish research project. Moringa is also known as the "miracle tree" since it provides more protein per ounce than milk. Beatrice's brothers also received the supplements.

As friends in Michigan learned of little Beatrice's struggle, they sent her two walkers to help her as she gained strength to begin using her legs.

Jamie continued to pray for Jesus to work in Beatrice's heart and to strengthen her body.

AND NOW, THE REST OF THE STORY

Back in Michigan, a little four-year-old named Madison saw a needy child on the television and asked her mother why that child was so sad. Her mother answered, "I think it is because she doesn't have any toys or enough to eat." Madison knew immediately what she would do. Soon she brought her mother her large doll, Shelby, which she'd had since she was only ten months old. "Take Shelby, Mom, and give her to some child to make her happy." Mother remembered that

Madison's grandmother, Roberta, was about to make her first trip to LaGonave. Mom said, "Ok, Madison, we'll give Shelby to Grandma so she can take her to Haiti."

As the missionaries and fellow work team members gathered for devotions on the WISH porch, Grandma opened her suitcase and introduced Shelby. She said, "This is a special doll from a special little girl, and I want you to help me find a special little Haitian girl to give her to." Immediately, three of the missionaries thought of Beatrice.

It was arranged for Roberta to meet Beatrice at her regular weekly clinic visit and deliver the very large doll to this very poor little girl. It was a Kodak-moment for those who gathered to share in the event. Then they all piled into the WISH truck so Dick Doan could chauffeur them and their precious cargo safely back to the community of Be Torte on the outskirts of town.

What a sight it was as Beatrice got out of the truck and walked, unassisted, over the rough terrain to her house, carrying the large doll in her arms. It was as if Cinderella had become Queen for a Day!

The blessings of this story continue to expand.....

Madison's grandma returned to Michigan and shared the story of Beatrice and the doll with her friends. She and a friend decided to sponsor Beatrice and one of her brothers so they could attend school this fall.

Jamie Hammer's prayer that she would be able to return to Haiti and see little Beatrice again was answered this past June when she returned with the team of college students for another two weeks of Vacation Bible School. But there would be no reunion for Jamie and Beatrice that first week since Beatrice was staying with family in another village.

After a week of VBS, about 80 people of this small, impoverished community of Be Torte gathered for their very first church service at the newly converted airstrip terminal building. As the service began, a very happy and transformed Beatrice RAN down the gravel runway to find her Jamie! She had returned from her visit in time to sing and pray and rejoice with the young Americans who brought the love of Christ and hope to these long forgotten people of Be Torte. Jamie could see the change that nutrition had made in Beatrice, not just her legs, but her face and spirit as well.

Beatrice and one of her brothers began school this fall. The hospital continues to monitor her progress.

The truth of God's Word had been proven again. (Ephesians 3:20-21) God had done "exceedingly more" than all Jamie could have asked or imagined!

In response to what Jamie could do, that is to pray, God used WISH, the Wesleyan hospital, Mission Aviation Fellowship, a fish research project, a Missouri VBS team, a Michigan TV program, a four-year-old girl, a grandmother, her friend, and possibly many others to answer those prayers.

As a conductor creates beautiful music from diverse instruments, so our God, the Master Conductor, can assemble and bring together a variety of human instruments to create beautiful music from someone's life, and He begins His orchestration in answer to someone's prayers.

**Prayer changes people.
May you be encouraged to keep praying for those in your
web of influence.**

If you would like a copy of this two-part article,

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