

REPORT ON VOSH/CA TRIP
PORT AU PRINCE, HAITI
August 18-23

August 18th - Arrived in PAP about 4:00 PM. We were picked up at airport by host, Partners in Development. No problems with customs. We walked straight out of airport. Thank God. Dr. Pearl's luggage did not make it. Did receive the next day.

Due to two people coming from Canada and one OD canceling Dr. Pearl was unable to bring all supplies. So we were unable to try out the new system of making glasses on the spot.

PID is about 15 minutes from the airport. Gail, manager of PID showed us to our living quarters. We stayed in a concrete building with one side men's and other side ladies. Six sets of bunk-beds in each room with 2'' mattress, poor air flow even with fans (no windows just small vents). Two cold showers and two bathrooms. No screens so you needed a mosquito net and lots of bug spray. Also found out there are tarantulas. BIG ONES.

During dinner we met the other people staying there, a retired doctor, builder, and a plumber.

Day one at clinic: We started clinic about 8:30 AM. Visual acuity and retinamax (by Pedivision) done by Bryant and Carrie. Dr Pearl doing health and final R'x with the glasses he brought.(no trial lens), Linda and Nancy doing optical.

Terri,OD and his team of three from a Mennonite Mission in PAP joined us about 11:00. They did their own visual acuity, tonometry and refracting.

We worked till 4:00 seeing about 260 people. We had 7 people return the next time to see Dr. Large for cataract or glaucoma.

Day two at clinic: Started at 8:00. Terri and his team came about 11:00 they worked till about 2:00. Dr. Large came about noon, introduced himself to all the people in the clinic including the people there to see the MD. He is quit a celebrity there. He saw the 7 people from the day before and referred them to International Child Care for surgery and to Dr.Ritzi Eugene for glaucoma. Saw @ 230 that day. About 10 Referrals for surgery. Partners of Development had a severe diabetic patient who was losing her sight. With the help of Dr. Large and Mennonite mission they were able to take her to the mission to stay and be treated. Gail was very happy to see the outcome for this girl. She was very worried she would go totally blind and lost in Haiti.

Dr Large, Pres of the Ophthalmology in Haiti and Reginald Paul, Director of Preventive Blindness in Haiti joined us for dinner. They informed us of the problems in Haiti.

Reiterating from the National Vision 2020 Plan for the prevention of Blindness in Haiti.

Lack of opportunities for ophthalmologist to operate

Lack of surgeons, operating rooms, equipment and health personnel.

Cuban surgeon doing surgery for free.

Dr. Large would like to see Ophthalmologist working with NGO's getting paid for their services. Also commented that the Dept of Health has a large supply of drops and reader to be distributed to the people of PAP. He would like to see groups like ours working with him to help with this program. He can coordinate this with churches and NGO'S in

different regions of PAP that can set up the clinics. Dr. Pearl to see if he can get other OD's interested.

Day three: Just VOSH/CA team. Linda worked with Dr. Pearl to move things faster. Nancy now experienced gave out the glasses. Dr Large came in the afternoon to examine the referrals for the day. About 8 referrals and 240 patients.

That evening we review what we did the past three days.

Pedivision retinamax was not giving good readings. Could not read small pupils. Dr. Pearl showed us the fabricating sphere – cylindrical prescription glasses. Frame is ugly. No spring. Sorry my opinion a waste for three dollars. You can get all the nice frames free here and lenses for \$1.00 a pair. So you can make them a sharp pair for three dollars . Dr Pearl is very interested in starting a refractionist/optometrist training program. I think you first need to get the present ophthalmologist in a good position to work with you. It seem most are very angry their profession is not recognized. We need to keep them in the country. We should be supporting them to train the refractionist and women selling readers.