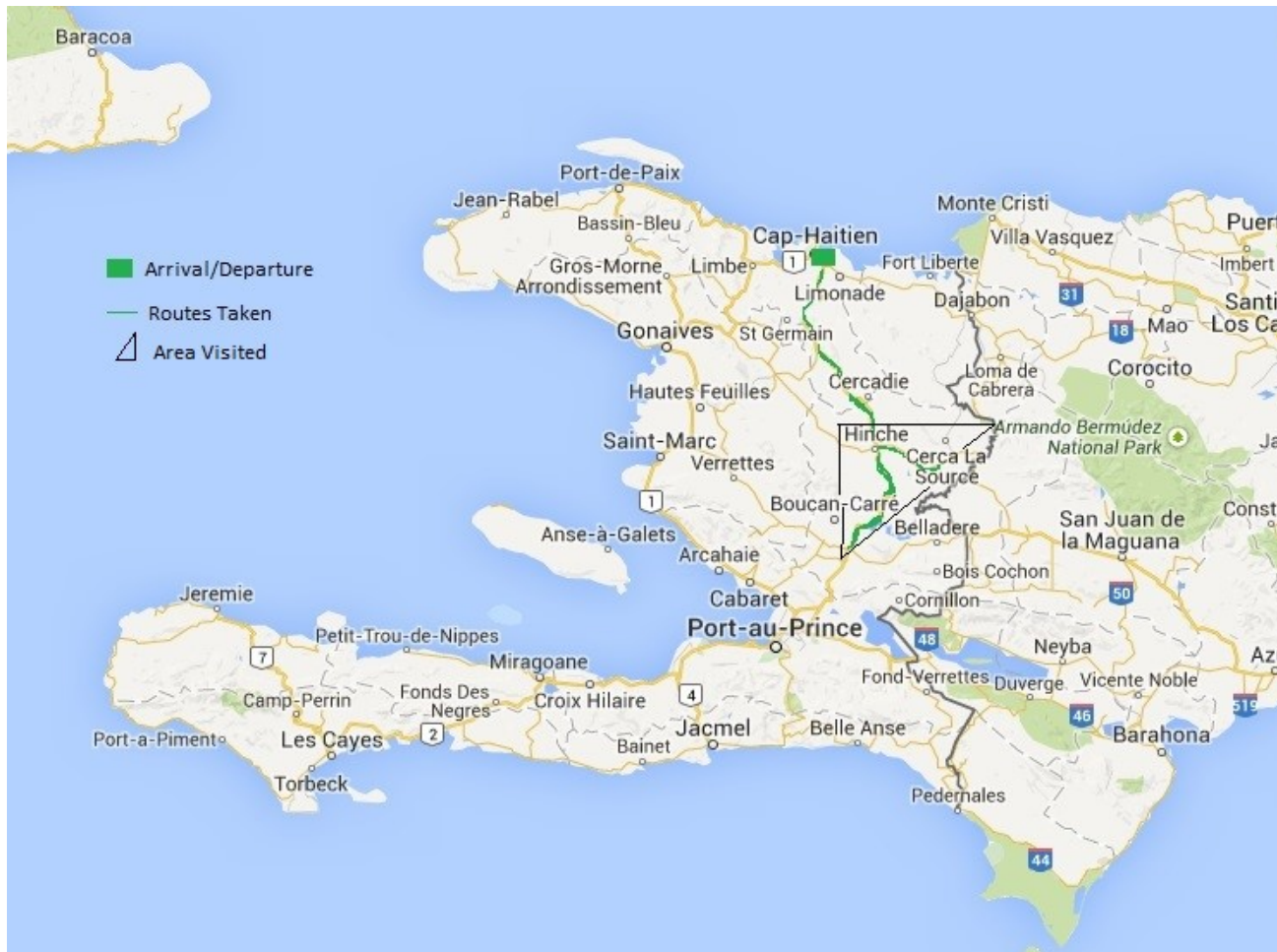


Trip to Haiti Report

January 2015 Trip



Trip Report

The purpose of the trip was to study other clinics in the region and to come up with standards that the clinic in Saltadere should meet. Some information in the following report is based on the previous trips to Haiti.

Report Letter

We had a very good trip beginning with arrival at **Cap Haitien** and being met by Pere Ilric. We stayed in **Hinche** for two nights so that we could meet with officials about the medical clinic.

When our appointment with Father Jacques got rescheduled, Father went to Fonkoze, where we learned that the money we send goes to Bank of New York and then the

Banc National Credit (Haiti) and then to Fonkoze. Lori was able to send the necessary e-mail and Father's money was credited but Fonkoze did not have money to give Father.

We had met Djimson at Caritas and now we all traveled to **Dos Palais** to see the hospital there. Father Elizee gave a tour and a nice lunch.

The hospital has 1 social medicine doctor, one lab tech, one midwife, and two nurses. There were no patients there when we arrived. The building was very nice looking and quite spacious.

Stops were made with Father Robert at **St. Jacques** and with Msgr Levecque at **Mirbelais**. We also looked at the new Partners in Health Hospital but did not get a tour as it was getting late. This was the largest hospitals we visited.

We returned to Hinche and the next morning Djimson came with the engineer for the water project. The plans were reviewed and an appt. was made to meet Wed to check with DINEPA and the Rotary Club.

After this we went to meet with Richard Joseph and he accompanied us to **Sapaterre** to the new nursing school where some nursing students were having class. We talked to two of the students who are from Saltadere. We had lunch at a nearby new hotel and then went back to Hinche and visited DigitalKap where we talked with Colin, Patrick and Kerby Eugene.

Father had purchased two new tires for his vehicle, Toyota Land Rover, and then visited another shop to have them put on. Finally we returned to pick up our things and traveled to **Saltadere**.

On Sunday, we attended mass of the Conversion of St Paul. A parish youth group celebrated their anniversary and the Matwons (TBAs) of Saltadere were having a graduation ceremony and staff of Midwives for Haiti also attended.

We talked with Steve Eads and Nadene Brunk. The actual graduation and party were held in our dispensary building so we were able to get a good look around.

After a quick lunch, we went to St. Michel School to meet with about 100 members of the community about their wishes for a new clinic building. Many gave testimony of patients who did not get to medical care in time due to lack of transport and how much they want a clinic. While they would love a brand new building, they recognized that a well-renovated building could serve them well.

Those in attendance were supportive of a renovation and some offered to help with the work at half-pay.

In the evening, we met with two members of the Saltadere Water committee .

On Monday, we went back to Hinche to meet with Father Jacques at Caritas. We spent a good bit of time explaining about the medical clinic and were able to show him the pictures of the community in support. We also talked about the water project, and the microloan program of Caritas. This program is under a parish Caritas committee (for each parish) and includes seeds, animals and small enterprise. The engineer for Caritas was also in for the clinic renovation discussion and agreed to revisit the building for planning a renovation. After this meeting we made some purchases in Hinche and returned to Saltadere by way of **Bassin Zim** (waterfall) and the Emmaus Center where Father obtains his supply of hosts for mass.

On Tuesday, we met the Caritas engineer (also for MSPP). We spent quite a bit of time looking all around the building. Measurements were made. We have since received the estimate for renovations from the engineer, Brizard Jean Marie. We stopped at school and visit some classes. The student government, modeled on the national government, is meeting in the computer lab.

Next, after lunch, we met with the members of the Soap Committee. About 15 were there. They give a history of the effort and some of the obstacles they met. Also there is some uncertainty about how unified this group is.

We were able to meet with OdiJon in the evening and he, like many we talked with, is pleased to hear that Bob is coming.



coming. He updated us on repairs needed for the pipe system. Later we talked with the sacristan who heads the parish Caritas committee and he explained some of what the group does.

On Wednesday, we attended the parish feast day in **Thomassique**. Before we leave, the ladies are on the porch with the baskets. Also the water committee needed funds for emergency repairs. A leak has been discovered near the L'Ocean. We made a donation to speed up the repairs. We stop at **Cerca la Source** on the way and get a quick look at the PIH hospital there. It is much larger than either Thomassique or Dos Palais. They cover some specialty areas like TB and AIDS and infant malnutrition. They are in the process of constructing a separate, about eight room Maternity Center.

At Thomassique, we saw Father Blot and he was surprised to see us. Also we see some of the priests we met before.

When we went on to Hinche, we met with Hippolyte, the engineer for DINEPA (local) and have lunch. Afterwards we went to the DINEPA office but principals were not there. We discussed plans. At this point, there was an hour to stop back where we stayed and Mike and Father and Djimson went to meet with the Hinche Rotary. Hippolyte also was there. Later there was a restaurant dinner with Richard Joseph and Rotarians.

On Thursday, we drove to Cap Haitian. Quite a bit was accomplished. A more detailed report will follow.

Mike and Anne Knasel
January 22-29, 2015