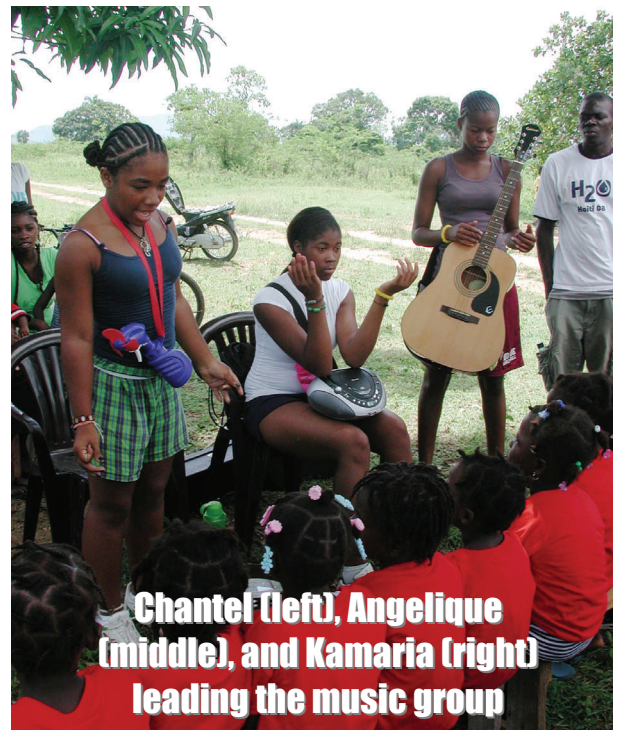




Dear Friends,

Last week we took a group of 11 people to Haiti on Aslan's ultimate *Servant Leadership* mission trip. Aslan teens, Kamaria, Chantal, Maurice and Angelique, were four members of this team, and their lives were so enriched by this experience that they'll never be the same.

There are too many positives about this to even describe in one newsletter. Our kids grow up in such difficult urban environments that they are constantly being taught they are victims ~ whether of destructive home situations, most not having fathers in their lives or any number of other obstacles they face. There is no doubt young people from impoverished American urban areas grow up with two strikes against them. However, for 33 years we have taught our children that "being the victim" will never help them overcome their difficulties and go on to live successful lives. Much of our time with our Aslan kids is spent encouraging them to look beyond their current problems. We remind them again and again that, with God's help, they can unlock the greatness that is within them and overcome their circumstances.



Chantal (left), Angelique (middle), and Kamaria (right) leading the music group



The Aslan "Blue" group at arts & crafts class

Taking select Aslan teens to Haiti (one of the poorest nations on earth) is counterintuitive to lots of folks; but we have found it has more impact on our kids in less time than anything we've ever done! Talk about stretching and pushing these young people out of their comfort zones!

Kamaria, Chantal, Maurice and Angelique were the best group of Aslan teens we've ever taken. Their willingness to endure, with grace, such extreme and difficult circumstances (Over)

(smothering heat, lack of electricity and the comforts of home, and so many other hard situations) was evidence of the character they've developed through their regular participation in Aslan programs. It was also beautiful to see them step forward with strong leadership at our day camp for 160 Haitian children on our six acres of land in Lacajou. The joy you see in their faces ~ as well as the seriousness with which they approached their mission ~ is real. Pictured right is Chantal reaching out to Evan-son, one of our favorite Aslan kids in Haiti. Evan-son has muscular dystrophy and walks with a severe limp. His smile captures the heart of everyone we take to Haiti.



Through singing classes, Bible study, sports & recreation and arts & crafts, the lives of 160 Aslan kids from Lacajou were touched forever. Most of these children live in mud huts and are truly the poorest of the poor. Their time with us is one of the highlights of their lives. What our New Jersey teens learn from this experience is also one of the highlights of their lives! One evening as we talked together about our day, Angelique expressed the depths of her heart when she said, "If I had to live here, I could not survive." In ten words she summed up why this trip was so important to her. She learned the best lesson she could learn: "I cried because I had no shoes, until I met a man who had no feet." Since we started Aslan 33 years ago, we have worked with 3 generations of Angelique's family, including her grandmother, aunts, uncles and cousins. They have experienced many ups and downs over these years. Each week when we pick Angelique up for *Right Choices* classes and other activities, she comes bounding out of the same small house that we first pulled our bus up to back in 1975. She began coming to Aslan as a bright eyed eight-year-old, and she's now grown into a tall, young seventeen-year-old. Her cousin, Ebony, is one of Aslan's greatest success stories, and we expect nothing less from Angelique.



Angelique and the others who went with us have learned that although their lives here in America are very difficult at times, there are children barely more than 500 miles from the coast of Florida whose lives are literally impossible! This experience will spur them on to not accept the status of "victim." All of them want to return to Haiti with us, and all of them have been truly inspired to strive for greatness. We can't wait to send you future reports of how each of these four and so many more children will be changing our world for the better!

Sincerely in Christ,

Craig

Craig Bogard



P.S. Please remember to pray for our Aslan kids. See if there are ways on the enclosed reply card that you can give a special gift to insure that each of our programs continues. Angelique, Kamaria, Chantal, Maurice and so many others need your help.



A higher standard.
A higher purpose.