

## Mother and Son Make 3rd Trip to Haiti



ABOVE: Gavin and Gena Brandt- Mom Gena says, "I'm so proud of him — this is his 3rd trip to Haiti and he now that he's graduated, he'd like to do something in the mission field."

RIGHT: Gavin and his special Haitian friend.



On May 27 a team consisting of 11 women and 3 men left South Dakota for Port Au Prince Haiti, to continue the work that's been done by Helping Hands for Haiti. Gena Brandt, Yankton, and her son Gavin — who just graduated from Yankton High School in May — made their third trip together to Haiti.

"I came away from this, knowing that not everyone can go to Haiti," Gena said. "But as I saw all the teams in the airport, I felt comforted — didn't feel so alone — knowing that so many others have a love for Haiti, who are also willing to go and care for these people."

The first time that Gena went to Haiti was in 1999 during the month of February, alongside husband Merle. Then in February 2006 Gena and son Gavin traveled there, a love for the people having been born in their hearts. They were part of a mission trip in February 2009, and felt called to return this May.

Doing their work in hot, humid weather — one night 103 degrees at bedtime — the team's focus was a place called Jumelle, a very small, poor village remotely located four hours north of Port Au Prince. Brandt and the team continued projects that have been developed over the past five years, sharing the Word of God through all that they do, focusing on education so that the Haitian villagers can care for themselves and provide for their families.

Traveling with Gena and Gavin were individuals from Plainview, Neb.; Sioux Falls, S.D.; Parker, S.D., and Colorado. They stayed in the school building, setting up cots to sleep on. It would be time to grab your soap and shampoo during a downpour of rain. Or otherwise showers happened behind a tarp, using water out of a 5-gallon bucket that comes from the canal and with Clorox added to it.

"And you knew to grab your flashlight and to knock

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"Dying is one of the events in life certain to occur, yet one we are not likely to plan for." We spend more time getting ready for two weeks away from work than we do for our last time on Earth" (*Time Magazine*)



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