



# The World on My Doorstep

A glimpse into life at the Millersville International House...

Winter 2010

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Once again, the change of seasons has come. After living in the tropics of Haiti for a year, I thought I would relish months of full-blown winter. But after the winter we've had, I am more than ready to bid the snow and biting winds farewell. I am ready to embrace spring with open arms! Before I get ahead of myself, I want to take some time to reflect on these past few winter months and the ways that God has been at work in me, and through me, here at the International House...

## Hoping Against Hope

During the month of January, I had the privilege of sharing the morning message at Woodcrest Villa, a local retirement community where I used to play piano for the Sunday services. My original plan was to share about the ministry of MIH. But then, on January 12<sup>th</sup>, a catastrophic earthquake rocked the nation of Haiti. Before long, the chaplain called me up and asked if I would *please* share an update about these events as well. She knew I still had many connections with YWAM and other missionaries in the area, and that this nation and people were very close to my heart.

As I prepared to share these two stories (MIH and Haiti), I began to see a common thread connecting them. That thread was HOPE. Hoping against hope, the Haitian people are capturing the hearts of the world as they face the most dire of circumstances, yet come up from the rubble singing and praying! As I watch them cling to their faith in a God of the impossible, I am challenged to consider the kind of hope that I profess... One of the verses on our MIH brochure states, "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect." 1 Peter 3:15



It is my prayer that God will increase the faith (and hope!) of every believer here at the International House, so that we remember that we DO have something worth sharing with the world. I do not want to see the world come to my doorstep, just to leave again with a full stomach and few new friendships and experiences. I ask that you would join me in praying for every lost soul that sets foot on this property - may they see God in us and be changed by Him. Let us not lose hope!

## Bridging the Gap through ESL

One of the highlights of my ministry here at MIH has been the opportunity to use my love of language and my gift for teaching to assist our Learning Center with their English classes. Every Thursday, I spend my morning at the Alpha & Omega church in Lancaster city, where I tutor several staff and community members, including the pastor. At noon, I meet a young Ethiopian woman at the local Baptist church where I pick her up and bring her back to MIH

to enjoy a meal with the other international students. Afterwards, we spend an hour developing her English language skills. She hopes to take the CNA exam this year, so we've been focusing on medical vocabulary and important phrases and dialogues that nurses would need to have with their patients. Every other week, I tutor a young mother from Iraq who hopes to begin a Masters in Education (to be a math teacher) at MU. We are preparing her for the TOEFL, an intensive computer-based exam that all non-native speakers of English must take before they can enroll at a U.S. college or university.

It has been so encouraging to see the growth of each of my students over the past 6 months, and to see our friendships deepen as we spend this time one-on-one time together each week. I must admit, I enjoy this dynamic of teaching much more than working with an entire classroom of students – it seems a better fit with my personality and definitely thrive on the depth of relationship than I can build with my students. I guess going from 20 students per class at LAMS to 3 in my ESL class in Haiti was good preparation for this change =) Perhaps it was good preparation for motherhood as well! If you have not heard this news already, Stu and I are expecting a new member to join the Metzler family in early October. We are so excited about this new venture in life, but know it will bring with it many changes. I would appreciate your prayers as we make decisions about jobs (especially my role here at MIH), health insurance, housing, etc. We know our God is big enough carry us through – may our faith increase to match his power!

In Christ,

Laura J. Metzler

## MIH Happenings in 2010

Hitomi, Sophie, and Yuriko look longingly at the chocolate fountain during our Girls' Fondue Night this February



A final hug from Sawako, the day before she flew home to Japan

Roomies for the Spring: Olga (Colombia), Kate (USA) & Camila (Chile)



Spring Break Ski Trip to Ski Roundtop



Celebrating our director's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday - MIH style!