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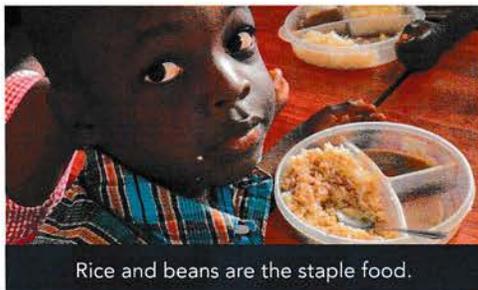
Help Our Hygienist Feed Kids Through Outcast Redeemed

Typically, when I sit down to write this newsletter, I have something important to say about dentistry and the importance it plays in your overall health. This time I have a different topic in mind. For the past few years, I've been touched by the compassion and generosity of one of our dental hygienists here at Stumpf Dental, Dana Ladewig.

If you've been reading our newsletter for a while, you may remember Dana's 2019 mission trip to Tegucigalpa, Honduras. She spent six days in a rural village, working with children, applying fluoride treatments, and handing out toothbrushes. That trip was an eye-opener to the world of missions, the work they perform, and the impact they can have on an impoverished community. Taking that mission trip was life-changing for Dana as she applied these skills to a community she had connected with in the Dominican Republic.

Her inspiration began a year earlier when traveling to the Dominican Republic for a vacation from our Wisconsin winter. While staying at a resort on the coast with friends, Dana met Robindson, a local man and a resort employee who joined their morning prayer group. During that week, Robindson became a friend. He invited Dana and her friends to visit his home and have a meal if they ever returned to the Dominican Republic.

Dana explained that, "We never thought we would take him up on it, but a year later, in January 2019,



Rice and beans are the staple food.

we did! Robindson no longer worked at the resort, but he came out to meet us, and we rode the city bus 45 minutes inland to his village."

Dana and her friends were shocked by what they saw. Once they left the resort behind, they entered a different world. People were living in extreme poverty. Children wandered the streets, looking for food. Not only was it difficult to accept the lunch Robindson's wife had prepared for them (knowing they could not afford it), but seeing the desperation all around was hard to process.

"How can people live like this? Somebody had to do something," Dana told me. "When I went home, I could not stop thinking about what I had witnessed. I felt somebody had to help them, and then I realized I had to be that somebody."

After some investigation, Dana learned that in 2013, the people of Haitian descent were stripped of their Dominican citizenship, retroactive to 1929! Despite the fact that they were born in the Dominican Republic, if their ancestors were Haitian, they were denied citizenship and any help the government could offer its people. They are not citizens of any country. They live in desperate poverty without daily food, adequate shelter, or education. The children chew on sugar cane when they are hungry. They don't own toothbrushes, so their teeth are rotting. Everywhere she looked, Dana saw something that broke her heart.

With the help of a friend and an incredibly generous Stumpf Dental patient, Dana launched a nonprofit mission called, "Outcast Redeemed." Her nonprofit raises funds in the U.S. through rummage sales, child sponsorship, Facebook fundraising drives, and website donations. Funds are then used to provide food for malnourished children, teaching supplies, and life skill training in Robindson's village in the Dominican Republic. Robindson acts as the charity's overseer in the



Dana with Robindson and friends

country while coordinating with a local church as a home base.

"In the fall of 2020, we raised funds to build a little kitchen building. There is a stove and a sink, and we have ladies cooking every day so kids can get a meal. When they have full tummies, they can focus on learning. We teach them reading, writing, and basic math," Dana said.

During the COVID-19 quarantine, Outcast Redeemed delivered over 10,000 meals to desperate families. Many lives were saved as there are no safety nets in place for the Haitian people.

The nonprofit currently provides food and education to 25 kids and is on the verge of outgrowing the church. Dana is planning a rummage sale to raise funds for a new building project to provide food, classes, oral hygiene, fluoride treatments, medical screenings, and more. There is a small piece of land behind the kitchen that she is hoping to purchase someday. Growing vegetables and raising chickens would be a great addition.

If you would like to donate items to her rummage sale, sponsor a child, or learn more about Outcast Redeemed, please visit their website (OutcastRedeemed.org) or Facebook page (Facebook.com/outcastredeemed/) and contact them through the email address there. I hope you will consider helping Dana and me brighten smiles around the world. Sometimes you need to be the change you want to see.

-Dr. Janelle Stumpf