

## Is There a Doctor in the House?

**I**N HAITI, THERE IS ONLY ONE DOCTOR for every ten thousand people. To say that there is a need for more health care is a serious understatement. In our time here, we have seen that death from curable diseases is an accepted part of life, and many families have no hope for finding any medicine or help for their sick children.

We have been working hard to open the medical clinic at Lifeline to serve the local community and offer desperately needed care. We are excited that the clinic is now open, being operated by a volunteer pediatrician – Dr. Jen Halverson from Minnesota. Dr. Halverson has done work in Haiti for many years, and recently left a position in a Port-au-Prince hospital to help Lifeline open our medical clinic. It has been a real blessing, and already many children and families have found healing and relief through the Doctor's excellent work.

There was extra excitement last week, as Dr. Halverson delivered the first baby in the Lifeline Clinic.

A young woman came down to La Digue from the village of Petit Bwa in the mountains behind the mission.

the next morning. By the time she reached the clinic, she was exhausted and the baby was about to be born. Dr. Halverson observed that the baby was crowning and determined that the birth would take place too soon for the family to travel any further.

After observing the woman try to push with each of her contractions over the course of about 10-15 minutes, it was clear she was totally worn out, and probably wasn't going to be able to push the baby out on her own. Dr. Halverson worked quickly to make the arrangements and decision to perform an episiotomy to facilitate the birth. After two more contractions and one last exhausting push, a healthy baby boy was born.

**The woman's mother was present and immediately threw her arms in the air praising the Lord and thanking Him.**

An uncle was also present for the birth – he is a pastor who has attended the Lifeline Pastors Training seminars

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She is in her early twenties, pregnant with her first child, and was in the advanced stages of labor by the time they reached Lifeline. **The family carried her down the mountain on a makeshift stretcher, bringing many family members along to take turns carrying her.** They attempted to leave the day before, when labor began, but heavy rains kept them in the mountains until





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for many years. It was a blessing to be present with this Haitian family and see the miracle of birth and the skills of our volunteer doctor – resulting in the first baby born at Lifeline! His name is Carlensky Destine, he was born Wednesday April 2nd, weighing 7 pounds 10 ounces. The family is very

happy and thankful for the help they received – and the availability of Dr. Halverson and the Lifeline clinic.

**Please pray for the necessary funds and staff needed to allow the medical clinic to remain open.** At



this point it is operating temporarily, and we are hoping it can continue to be a blessing to those we are serving here



in Haiti. Our volunteer Dr. Halverson will be leaving at the end of May, but we're praying that the work can go on. It is truly a desperate need, and we ask that you prayerfully consider supporting this additional part of Lifeline's work.

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