



Volume 5, Issue 5: Fall 2009

WFWP, USA ENewsletter



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"Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos into order, confusion into clarity.... It turns problems into gifts, failures into success, the unexpected into perfect timing, and mistakes into important events. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow."

Melody Beattie
Author

WFWP, USA Mission Statement

Women working
together
To establish a culture of
heart
In the family,
community and world
In order to achieve
Genuine and
sustainable peace

Letter from the Editor

Are you enjoying autumn and all its beautiful colors? The beauty of nature is nourishing to the soul and is freely given by Mother Earth. This edition of the WFWP ENews includes a brief overview of our National Assembly in September in New York City. The theme was, "Human Rights, Women's Rights, and Religious Freedom." Of all the freedoms enjoyed in this country, religious freedom is possibly the most central. It was the motivating force that first brought the Pilgrims across the ocean; and religious expression remains one of the most important aspects of American society today.

A special edition of the ENews is coming soon which will describe in detail the fun and inspiration people had at the National Assembly. Another edition will follow afterwards dedicated to the just-completed WFWP International Leadership Conference in Las Vegas (October 21-25). Women from around the world came together to experience a "culture of heart" beyond traditional barriers of language and culture. So two special ENews editions are in the works for those special events.

The American Thanksgiving holiday is unique among the nations, connecting us with our Pilgrim ancestors. We hope you will enjoy the bounty of autumn 2009, and give thanks to our Creator for all the wonderful gifts of life that matter most.

Laura Hornbeck
Editor
WFWP ENewsletter

WFWP, USA National Assembly 2009: Human Rights, Women's Rights and Religious Freedom

A special WFWP, USA ENews issue is coming soon which will provide in-depth coverage of the National Assembly. Following are highlights.



Under God

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issue

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The 17th Anniversary National Assembly of the Women's Federation for World Peace, (WFWP) USA, began on Saturday morning, September 19th, at New York's historic Manhattan Center with 300 conference participants. Mrs. Alexa Fish Ward, president of WFWP, USA, opened the first session by presenting WFWP's history of accomplishments, current domestic activities, and the organization's founding vision.



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On the Assembly Theme: Human Rights, Women's Rights and Religious Freedom

WFWP, USA celebrates the great heritage of freedom and human rights in this country. The Bill of Rights of the Constitution clearly defines the most basic freedoms of US citizens, and first among them is the freedom of religious expression.

To be truly free, it is not enough to be well fed or physically safe; we must also find nourishment intellectually, emotionally and spiritually. We must be free to pursue our goals for such intangibles as true love, self-expression, and oneness with our Creator.

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Climbing a Mountain to Build a Culture of Heart: WFWP, USA Youth Service Trip to Haiti 2009

In June 2009, members of WFWP Florida and the WFWP student chapter at the University of South Florida traveled to Haiti for the second year in a row to offer service to needy Haitian people. This year they planted trees on a mountain peak, and they also worked with a medical team in a remote rural area.



Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, with 80% of the population living under the poverty line. In order to survive, people have been burning down forested areas to plant crops and have burned trees to sell as charcoal. Due largely to inefficient government control, the landmass of Haiti has lost all but a fraction of its forested areas. The results have been devastating, with landslides and erosion wreaking havoc.

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Finding True Love in a Hook-up Culture

The Dallas, Texas chapter of WFWP held their quarterly meeting in June 2009 on the topic, "Finding True Love in a 'Hook-Up' Culture," at the Center for Community Cooperation, a free meeting facility in Dallas reserved for nonprofit organizations.

The purpose of the meeting was to inform adults about social pressures faced by our children and grandchildren in their schools and social groups, particularly in regard to casual sex or "hooking up." The term "hooking up" may or may not involve sexual intercourse, and in fact it may mean nothing

more than kissing and hugging. But sexual intimacy is often treated as "no big deal," just like scratching an itch. This leads many people to behave in ways that are simply not healthy, either physically or emotionally. Most vulnerable are those who do not receive a countering message from a loving and supportive family unit, or who lack strong personal beliefs themselves.

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Book Review:
Unhooked: How Young Women Pursue Sex, Delay Love and Lose at Both

The term "hooking up" has increasingly entered the vocabulary of our young people. The phrase ranges in meaning from kissing to fondling to having sex, but is meant to be a broad umbrella term that veils the actual act. The main tenet of hooking up, according to *Unhooked: How Young Women Pursue Sex, Delay Love and Lose at Both*, is that after hooking up, one is expected to "unhook," and there are no further obligations.

LAURA SESSIONS STEPP
author of OUR LAST BEST SHOT

**How Young Women
Pursue Sex, Delay Love
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unhooked



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Human Rights, Women's Rights and Religious Freedom: Becoming Agents of Change

Condensed from an article by Celine Tardy and Douglas Burton

A special WFWP, USA ENews issue is coming soon which will provide in-depth coverage of the WFWP, USA National Assembly. Following are highlights

The **17th Anniversary National Assembly** of the Women's Federation for World Peace, (WFWP) USA, began on Saturday morning, September 19th, at New York's historic **Manhattan Center** with 300 conference participants. **Mrs. Alexa Fish Ward**, president of WFWP, USA, opened the first session by presenting WFWP's history of accomplishments, current domestic activities, and the organization's founding vision.



Mrs. Sheri Rueter introduced the morning's keynote speaker, **Reverend In Jin Moon**, founder and senior pastor of Lovin' Life Ministries, as the second daughter of WFWP's founder and first international president, **Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon**. In her keynote speech, Rev. In Jin Moon noted the great strides made through the international women's

movement, and stressed that she envisioned an organization for a new millennium that uplifts women in their various roles in the family and wider society. She emphasized the point that in the role of sister, daughter, wife and particularly mother, women are uniquely positioned to shape a society's culture.



Reverend In Jin Moon

Mr. Dan Fefferman, president of the **International Coalition for Religious Freedom**, introduced **Mr. Toru Goto**, a Japanese Unificationist who was held prisoner by “deprogrammers” and nearly starved to death during twelve and a half years of confinement. Mr. Goto told of his ordeal that lasted from 1995 to 2008. He outlasted his captors, who gave up and released him in 2008. Yet deprogramming activities continue today due to the lack of intervention by the Japanese government.

A discussion followed this session, led by **Mrs. Heather Thalheimer**, who was also kidnapped and “deprogrammed” in 1981. She said that throughout this experience she



felt like a “non-person.” Each table of attendees was then given 20 minutes to answer the question, “Who in your community does not have a voice, and what can we do about it?”

Assembly attendees

were later given the option of attending one of four workshops centered on the theme of *Developing a Vision for Peace*.

A festive Gala Celebration began at 7pm in the Grand Ballroom of the Manhattan Center. Over 400 attendees at the black-tie optional event enjoyed music, food, and a silent auction. Entertainment was offered by the Lovin' Life Ministries Band. Following these performances, the awards presentation began with the introduction of **Mrs. Evelyn Lowery**, recipient of the **Lifetime Achievement Award** from WFWP, USA.



Reverend In Jin Moon presents the WFWP, USA Lifetime Achievement Award to Mrs. Evelyn G. Lowery

Mrs. Evelyn Lowery has been a civil rights activist and leader for many years. As the wife of Dr. Joseph Lowery, she has developed coalitions and alliances with a variety of women's groups both nationally and internationally. She stated,

“We must remember the visionaries and founders of this WFWP movement, **Dr. Hak Ja**

Han Moon and her husband, who have pioneered for peace and whom we love. You are indeed instruments of peace and love to the families and children of the world.”

Next, the **Woman of Promise** award was given by WFWP, USA to 18 year-old **Ariana Shin Sun Moon**, daughter of Rev. In Jin Moon. A piano prodigy, Ariana Moon performed at an early age at world-class venues. She was accepted into Harvard University at only 15 and is now a member of the Harvard Ballroom Competitive Dance Team. She has been teaching a dance class for over 200 people twice a week at the Lovin' Life Ministries' Learning Center in New York City. Following the awards, three dance pieces were performed by Ariana Moon and members of the **Harvard Ballroom Dance**

Team. The audience was then invited onto the dance floor, which was filled for the rest of the evening.



The next morning, WFWP national assembly participants attended the **Lovin’ Life Ministries Sunday Service** in the Manhattan Center. Rev. In Jin Moon reminded those in the audience that “often times it is the mother’s responsibility to cut and polish the character of our children, which, like diamonds, are our symbols of eternity.”

WFWP, USA is a national chapter of WFWP International, which was established in Seoul, Korea, in 1992 by Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon. Since 1997 WFWPI has held general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations, along with only 137 other NGOs in the world today.

Human Rights, Women's Rights, and Religious Freedom

By Laura Hornbeck, Editor, WFWP, USA ENewsletter



WFWP, USA celebrates the great heritage of freedom and human rights in this country. The Bill of Rights of the Constitution clearly defines the most basic freedoms of US citizens, and first among them is the freedom of religious expression.

To be truly free, it is not enough to be well fed or physically safe; we must also find nourishment intellectually, emotionally and spiritually. We must be free to pursue our goals for such intangibles as true love, self-expression, and oneness with our Creator.

As 50% of the human population, women have been endowed by our Creator with the same intrinsic rights as men to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, as elucidated in the US Declaration of Independence. WFWP, USA celebrates those God-given rights and also emphasizes the other side of the coin: the responsibilities that go along with all our rights.

We celebrate, therefore, human rights and human responsibility, women's rights and women's responsibilities. Among the responsibilities of all human beings – male as well as female -- is to respect the rights of others and to care for our home, the planet earth, and leave it better for our having been here.

WFWP, USA celebrates the differences between male and female and encourages the development of true partnerships among us. Founded by Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon in 1992, WFWP is guided by a principle of what Dr. Moon calls the "logic of love." When there is love and respect between two people, peace can blossom and grow. Even if one person is stronger or more powerful than the other, when they share a common bond of love, they are truly equal in value. So equality between the sexes must be founded in mutual love, rather



than force or law.

That is why WFWP insists on the importance of the family as the “school of love” where people learn the most important lessons for life. Children are born needing the unconditional love and guidance of their mother and father. As they grow, children learn negotiating and sharing skills through give and take among siblings. Once mature in body as well as mind, people are ready to begin a lifelong love relationship with a spouse, through whom we gain knowledge of the other half of the human race. The deepest lessons in life come through the experience of parenting. As mothers and fathers, people gain a depth and richness of heart and sacrificial love that no other experience can engender.

WFWP, USA seeks to encourage women to consider all people as part of one human family springing from one common Creator. Wherever we are in our life -- whether we are in the position of child, sibling, spouse or parent or all of those -- we learn to care about people in every part of the world when we recognize our shared lineage. We find the greatest fulfillment when we do whatever we can to serve our fellow family members, whether they are in Africa, South America, next door, or in our own home.

Never before in human history has the technology existed to enable us to instantaneously connect with people in every nation around the world. We can speak via telephone, see one another through internet connections, and learn about one another’s life experiences.

When women are being oppressed anywhere, those who are more fortunate need to speak out, offer assistance and work together to stop that oppression.



The mission of WFWP, USA is to help women work together to “establish a culture of heart” around the world. Through this conference and the gatherings that spring from it, we hope to see a true networking of women working together to build a safer and more healthy world. The “global community” became a reality thanks to advances in technology. Now it is time for caring women to take leadership in making it a community that sparkles with vibrant love and happiness for everyone.

Book Review: Unhooked: How Young Women Pursue Sex, Delay Love and Lose at Both

Reviewed by Harumi Kawamura

LAURA SESSIONS STEPP
author of *OUR LAST BEST SHOT*

How Young Women
Pursue Sex, Delay Love
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unhooked



The term “hooking up” has increasingly entered the vocabulary of our young people. The phrase ranges in meaning from kissing to fondling to having sex, but is meant to be a broad umbrella term that veils the actual act. The main tenet of hooking up, according to *Unhooked: How Young Women Pursue Sex, Delay Love and Lose at Both*, is that after hooking up, one is expected to “unhook,” and there are no further obligations.

Washington Post reporter Laura Session Stepp, who won a Pulitzer for her working covering the lives and culture of young people, has raised eyebrows with her latest book, which delves into the increasing trend of youth to “hook up.” In *Unhooked*, Stepp writes and reflects on the increasing normalization of young women to engage in sex without thought to commitment.

Stepp interviews several young women over a course of a year, and tells their stories. There is 15-year-old Sienna, who told Stepp about a high school party: “Some people, once they got drunk, hooked up in front of everyone else. Some people snuck into the woods, and a couple of couples went down the hill. There were only two couples there, so for the most part it was friends hooking up randomly with friends.”

With an eye to research being done on the sexual habits of young people and through her email, phone conversations and interviews with young women, Stepp writes a very readable and compelling glimpse into the changing dynamics of the romantic lives and interactions of young people.

She writes that while young men had traditionally been encouraged to play the field, and young women worked to protect their bodies for the ones they loved, the field has changed and women are now joining the men. She writes about Nicole, who “wanted to be in love but didn’t feel she could afford to be. Other girls I interviewed, such as Sienna and Mieka, wouldn’t even admit they had any interest in love; hooking up [and being burned] had soured them to its possibilities.” As one young woman in the book stated it, “Sometimes you want to screw them before they screw you.”

A health education professor at Indiana University comments:

Hooking up is purposely uncaring. If they turn off the emotional spigot during this time, what will happen to them as older adults? Perhaps there’s nothing wrong with casual sexual relationships among unmarried, uncommitted people, both of whom have the same expectations. [But] if we’re treated in an uncaring way by others over and over again, we will likely respond in kind. The effect down the road can be exponential.

The professor's observations are reflected in the words of Alicia:

From the time I lost my virginity until now, it's only been the guy getting pleasure. After I had sex the first time, it became much less of a big deal. I could take it almost as casually as making out, as long as I didn't feel threatened...More guys have had sex with me than I have had sex with them. I guess this is the kind of sex where the guy is just using my vagina to get himself off.

Nicole counted up the number of men she had hooked up with, and reflected, "[George Washington University] guys are selfish and stupid, the ultimate form of birth control. That's why I only kiss them."

Being a new mother to a daughter, this book jolted me awake. And yet, even though Stepp illustrated the playing field to me through her interviews and research, I still couldn't believe that this is the reality of our young women. Surely this is not really going on for most young women, I thought to myself. I invited a young woman who had just graduated from a high school in northern New Jersey. "Is this true?" I asked her, "is hooking up really the norm in high schools now?" "Yeah," she nodded. She recounted to me that just that past week she had met up with her friends with their yearbooks open. Her friends had explained, "he hooked up with her and her, and she hooked up with him and him."

The biggest obstacle of new religious movements is the pull of the surrounding culture on the young people. While we can teach Sunday school and send our children to summer workshops, we should be aware of the culture that surrounds our young people. Sunday is Sunday, but the rest of the week, our young people are being inundated with messages from their surrounding culture. It's important that we face reality and know the messages that our people are hearing. Stepp's book is a good look into the culture of our young people.

Finding True Love in a “Hook-up” Culture

By Laura Hornbeck, Dallas, Texas Chapter Chairwoman



Laura
Hornbeck

The Dallas, Texas chapter of WFWP held their quarterly meeting in June 2009 on the topic, “**Finding True Love in a ‘Hook-Up’ Culture,**” at the Center for Community Cooperation, a free meeting facility in Dallas reserved for nonprofit organizations.

The purpose of the meeting was to inform adults about social pressures faced by our children and grandchildren in their schools and social groups, particularly in regard to casual sex or “hooking up.” The term “hooking up” may or may not involve sexual intercourse, and in fact it may mean nothing more than kissing and hugging. But sexual intimacy is often treated as “no big deal,” just like scratching an itch. This leads many people to behave in ways that are simply not healthy, either physically or emotionally. Most vulnerable are those who do not receive a countering message from a loving and supportive family unit, or who lack strong personal beliefs themselves.

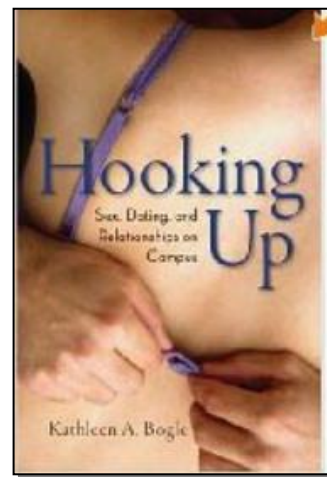
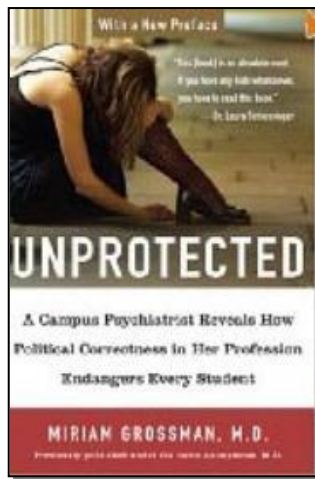
Three speakers offered insights at the WFWP Dallas event, including Laura Hornbeck, WFWP Dallas Director, who gave statistics and information about the trend toward casual sex on most college, high school, and even middle school campuses. The good news is that the number of sexually active teenagers has declined from a reported high of 59 % in 1991 to 47% in 2007. The bad news is that, within the sexually active group, approximately 40% of them are infected with a sexually-transmitted disease (STD). Some STDs can be treated and cured, while others such as herpes and AIDS are incurable, with AIDS almost always fatal. The high incidence of the human papilloma virus (HPV) which can cause cervical cancer in young women is also reason for great concern.

Laura recommended three books for more information:

LAURA SESSIONS STEPP
author of *OUR LAST BEST SHOT*

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unhooked



A sample of disturbing information contained in *Unprotected: A Campus Psychiatrist Reveals How Political Correctness in Her Profession Endangers Every Student*, includes the fact that college administrators and staff rarely pass “judgment” on sexual promiscuity, even though such behavior is very dangerous. Just one disease, chlamydia, is called a “silent infection” because it has few symptoms, and it puts a woman at risk for future conception by scarring the fallopian tubes.



Sylvia Santelli-Hernandez

After the book reviews, Sylvia Santelli-Hernandez, a college student and WFWP member, talked about her experiences in college. Sylvia was married several years ago in her early 20s and has worked together with her husband guiding young people in their church.

Sylvia said she was surprised that many people at work and in college have told her they thought she was “throwing away” her freedom and youth by marrying young. Because of the high divorce rate, most Americans are apparently losing faith in marriage as a “forever contract” and thus have bought into the notion that youth is the time to sow wild oats. Unfortunately, they are too often reaping a harvest of brokenness and disease. Most of those who criticized her life choices are people who didn’t seem very happy, in Sylvia’s estimation.

Sylvia also offered reasons for optimism, however. For one thing, it has become very common for young people to engage in service to others, and they are volunteering at high rates. Whether because of school requirements or a general trend, this has produced good results in the form of teaching young people how to get involved in the larger society.

The final speaker at the meeting was Debra Jones, co-founder with her husband, Fred, of Jones 2000 and Beyond, an organization that trains and educates at-risk teens. They currently offer classes through a program at the Dallas Urban League. Debra has worked as a fashion model, and part of her teaching includes etiquette and comportment: How to sit in a chair with dignity; how to stand up; how to walk gracefully and confidently; how to dress for success. She offers practical guidelines that give concrete assistance to young people who often have nobody at home to teach them such things.



Debra Jones

Debra’s belief is that all young people want to be successful, but many do not even know the definition of “success.” She and her husband, Fred, have a partnership approach to their classrooms, showing the teens a good example of a man and woman working together with mutual respect and love for one another. And equal partnership between the parents, founded on love and respect, is lacking in too many American homes today.

The Dallas WFWP chapter concluded the meeting with a determination to do more to change the “anything goes” culture promoted in American society to a culture of hope, love, and service to others.

Climbing a Mountain to Build a Culture of Heart 2009 Service Project in Haiti



Evelyne Drake (2nd from left) with WFWP & IRFF team members; Barbara Masuyama (5th from left). Florida WFWP Director

In June 2009, members of **WFWP Florida** and the WFWP student chapter at the **University of South Florida** traveled to Haiti for the second year in a row to offer service to needy

Haitian people. This year they planted

trees on a mountain peak, and they also worked with a medical team in a remote rural area.



Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, with 80% of the population living under the poverty line. In order to survive, people have been burning down forested areas to plant crops and have burned trees to sell as charcoal. Due largely to inefficient government control, the landmass of Haiti has lost all but a fraction of its forested areas. The results have been devastating, with landslides and erosion wreaking havoc.

WFWP members worked with the **International Relief Friendship Foundation (IRFF)** to plant **Moringa trees**, often referred to as “miracle trees” because the leaves have great nutritional value.



A Moringa tree

The oil of the Moringa tree has soothing medicinal properties and is used for body creams and lotions.

After arriving at Port-au-Prince on June 15th, the Americans took a three-hour bus trip the next day to the city of Les Cayes, in the southwest part of Haiti. There they met their group leader and the Haitian members of the team, including **Ms. Lunise Perrard**, secretary to the mayor of the city of **Cap Haitien**, Haiti, who worked with WFWP in last year's service project. In all, there were 30 team

members, including Americans and Haitians.



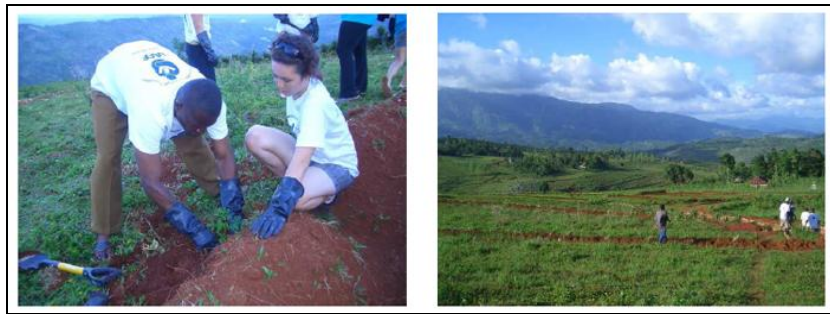
Team members in front of the first church erected in the city of Les Cayes, *La Place Dame Des Caves*.



Trip to the Mountain

Perhaps the biggest challenge began the first day of their project when they hiked to **Macaya Peak**, the second-highest mountain in Haiti, and to the nearby town of **Platon**. To get to the mountain path, they had to cross the Port Canal River on foot. Children from the community were swimming in the shimmering stream as the team held hands and waded across.

On the path up the mountain, they met inhabitants of Macaya Peak making their way down the mountain to sell goods at the market. The people were very surprised to see the friendly group of blacks, orientals, and whites walking and talking together in friendship. By walking up the mountain, team members experienced for themselves the difficulty of life in that area, where local people must walk hours, sometimes days, under difficult conditions to find a way to make money to live.



Medical Service

In such remote communities there are no clinics, hospitals, or health care providers. After a night of rest after their mountain hike, the team went with the medical group **ALMEDHA (Alliance Des Mediciens Haitian)** to a mobile clinic. There they worked for a day and a half before running out of medicinal supplies. Patients treated included a ten-year-old girl with yellow fever who needed intravenous medication, as well as a man who needed immediate oral surgery because of an abscess inside his mouth. Without the surgery, he would have lost all his teeth and the infection would have eventually affected his whole body.

Two hundred and fifty-two people were treated, the majority of them children. They received medicine, including vitamins, for their various illnesses and malnutrition. Over a thousand toothbrushes and tubes of toothpaste were also distributed.

Moringa Trees

Next the team went to the location where the Moringa tree seedlings were being prepared for transplanting. **One thousand seedlings**, as well as pails, heavy duty shovels and black gloves were donated by the International Relief Friendship Foundation under the direction of **Mr. Richard Sapp**. A local educator was tasked with the responsibility of teaching the local

population about the value of Moringa trees. He will also be working with the government to resolve the deforestation associated with tree cutting for charcoal consumption.

After working in the field, and some brief sightseeing, the team left Platon, went back down the mountain to the city of Les Cayes. There they visited the maternity and pediatric wards of **Immaculate Conception Hospital** and distributed toothbrushes and toothpaste to the women and children. The doctors were on strike that day, so the Americans saw first-hand the dismal reality of health care in Haiti.

Finally the team returned to Port-au-Prince where they met a local judge who deals with domestic violence issues, property disputes and other matters, and they were able to visit courtrooms and ask questions about Haitian law.

End of the Journey



Tap-Tap Bus, popular Haitian mode of transportation

They were loathe to leave their new Haitian friends and fellow team members behind, but after ten days in Haiti, the Americans boarded a “**Tap-Tap**” bus and returned to the airport to fly home. Undoubtedly they came back with a greater appreciation for the comforts of life in the USA.

Evelyne Drake, WFWP Tampa chapter experience: “I remember the words of Jesus: *‘Whenever you do something for the least of these, you have done something for the Lord.’* ...During our service project we brought smiles, joy, happiness, and comfort to the people in Platon and Les Cayes. ... We will

remember them forever. We only wish we could have stayed longer and given more.”

This service project and the medical outreach were made possible by donations from WFWP of Florida; the WFWP University of Southern Florida Student Chapter; and Pastor Edner Pierre Louis; as well as donations of medical supplies by Dr. Sydel LeGrande, Medical Director of Your Place Medical and Fitness Center in Tampa Florida.

This article is based on a report by Evelyne Drake, WFWP chapter director, Tampa, Florida.