

Nahema Medard

August 17, 2017

Yesterday at about 6:30 pm Nahema Medard died. She was 25 years old, was one of our translators with Mission: Haiti, and always was working towards our goals when the rest of us were worn out.

In 2011, Nahema's father was killed, so she was called on to help support her family. Becoming a translator was how she was doing it. Many of us saw that Nahema had a strong aptitude for teaching, but one of the couples who was on a Mission: Haiti team did something about it. After talking to her about it and finding that teaching was one of her goals, they funded the schooling to get her teaching certificate. She had just about completed that schooling.



Nahema seldom failed to show the joy that was in her life. Here she is in 2016 on the slab of the Candice Dominguez dorm, organizing a game for the orphans.

In June, Nahema seemed more tired than usual and had a few flu-like symptoms. We did not think much about it because Noel, our chief of security, was also having those symptoms.

A few weeks ago, Nahema had some dental work done. It continued to bother her, and an abscess developed which broke through the skin on her jaw. On August 12, she entered the hospital for treatment.

In Haiti, you must pay the doctor before he treats you. You must pay for any medication before you receive it, or you must send someone out to buy it and bring it to the hospital to have it administered.

First there was \$800 paid. Then there was another thousand. Finally, the bill was up to \$3,200, but little or no treatment happened, and little or no answers were forthcoming concerning her illness.

We wanted to bring her to the US for treatment, but even though she had a passport, her visa was not current so we could not bring her. She needed to be able to walk into the US

Embassy in Port-au-Prince to get it, and she could not, by that point.

Yesterday late afternoon, while being loaded into the ambulance to be taken to another hospital so she could get treatment, she opened her eyes and looked at Lophane. Before they arrived at the hospital, she died.

It appears that she had an undiagnosed case of leukemia. With her weakened immune system, the dental work that she had a few weeks ago became infected and her body could not fight off both the leukemia and the infection.

In December, we break ground for a school in Colminy. Colminy is a few miles north of San Marc and so far off the paved road that you must be dedicated to find it. This is a community where Nahema has been active. The school is being designed by Nahema's cousin. I have been asked to be there in December to ensure that quality concrete is used so the school will survive all that the elements can throw at it. Last night it occurred to me that we should name the school for Nahema. What I did not find out until this morning was that the decision had already been made to name the school for her.

Nahema could always keep others laughing, while she ensured that everything got done that needed to be done.



What can we do?

- Pray that the Lord's will be done.
- Share your feelings with those who are close to you.
- Pray that the funeral will be a testimony to those who may attend but are not Christians.
- Pray that the Lord will bring comfort to those who mourn Nahema's passing.
- Help with the medical costs for Nahema. The latest word I had was it was about \$3,200.
- Help with the funeral costs for Nahema. The average Haitian funeral costs about \$2,000.
- Help with the support of Nahema's mother.
- Donate to help build the **Nahema Medard School** in Colminy.

- Help us ensure that all of our Haiti team with passports keep their US visas up to date so we can bring them to the US for treatment if the need arises.

If you wish to donate to help Nahema's family, you can do so through Mission: Haiti. Their website is <http://missionhaiti99.org/> Like my website, it needs to be updated. The reason it has not been updated is that we are constantly working helping people. We would love someone with website expertise to volunteer to update the website. If you donate on the website, send an email stating where you want the donation to go.

You can mail Mission:Haiti a check at:

Mission:Haiti
2269 S University Dr. #227
Davie, FL 33324
954-868-8218

The world is full of places which need our help. Whether you decide to help in Haiti or not, find some way to help those less fortunate than you.