

## *Jodie and John Ackerman* *Career Missionaries to Haiti*



### **Missions Focus:**

- **John:** Serving as a primary health care nurse in medical clinics through several Church of God congregations in the Haitian countryside.
- **Jodi:** Teaching Kindergarten at Quisqueya Christian School in Port-au-Prince.

Although his family was always involved in service to the church, John Ackerman was most influenced toward foreign missions by his sister, Caroline Ackerman, a career missionary to Kenya and Tanzania. After serving in the US Air Force, during which time he renewed his commitment to Christ, John finished an associate degree in nursing as a part of AU's first nursing class in 1975. John applied to serve as a medical missionary with Caroline in Kenya, but was turned down by the Kenyan government, who by then wanted more education and experience. Although this was a time of great discouragement, John decided to continue his education.

He and Jodie were married in 1976, and during the years that followed, they both pursued further degrees and their respective careers. But the call was still there, and in 1984 the Ackerman's went to Haiti with a work group, to see if they could live and work there. John and Jodie were called to serve as Special Assignment Missionaries in Haiti in January of 1986; they transitioned to career missionary status in September 2004.

John Ackerman grew up in the Church of God in Newton Falls, Ohio, under the pastoral care of Rev. Lillie McCutcheon. Jodie Ackerman was raised in a pastor's home and felt an early call to Christian service. The daughter of Rev. Ernest and Jacqueline Gross, she often had the opportunity to interact with visiting missionaries who stayed in their home. The call to overseas missions was confirmed by a trip to Panama, and later Tri-S trips through Anderson University. Jodie graduated from AU with degrees in education and music in 1976.

On their first assignment to Haiti, they were accompanied by their three month old daughter Jacqueline Esther. Another daughter, Jessica Lee, joined the family in 1992.

### **Birthdays:**

John – May 9

Jodie – December 3

Anniversary: October 16, 1976

Project #: 42.10001

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