TOURIST ATTRACTION

My brother, David, and his wife Annie, served as missionaries in Burundi, then in Haiti. While they were in Haiti, their daughter, Susan, finished college, then came to Haiti to teach school for a year.

During the school vacation, Susan and her friends had the opportunity to see "The Citidel" a major tourist attraction. It was built in the early 1800s by former slaves, under the directions of General Hari Christoph, a national hero. It is the largest fortress in the Americas. It was built on top of a remote mountain.

The tourists had to walk five miles and climb 3000 feet up a steep, narrow, winding path. Whenever the tourists stopped to rest, they were surrounded by children trying to sell curios and "genuine" relics. An enterprising young man approached Susan with a small skull in his hands saying: "Young lady, this is your lucky day! I have just found the skull of Hari Christoph. If you buy it from me, you can get a lot of money for it at the National Museum!"

"That is not his skull. It is too small. It is the skull of a child or an ape"; she replied. "Of course it is his skull;" the boy replied with no hesitation. "It was his skull when he was a child!"

PAUL M. RILEY MD: FACS E-mail ---hlinza@ymail.com