

HAITI NEWS LETTER

February 2005

child hope international

School, Reaching Out, and Meeting Needs

It is with great joy in our hearts that we write this newsletter to all of you. We are reminded of how great our God is, especially when we think of all of you who lift our family and efforts in Haiti up daily in prayer.

So much has happened since we first arrived here on September 1, 2004. It is hard to believe we've been here five months now. Time has just flown by.



The boys get serious as they load into our orphanage tap tap for school

We are happy to say that the orphanage here is progressing nicely and we as a family are loving every minute of being here. The big news is that we now have all 14 boys enrolled in a Christian school and they are all happy and doing well. This is a big accomplishment for them. These were kids that lived on

the streets and never saw themselves as capable of attending school and actually succeeding. We are rejoicing with them.

The cell phone drive we conducted has proven to be a Big Answer from the Lord. The phones sold have put every one of the boys in school! This included paying for their uniforms, books, and registration fees. Please consider if you or your church can contribute used, unwanted cell phones to this program. We've posted information on our newsletter this month on how to do so.

We are also beginning a young men's discipleship program (outside of the orphanage) where nonbelievers can come hear about the Lord. This is a new program that Bill is starting on Monday's. We're praying that we will see God work, new converts and disciples raised up!

At our Haitian home church, Port au Prince Fellowship, we are blessed to know the Director of one of the three radio stations here in Haiti. It's a Christian radio station called Radio Lumiere that reaches 80% of Haiti. Most of the population in Haiti is illiterate and they don't own television sets, so radio is a primary information source. This means radio is a powerful source to present the Gospel. The station is seeking "children's programming" for the station and we are in the process of talking with them about the possibility of doing a children's evangelical show. The possibility of reaching more of the children we came to Haiti to meet is promising. Please keep this in prayer as we pursue what the Lord wants here.

We are now in the process of establishing our own "Bible School" and feeding program at the orphanage. We have found that there are scores of children in Port Au Prince that just wander the streets hungry, begging for money or food. While we realize we can't physically house every one of them, we *can* feed them and give them Jesus. We are working towards starting an in-house program where we could feed these children once a day and offer them the gospel through fun, interactive Bible classes and VBS-type programs. This will occur while our resident boys are away at school. We have children waiting to enter the program already.

Other big news includes a plan to provide medical care on a bimonthly basis to the neighboring community. We were recently blessed by a U.S.-based Christian medical ministry that agreed to supply meds for a community-based clinic. We are working cooperatively with a local American Physicians Assistant who has agreed to assist us with the clinic. Medical teams come here throughout the year so we are able to put them work as well in this endeavor. We can't stress enough how important quality medical care is to the poor and the forgotten and abandoned children of Haiti who can't afford to see a doctor.

Many of you have asked if you can visit us. We want you all to know that our little guest house downstairs is ready for visitors! We have now had several families stay with us, including doctors, their kids, and recently our dear friends the Knutson's visited us. If you are thinking of a missions trip for your family, church or school that will help build your faith, show the Light of Jesus to people in desperate need and transform lives, Haiti is such a place. Just email us childhopeintl@yahoo.com and we'll be happy to provide you with information and calendar dates.



Our modest little guest house - ready to receive visitors

On the home-front we are all doing well. Our kids are being homeschooled right now and Elijah, our four year old is picking up the Creole language faster than all of us! We wake up to roosters crowing, bleating goats, and women (merchants) calling out as they walk down our road with their wares carefully balanced on their heads. Then there's the typical voodoo types who walk around, dressed in red, doing incantations around our neighborhood. This is definitely an interesting place and we are reminded daily that He has not forgotten Haiti and He will bring forth her deliverance in due time.

As always, we thank you for standing with us. Thank you all for helping us do our part here in Haiti. We love you.

Jusette

Used Cell Phones Send Kids to School



Our Phones for Schools Program has been a resounding success with over 14 children being sent to attend Christian school in Haiti so far.

Donations of used cell phones that are repaired and resold in Haiti has allowed us to not only send 14 boys to school but now to help set up our new Bible School and feeding program. We are committed to continue the program to allow even more kids to attend school and even help with vocational training.

If you would like an information packet how you can set up a used cell phone donation box for your school, church or work, please email us at phones@childhopeinternational.org.

Soccer Sundays



If there is one thing that the boys at Maison de Lumiere love collectively it is soccer, or as they call it "football." So, every Sunday we meet at Quisqueyah Chapel, a church near our home with a soccer field, and have a rousing game of soccer. We often compete with other orphanages to really boost the fun. The boys love it and it helps build teamwork, unity and let's them burn off a lot of energy.

We hope to eventually acquire soccer uniforms and equipment. And on an even bigger scale, we hope to eventually house the orphanage on a piece of land large enough to include a soccer field for the home, school and community.

Guest House is Open and Ready For Guests



Our guest house, which is located on the bottom level of our home, is now available to accommodate groups of up to 10 people right now.

The separate living facility has its own Kitchen, bathroom/shower, two smaller rooms and a larger dormitory-type room and a large outside porch. It even has Internet access. The rate to stay is only \$15 per day and includes 2 meals a day. The daily rate helps to offset high food costs, water usage and additional staff time.

If you are interested and or want to check available dates, just email us at childhopeintl@yahoo.com.

Summer Vocational Teachers Wanted



If you are teacher and/or have a trade that you would like to pass on to the children at Maison de Lumiere, we would love to have you come visit. Summertime is a time when the kids are out of school and they are anxious to do things. We want to use some of this time to help prepare them for potential occupations they might want to consider for the future. Specifically, we are looking for people with the following skills: welding, house painting, carpentry, masonry, sewing, and auto mechanics. Also, if you could teach English we would be interested.

If you feel the Lord tugging at your heart to help a needy child, you might want to consider sharing your vocational gifts and talents. To find out more information, please email us at childhopeintl@yahoo.com.

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PRAYER REQUESTS

- For the **boys at our orphanage**, that they learn to trust and believe in Christ as Savior and Lord. That they cooperate with the staff and grow to be godly young men.
- For **Haiti's current political situation**, that Haiti's upcoming leadership be professing believers in Jesus Christ and that they would lead their country to ultimate freedom from spiritual bondage.
- For new **Child Sponsors** that will help Maison de Lumiere meet the day-to-day living needs of the children and also allow for medical/dental needs/emergencies, clothing, educational supplies, and other longer term needs.
- For **wisdom and guidance** from the Lord as we seek to grow the home to accommodate more children and transition some of our boys into outside schools.
- For our dear friend **Wes Morgan with New Directions International (NDI)**. He and his wife Barbie were instrumental in getting us to and involved in Haiti. He has cancer and his doctor said he will die soon. Please stand with us in prayer for a miracle for this dear brother who has blessed more Haitians than we know.
- The **expansion of the children's home**. That the Lord would move on hearts to help us acquire property to house more needy children, especially girls. We are praying for the 'visionary' types to come alongside us to see this happen. The home we've rented has a lease that expires in May. We will reassess then whether to stay there or move to another piece of property.
- For **Faith and endurance** as we seek to walk in the Spirit and in His will.
- For the **Lord's protection** over our family, especially from illness and attacks by the enemy.

CHILD HOPE INTERNATIONAL is a nonprofit 501 (c) 3 charitable organization. Donations are tax deductible.

Sponsors Still Needed

They have no where to go. Either as the result of the death of parents or abandonment -- these children are on their own. Have you ever thought about how it must be for a child to survive alone on the streets of one of the most dangerous cities in the world. Now you can make a difference. You can sponsor a child that we will house, feed, educate and share the hope of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. There is still a strong need for sponsors for the children at our home. You can sponsor any of our children for as little as \$20 per month. To do this online, just go to our website at childhopeinternational.org and fill out our simple child sponsorship registration form. Or call us at 888-808-9595 for information.

Some Facts About Haiti

- Background:** One of the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere, Haiti has been plagued by political violence for most of its history.
- Location:** Caribbean, western one-third of the island of Hispaniola, between the Caribbean Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean, west of the Dominican Republic.
- Population:** 7,063,722 (est. 2002)
- Growth Rate:** 1.42% (est. 2002)
- Life Expectancy:** total population - 49.55
- Religions:** Roman Catholic 80%, Protestant 16% (Baptist 10%, Pentecostal 4%, Adventist 1%, other 1%), none 1%, other 3% (1982)
note: roughly half of the population also practices Voodoo
- Ethnic groups:** black 95%, mulatto and white 5%
- Infant mortality:** rate 93.35 deaths/1,000 live births (2002 est.)
- Population below poverty line:** 80%

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