



The
Haiti Micah
Project

Newsletter

Investing in Children and Adolescents in Haiti

Organization:

Haiti Micah Project
501(c)(3) organization
established in 2005

Project:

Haiti Micah Project
A Residential Home for Street Children

Location:

Mirebalais, Haiti

Officers:

The Rev. Joseph M. Constant
President
The Rev. James B. May, Jr.
Vice President
Dr. Ruth I. Quartey
Treasurer

Directors:

Michelle Baptiste
Valeska Daley
Richard Frazer
Olivine Pilling
Bryan J. Schaaf
The Rev. Rudolph Stewart III
William J. Taczak, Jr.
Jean Michel Voltaire

Volunteers:

Sarah Bushman
LaNita De' Vore
Tyler Hetzer
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Legal Consultant:

Laura Fraedrich
Kirkland & Ellis LLP

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CHRISTMAS SHIPMENT SENT!



Claire Constant, Rev. Abiade Lozama and Rev. Wisnel Desjardin packing for Haiti.

On Sunday, November 29, 2009, volunteers gathered to pack up donated toys, clothes and food supplies for the children of Haiti Micah Project. Ten containers were loaded and sent off to Mirebalais. Thanks to all who donated supplies to this effort! Also included in this shipment were the 20 pounds of Halloween candy donated by members of the Alexandria United girls soccer team and their friends.

THE HMP SPONSOR A CHILD PROGRAM

HMP now has sponsors for 25 children and one family. Most of the children live in our new home in Haiti, *Solidarité et Action pour les Enfants de Sion*. We are pleased and excited that the list of generous sponsors grows with an alacrity that we could not have imagined and for which we are grateful.

If you would like information on how to sponsor a child, please visit us at <http://www.haiti-micah.org/support.html>. There, you will find information on Sponsor A Child Program (SAC) and an SAC application.

President's Report

The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill brought low; the crooked places shall be made straight and the rough places smooth; the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together."

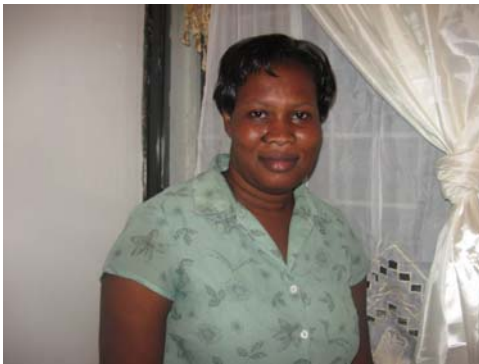
Isaiah 40:3-5 (NKJV)



Ti Moun Micah yo (The Micah Children)

I just returned from Haiti, and I am always grateful for the opportunity to spend time with the Micah children or *Ti Moun Micah yo*, as the locals in Mirebalais refer to them.

Currently, we have ten children living in the *Solidarité et Action pout les Enfants de Sion* (SAES) home. We are getting ready to welcome four new children to the home. The ten children living in the home are: Jessica, Emmanuel, Elsie, Yoleine, Marie Lovelie, Mikenson, Jean Keno, Kerventz, Emmanuella and Rosleine. My heart bursts with joy when I see how happy the children are in the home.



We have four individuals providing 24-hour care to these children. The director of the orphanage is Mrs. Darline Mahotierre. Mrs. Mahotierre cares deeply about every child. The day we inaugurated the home, I told her that she needed to care for the children as if she were caring for her own child. She adheres to my words, and the children are responding to her motherly care. The children call her mother. I am grateful for the feeling of family and the presence of love in the home. I want to recognize Mrs. Mahotierre for her leadership and for the role that she is playing in the lives of these precious children.

As I look back on the year 2009, I am so proud of the work that Haiti Micah Project has done. I am also so appreciative for the commitment and efforts of the Board of Haiti Micah Project, the volunteers who are so committed to our mission, and to all of you who have supported Haiti Micah Project. As we end this year, I ask for your continued prayers and support knowing that the needs continue to be great, but our efforts are making a significant difference in the lives of these children.

Blessings to all of you,

Faithfully,

Father Joseph M. Constant



HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS — STILL AVAILABLE!

Are you having a difficult time coming up with the perfect holiday gifts for your loved ones? Give your loved ones a gift in their honor to the children of Mirebalais.

This holiday season, brighten a child's life by giving a tax-deductible gift contribution. Choose one of the following gifts or make a donation to HMP in the amount of your choosing.

- \$25 provides art supplies for five children.
- \$50 helps pay for a child's school tuition and buy books.
- \$75 buys clothing for the children in the house.

- \$100 provides approximately 100 meals in the HMP feeding program.
- \$150 sponsors a child for six months in the housing program.
- \$300 sponsors a child in the housing program for a year.

If you wish, HMP will send a holiday card to the recipient of your gift describing the gift contribution, and HMP will send you a receipt for tax purposes. Please specify the gift you wish to give and include the name and address of the recipient, if possible.

See the HMP web site for more details (<http://www.haiti-micah.org>).

ST. JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH BECOMES AN HMP PARTNER PARISH



On Sunday, December 6, 2009, the Rev. Joseph M. Constant was invited by the Rev. Denise Cabana to preach and celebrate at St. James Episcopal Church in Indian Head, Mary-

land. St. James' Episcopal Church is committed to a mission, through the grace of God, of praying, worshipping and proclaiming the Gospel to all through our ministry of peace and love.

Rev. Denise Cabana and Rev. Constant met in 2000 while both were students attending Virginia Theological Seminary, and Rev. Cabana was aware of Joseph's commitment to social justice and to Haiti. After the services, Rev. Constant led a forum and discussion on the Haiti Micah Project.

As part of its commitment to support the Millennium Development Goals, St. James will sponsor a child for a year and has provided an additional donation of \$500 to support HMP's efforts.

Thank you, St. James, for becoming an HMP partner!

A SONG FOR JEAN

Petit Papa Noël

C'est la belle nuit de Noël
 La neige étend son manteau blanc
 Et les yeux levés vers le ciel
 À genou, les petits enfants
 Avant de fermer les paupières
 Font une dernière prière
 Petit Papa Noël
 Quand tu descendras du ciel
 Avec des jouets par milliers
 N'oublie pas mon petit soulier.

It's a beautiful Christmas Eve
 Snow spreads its white coat
 And eyes raised toward the sky
 On their knees, the little children
 Before closing their eyelids
 Say a last prayer
 Little Father Christmas
 When you come down from the sky
 With thousands of toys
 Do not forget my little shoe.

Songwriters: Henri Alexandre Martinet and Raymond Ovanessian



Jean (on the left) with his younger sister and brother.

This Advent season, Jean, a 9-year-old Haitian boy, most likely will sing the words to this song. I remember singing and listening to the Haitian-born singer Lionel Benjamin singing this song. This song is full of hope — a hope and expectation that likely will disappoint a young boy like Jean. By the age of five, Jean had lost both parents. He is currently living with his grandmother, who cares for both him and his younger brother. And she is struggling to provide for her grandchildren.

So Jean will hear the words of *Petit Papa Noël* on the radio. He might even sing the song at school. But the song is full of contradictions: Jean has no concept of what snow looks like. Somehow, Jean knows about Papa Noël and his perceived generosity. Jean knows that there is something special about Christmas. His young mind expects Papa Noël to bring him a toy like those received by the children in the song. Even if Papa Noël forgets the toy, the worst that could happen is that Papa Noël will forget the new pair of shoes that he needs badly. A new

pair of shoes for Jean is equivalent to a bicycle or even a soccer ball. A new pair of shoes will make Jean very happy.

Jean's life is full of challenges. As a 9 year old, Jean needs a mother and father to shower him with love and affection. Jean needs to have the most basic necessities of life to grow into the person God created him to be. And Jean is a child full of potential. The Haiti Micah Project provides Jean with daily meals and sends him to school. My prayer for Jean and all the Haitian boys and girls this Advent and Christmas season is that their hope will rest on the child, called Emmanuel, God with us.

This Christmas season, please keep Jean and all of the children of the Haiti Micah Project in your minds and hearts. Pray that they will share in the joys of this Christmas Season.

A WORD FROM EMMANUEL JOSEPH

Meet Emmanuel Joseph. Emmanuel is just one of the children who lives in the *Solidarité et Action pour les Enfants de Sion* home. This charming 11-year-old boy is the son of Rameau Joseph and Rosalie Loussainvil. Emmanuel has two older sisters, Maranatha, 14, and Victoria, 13, and a younger brother, Jorel, 8.



Emmanuel's story is emblematic of the challenge facing many Haitian parents. They simply are unable to care for their children. They cannot feed their children and are unable to send them to school. For someone like Emmanuel, without the support of the Haiti Micah Project, education would not be an option. Emmanuel has a thirst for learning and is working hard to learn English. He hopes to become a doctor someday. But he is also an artist.

The Haiti Micah Project provides support to all four of the children in Emmanuel's family. Emmanuel, who otherwise might live on the street, currently resides in the home. Since 2006, the Haiti Micah Project has intervened in the lives of these four children by providing daily hot meals, tuition stipends and uniforms.

Emmanuel is grateful for all the support he has received. He is particularly grateful for the support he has received from his sponsor, Joanne Austin. We are grateful for all of you who have sponsored a child.

QUILTER RAISES FUNDS FOR HMP

Margaret Moran, a member of St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Taunton, Massachusetts, found a creative way to help the children of Haiti.

Margaret is a quilter, and a few weeks ago, she decided to sell one of her beautiful, handcrafted quilts to aid the Haiti Micah Project. She sold raffle tickets to those in her community and insisted that 80% of the raffle proceeds be given to HMP for the purchase school supplies for the children of HMP.

We thank Margaret for her generosity, talent, and the creative way she found to help the children.



HAITI MICAH PROJECT'S PARTNER CHURCHES

Church of the Holy Comforter (Episcopal), Vienna, Virginia

Grace Episcopal Church, Alexandria, Virginia

Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill, Alexandria, Virginia

Living Word Church in Washington, D.C.

St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church, Hampton, Virginia

St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, Seattle, Washington

St. James' Episcopal Church, Indian Head, Maryland

St. James' Episcopal Church, Richmond, Virginia

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, King George, Virginia

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Seattle, Washington

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Washington, D.C.

St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Taunton, Massachusetts

Sankofa International Baptist Church, Washington, D.C.

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