



The
Haiti Micah
Project

Newsletter

Investing in Children and Adolescents in Haiti

Volume 5, Issue 3

July 2010

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
Sarah Bushman
Valeska Daley
Richard Frazer
The Rev. Rudolph Stewart III
William J. Taczak, Jr.

Volunteers:

LaNita De' Vore
Tyler Hetzer
Mark Pilling
Andreanna Truelove

Legal Consultant:

Laura Fraedrich, Esq.
Kirkland & Ellis LLP

PARTNERSHIP WITH ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SUN VALLEY, IDAHO

In May, Father Joseph Constant visited St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Sun Valley, Idaho. He had an opportunity to meet with St. Thomas' Haiti Relief Team on Saturday evening and preached on Sunday morning, Trinity Sunday.

At the end of June, Father Joseph led a trip to Haiti with one of the chairs of the Haiti Relief Team, Helen Morgus, and St. Thomas' rector, Reverend Ken Brannon. The trip included spending quality time with the children, working at the feeding program, attending the ordination service of six new Episcopal priests at Holy Trinity Cathedral and visiting the Reverend Fritz Lafontant, one of the founders of the campus of Zanmi Lasante (Partners in Health) in Cange, Haiti.



Father Joseph (pictured left) Bishop Duracin (center) and Dean Ogé Beauvoir (right) with the children of HMP at St. Peter's Church in Mirebalais



Helen Morgus with HMP staff member working in the kitchen



Rev. Ken Brannon, Father Fritz Lafontant and Helen Morgus at Partners in Health

President's Report



For thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness.

Ezekiel 34:11-12 NRSV

In June, I traveled to Haiti and had the great joy of attending L'eglise St. Pierre in Mirebalais as they celebrated the Feast of St. Peter's on June 27. L'eglise St. Pierre, or St. Peter's Episcopal Church, is an invaluable partner to Haiti Micah Project (HMP). It is in the kitchen at St. Pierre's that we prepare the food for the feeding program. And many of the children in the feeding program and all the children in the home attend St. Pierre's Episcopal School, one of the best school programs in the area.

On Sunday, June 27, 2010, hundreds of people gathered at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Mirebalais to celebrate the Feast of St. Peter's. What a celebration! Attending the worship service were members of St. Peter's Congregation and members from the 16 station Churches associated with St. Peter's. Also in attendance were representatives from all the major Christian denominations, elected leaders from the major towns in the Central Plateau, community leaders, and representatives of MINUSTAH (the United Nations security force). Leading the worship service was the Right Rev. Jean Zache Duracin, Episcopal Bishop of Haiti.

In the service, I was assigned the task of reading the New Testament reading from St. John, chapter 21 verses 15-18. In this passage, we have Jesus, after his resurrection, appearing to his disciples. John, the gospel writer, tells us,

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."

Feed my sheep. Tend my sheep. We have both this incredible gift and responsibility given to us in HMP. The majority of Haitians live day to day with fear and uncertainty. They hope for a country that provides opportunities for work. They hope for a country where through their labor every Haitian will have access to the most basic needs, food, shelter, clean water, medical care and education. They pray that the rebuilding effort will be well underway before the next disaster.

Feed my sheep. Tend my sheep. Through the commitment of our hundreds of partners, indeed, we can feed and tend to the children of Haiti Micah Project. Thank you.

Faithfully,

Father Joseph M. Constant

BACK TO SCHOOL SHIPMENT

We're gathering school supplies and other much-needed items to send to Mirabalais. We would like to send the following items

Sewing machine: 10	-Soap (Dove)
Wall Clock (Battery operated)	-Q-tips
Batteries	-Sanitary pads
New or Used laptops in good working order	-Hair care (combs, brushes, barrettes, ribbons)
School Supplies	-Haircut kits
Sheets, twin-sized. New (no stains, holes, or frayed edges; wash in hot water)	DVDs (French or English)
Towels. New or gently used (no stains, holes, or frayed edges; wash in hot water)	Books (French)
Pillows. New	Toys:
Shoes and sandals. New	-Lego
Nightgowns and pajamas. New or gently used (no stains, holes, or frayed edges; wash in hot water)	-Electronic games
Underwear. New	Shoes
Undershirts. New	Food
Bras. New	Topical and oral antifungals (griseofulvin)
Socks. New	Albuterol Inhalers
Clothing for church (khaki or blue pants/white or blue shirts for boys; dresses for girls)	Pre-natal vitamins
Toiletries and personal care:	Vaccines for children.
-Toothbrushes/toothpaste	Amoxicillin
-Body Lotion	Doxycycline
	Azithromycin
	Oral rehydration kits
	Infant formula in powder form
	First aid supplies

If you would like to contribute, please send any of the above items to the following address so that it arrives no later than July 30, 2010:

Haiti Micah Project
3706 Seminary Road
Alexandria, VA 22304

We would like to thank Sankofa International Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., and the Immanuel Church on the Hill in Alexandria, Virginia, for their generosity in covering the shipping costs for this shipment.

HAITI MICAH PROJECT UPDATE

The Haiti Micah Project is registered with the Haitian government under the name *Solidarite et Action pour les Enfants de Sion*. In Mirebalais, the program is simply referred to as *Les Enfants de Sion*. The home to 18 children belonging to this project is located on Rue Capois in Mirebalais. Many of the children came to the house from the Azile Communale in Mirebalais. The Azile Communale is an overcrowded, open-air structure occupied by the poorest of the poor in Mirebalais.

The children living in the SAES home receive 24-hour care by a staff of six adults, including an English tutor. The children all attend St. Peter's Episcopal School and are flourishing at St. Peter's. The program will welcome six new children to the house this summer.

The Feeding/Education Program: Since the earthquake, the number of children in the feeding program has grown to more than 400. The lunch program takes place at St. Peter's Episcopal School in Mirebalais. From 1:00 to 2:00 PM, the children come to St. Peter's to receive a hot meal. The majority of the children attend school in the morning and some in the afternoon. Therefore, the feeding program takes place in shifts, ensuring that the children going to school in the afternoon eat first.

The children we are working with need more than just a hot meal. They need spiritual formation, decent shelter, education, clean drinking water, medical care, clothes and everything a child needs to function. As a new school year approaches, we are preparing to offer access to education to as many children as we can. For many families, even the entrance fee can prevent them from sending a child to school. In addition to the entrance fee, they have to purchase uniforms, shoes and school supplies. The HMP attempts to meet the needs of as many children as possible.

This project has been a blessing to these children. Through our Sponsor A Child program, we invite individuals, churches and schools to partner with a child directly. While the challenges facing Haiti could feel overwhelming at times, we take comfort knowing that we help one child or one young person at a time. We encourage our supporters and partners to visit Haiti and to witness firsthand how their on-going prayers and financial donations are giving life to these children.

MEDICAL OUTREACH TRIP TO HAITI

HMP would like to thank Robin Taylor, a seminarian at the Virginia Theological Seminary ("VTS"), for her loving care and medical treatment of the children in Mirebalais during her May 8-12 visit. Robin was a nurse practitioner for many years before starting at VTS. While working with the children and in the town's clinic, Robin developed the "wish list" of needed medical supplies included in the above list of materials we are collecting to send.

Thanks, Robin!



Pictured from right to left: Robin Taylor, Elsie Charlot, Lovelie Louis, and Emmanuel Joseph

THE SPONSOR A CHILD PROGRAM IS GROWING!

With your continued support, we now have approximately 125 sponsorships in the Sponsor A Child program. Your support helps provide food, shelter, clothing, education and health care for the beautiful children in Mirebalais.

We would like to encourage two-way communication between the children and sponsors. If you are sponsoring a child, please send pictures and letters to your child. We are preparing a shipment at the end of July. Send any materials to Father Joseph Constant c/o The Haiti Micah Project, 3706 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA 22304. If you would like to join the Sponsor A Child program, you can find information and an application form at <http://www.haiti-micah.org/support.html>.

AN EVENING OF CELEBRATION AND FUNDRAISING FOR HMP

On Saturday, July 24, 2010, the Trinidad and Tobago Working Women's Committee and the Embassy of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago hosted a gala fundraiser for HMP at the Embassy of Trinidad & Tobago. The HMP thanks Deanne Samuels, the wonderful women on the committee, the Embassy of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, and all who offered their support.



Pictured from left to right: Karen Wires, HMP Board Member Dr. Ruth Quartey and Rev. Joseph Constant



Pictured: Dr. Ruth Quartey and Rev. Joseph Constant

CONCERT SPONSORED BY THE INSTITUTE FOR CHRISTIAN FORMATION AND LEADERSHIP AT VIRGINIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY SUPPORTS THE MINISTRY OF THE HAITI MICAH PROJECT

On July 6, 2010, the Christ Church Cathedral Ottawa Girls' Choir performed a concert at Virginia Theological Seminary ("VTS"). A free-will offering was collected and presented to HMP. The HMP wishes to thank members of the choir and their leaders for their musical gift. We are equally grateful to Dr. Lisa Kimball for suggesting the HMP as the non-profit organization to receive proceeds from the concert. We want to offer words of thanks to Anne Karoly of VTS' Institute for Christian Formation and Leadership for her support and to the Reverend James B. May Jr., Board member and Rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, King George, Virginia, for representing HMP.

LOIS CECSARINI, VIRGINIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY STUDENT, MTS, CLASS OF 2011 RELEASED NEW CD

The Haiti Micah Project extends our deepest thanks to all who helped raise over \$400 for the Haiti Micah Project through the sale of Lois Ceccarini's new CD. In April, VTS student Lois Ceccarini and LoNotes Music announced the release of the new album, "I Lift Up My Eyes: Songs and Psalms for Worship and Meditation." All proceeds of the CD benefit the Haiti Micah Project. For those who would like their very own Psalms CD featuring the V-Tones, please contact Lois Ceccarini at lonotes@yahoo.com.

HOLLOW TRUNK HAITI EARTHQUAKE T-SHIRTS FUNDRAISING

The Haiti Micah Project extend our gratitude to the Hollow Trunk community for their T-shirt fundraising effort to benefit the Haiti Micah Project and the people of Haiti. In addition to the money raised through the sale of T-shirts, Hollow Trunk sent several boxes of T-shirts to Haiti. The HMP want to offer our sincere thanks to VTS student Kathy Rowe-Guin and her team — David Guin, Kelly Guin and Noor Siddiqui — for coordinating this effort.



THANK YOU

The Haiti Micah Project wishes to thank you and members of your community for your continued support of Haiti. Your generous support of prayers, time and material resources have made it possible for God's children in Haiti to feel hopeful in these challenging times.

Please be assured that you are making a difference in the lives of many children. Therefore, it is our prayer that God will continue to abundantly bless your life and the lives of those you love.

Haiti Micah Project

3706 Seminary Road
Alexandria, VA 22304
703-328-5808
jconstant@haiti-micah.org

<http://www.haiti-micah.org>

Visit us on Facebook.

