



News from Hope

Note from the Founder

Dear supporters and friends,

Again, another beautiful year is upon us. Thanks to your generous support and unwavering commitment, the Hope for Haiti Foundation School is well into its second year of operation (2001-2002). And what a difference a year makes!

In April 2001, I sent out an update stating that:

- We were not able to continue to feed the kids for the whole school year in 2000-2001
- We could not buy books for all the kids
- We had five teachers teaching eight different grades.

Well thank God, because of your generosity and kindness, all that has changed for the 2001-2002 school year.

We have been able to accomplish the following:

- There are currently **264** kids enrolled in the school from pre-school to the sixth grade.
- There are **eight teachers**, one for every class.
- Every single student has his/her **required textbooks**.
- A total of **1,672** books have been purchased for the students (about 6 books per student).
- Meals are being provided to the kids **three days a week**.
- There is **a staff of 20**, including the teachers who run the day-to-day operations of the school.

Despite these amazing accomplishments in the second year of operation and despite having more than doubled the number of students, there remains so much more to be done in a country whose citizens seem increasingly hopeless. There are many parents who keep their kids at home because they simply can't afford to send them to

school. They don't have the means to do it today, and they have no hope of doing so in the years to come. It breaks our heart that the school had to deny entry to 236 students this year because there is no place for them to sit. As you walk around the school building, one has to wonder how efficient these teachers can truly be in such a crowded and cramped facility. There are about six classes in a single room, not much



Schoolchildren in a makeshift classroom under a thatch-covered tent at the HFHF school

bigger than 200 square feet. Outside, the smaller kids are assembled under tents made with coconut and palm leaves. In what must seem like a dire situation, it warms my soul to see the happiness in the eyes of the students and the teachers alike. The teachers are happy to be working in their own community where they believe they are making a difference, and the kids are equally happy to be among the few who are in school and learning. They are hopeful that their situation will somehow improve, and that's because of your support, dear friends.

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I am dreaming

By John Brown, Jr.

The following is one of two accounts written by one of the individuals who went on our last trip to Haiti.

Will someone please pinch me and wake me from this dream? About 20 people have gathered at the small house we have been staying in for the past week. It's five o'clock in the morning, and everyone has come to see us off. As the hugs and kisses are passed around, scenes from our trip here to Zorange flash through my mind—images that to this

“Before I got to Haiti, I had envisioned seeing its beauty in the hills, with it's coconut and mango and papaya trees.

In the coastline of the beaches of Jacmel on the Caribbean sea. Instead, I found it in the eyes and hearts of its people—a people who don't have much, but will share all that they have.”

day I'm still trying to process in my mind. I had been told by various people what to expect when I got to Haiti, but I was not prepared for what I experienced there. The poverty. The hunger. The daily grind of survival in a country with too many people and not enough resources. It is hard to imagine there being a place worse off than Port-au-Prince. I think of the trip from Port-au-Prince to Zorange, driving through rivers and up trails not designed for vehicles. And all along the way, witness to a people and a way of life that most people in the United States can't begin to imagine.

For some reason, God has brought me to Zorange. I know better than to try and figure out why. God in his infinite wisdom has me on a mountain, in a country where I don't know the language, and He has allowed my heart to break. It breaks for the parents who can't provide for their children the opportunity for a better life. It breaks for the children who want to go to school and can't. It breaks to witness the joy on the faces of the teachers as they see the supplies come out of the containers we have brought with us. It breaks to see the way they hold their new folders and

chalk and paper. It breaks to see the smiles from the little babies dressed proudly in their school uniforms as they patiently wait for the meal of the day to be passed out.



Making our way to Zorange through the beautiful scenery showcased by the mountains of Haiti .

Before I got to Haiti, I had envisioned seeing its beauty in the hills, with it's coconut and mango and papaya trees. In the coastline of the beaches of Jacmel on the Caribbean sea. Instead, I found it in the eyes and hearts of its people—a people who don't have much but will share all that they have.

We have asked God to protect us on our journey home, and as the early morning mist starts to clear, How Great Thou Art is sung in two different languages, by people from two different worlds joined here by God on this mountaintop. Why am I crying? 🥹

Note

(Continued from page 1)

Nevertheless, the needs are ubiquitous in Haiti. During our last trip to Haiti, we met so many idle children on the streets during normal school hours. As we talked with them, each has his or her own unique story. Some of them are working on the land to help feed the family. Some are at home because their parents cannot afford to send all the siblings to school. So they send some to school and keep some at home. It's not a decision they enjoy making year after

year, but it's all they can do.

We are fortunate to live in a country where every single kid has a chance to be educated and can hope to become productive citizens and leaders of their country. Unfortunately it is not the same for many children in different parts of the world, and Haiti is a prime example. Parents can only hope that the government will find a way to open more schools so that kids can get an education and become literate. In the meantime,

hopelessness abounds. We have situations in Haiti where Pastors, school teachers and politicians are barely able to read and write. I am confident that God will continue to provide to you and your family and that you will find ways to continue to help Hope for Haiti Foundation achieve its goals of providing hope to a country where hopelessness abounds. 🥹

Jean Elade Eloï, Founder

We are His creation, wherever we are

By Stephanie Brown

The following is the second account written by tone of the individuals who went on our last trip to Haiti.

He is the same yesterday, today, and forever...and anywhere. It took a trip to Haiti to make me grasp the fact that our awesome God is the very same awesome God somewhere else besides America. The whole week that I spent on a mountain in the middle of nowhere was a continual process of reshaping my vision of God. The last morning on the mountain solidified my realization of a universal God.

I don't know if I'm the only one who felt this way, but I really had to make myself think that the same God I pray to in my car on the streets of Cary, North Caro-



Eighty-year-old, newly-saved Papa Andre

“It took a trip to Haiti to make me grasp the fact that our awesome God is the very same awesome God somewhere else besides America. The whole week that I spent on a mountain in the middle of nowhere was a continual process of reshaping my vision of God.”

lina is the same God I pray to on a cot in Zorange. His attributes do not change with longitude or latitude. They do not change at all...just our environment changes. That is what may have distracted me. The extreme conditions and totally different way of life made it hard to sit and be still before our Savior.

I found ways to spend time with Him, and just as I was getting into the “groove” of things it was the last morning. The sun was not up yet; the stars were still bright. I saw four other people, and the rest were just beautiful smiles and shining eyes. There were at least twenty of us surrounded by the hut that was the size of my living room. Elade

prayed in Creole. Then, one of the most beautiful things I've ever seen or heard: all our new friends singing “How Great Thou Art” in Creole. Immediately, I cried. The women had harmonious, soulful voices, and eighty-year-old, (newly saved!) blessed Papa Andre had his arms lifted up to His savior. My savior. Our savior. His promises are meant for every living soul no matter where they are on this earth, and that very moment I understood the omnipresence and omnipotence of Jesus Christ.

“How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion

“Your God Reigns!”

Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they shout for joy.

When the Lord returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes.

Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem,

for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.

The Lord will lay bare his holy arm in the sight of all the nations,

and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.”

Isaiah 52:7-10

Blessed are all the hands and feet that go to the ends of the earth for Jesus Christ. ☺

Year 2001 at a glimpse

In September 2001, the Foundation organized a benefit dinner. With the help of the members of Hope Community Church (Cary, NC), we were able to raise over \$7000 after expenses. We had a wonderful opportunity to share Haiti with our regular contributors and some of the first-time contributors. We plan to repeat this fundraising activity in September 2002.

From October 7-14, 2001, a group of six embarked on a trip to Haiti. During this trip we were able to spend time with the kids and the school staff. We took part in serving food to the kids during lunch, and indeed it was such a delight to witness the works that our supporters have enabled us to accomplish in a place that seems to be so far out of sight and yet so near to our hearts. ☺

Hope for Haiti Foundation

wishes you

A Wonderful and Prosperous New Year

and thanks you

for your continued support of our goal of bringing hope to the remote corners of Haiti!

HFHF goals and objectives for 2002

It is our plan to organize a medical trip this coming year. We are looking for at least four health care professionals (at least one doctor) to accompany us on our next medical trip. We understand it may not be easy to just get up and go to a foreign country and practice medicine. Dear friends, it is easy to go to Haiti and practice medicine because there are many communities that don't have any medical facility whatsoever, and Zorange is one such community. The nearest medical facility is about 15 miles by donkey or mule, which could take anywhere from three to six hours.

We also intend to hold two fundraising activities to help us continue to meet the



The teaching staff at the school run by HFHF

operating expenses for the school. It is our intention to continue feeding the kids at the school, and doing so requires a lot of help from you.

One of the fundraising activities will be a charity golf tournament in May (right after the Masters for you golf fans). We intend to have a car/truck available to be won by the "golf pros" who can make a hole in 1. More information to come in January and February 2002. We hope to raise at least \$3000 toward the school operating expenses. The other fundraising event will be the annual benefit dinner. We count on your participation to repeat or exceed the success we had last year. ☺

Update on the construction project

We have retained an engineer who is working on a proposal for us. He will provide us with a plan which will detail the layout and design of the building. More details to follow sometime this year.

We will rely on our supporters and contributors to help us with the construction of the building. We intend to let each of you own a piece of the facility by having your name or your corporation/organization/church logo or name displayed in a particular room that you or your organization may sponsor. ☺



The modest church hall currently housing the HFHF school

Activities planned for 2002

- Golf charity tournament
- Benefit dinner
- Medical trip to Haiti
- Groundbreaking on the school building and the medical clinic

Yes I am willing to help and will start sending my contribution beginning in _____ (month) 2002 for a one-year commitment in the amount of:

Please check one:

\$25 per month \$75 per 3 months \$150 per 6 months \$300 per year

Other (please specify): \$ _____

Please provide us with your name, address and phone number.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

Make payment payable to HFHF and mail to:
Hope for Haiti Foundation
C/o Jean Elade Eloi
128 Beasley Ct
Cary, NC 27513