



Pastor Desvariste celebrating the beginning of a New Year at Parc Chretien Church.

God's Kingdom in Haiti January 2009

www.haitiforchrist.us

Dear Partners,

Well, it is 17 days into the New Year, and I (Jeanne) have already broken my only resolution ... getting newsletters out in a timely manner. We hope you all do understand that we really are in Haiti.

What a wonderful year we have had in this blessed land! Through your faithful systematic giving we have been fully funded for the year 2008. We praise God for that! It has been through your faithful loving prayers that we have been richly blessed. We thank the Holy Spirit for that!

In November, we were privileged to be in the States for the gracious getting-acquainted missions conference in Williamsport Light and Life Chapel in Pennsylvania. We had a wonderful time with these special people. They are solid supporters of our work here.

This enabled us to be with our family for Thanksgiving. What a special time with relatives who live so far away. (And of course there is Anna©)

When we returned, we traveled to Gonaives. It is very difficult to believe that city. Although the mud is still packed high and some roads we still cannot traverse, the people are hanging in there. Vendors populate the streets as lines of people wait for food. Our pastors have the schools running, but there is so much to do, so much to repair and recover. The pastors and superintendents are grateful almost beyond words for the love that has come to them through your gifts and for the presence of Jesus through your prayers. Many organizations, denominations, and individuals agree that it is going to take a long time to recover, to live in the present, and yet plan for the long term. Please continue to pray and give as the Holy Spirit leads you. Remember to send your gifts to the Bishops' Famine and Relief Fund marked specifically for "Haiti Hurricane Relief." Again we thank you!

We welcomed Dr. Dottie Miller, who was chosen to be the godmother for the Class of 2004-2008, to the Annual Conference. The 11 students graduated from the Institut Biblique Methodiste Libre. We also had Bishop David and Yvonne Roller and Pastor Linda Adams, our new International Childcare director. FOHO guest house had 75 guests! It was a glorious time of meeting people, seeing cultures work together, and the glory of God shine in our beloved Pearl of the Antilles.



Ken and Denise Wallis have come from Canada to work with us for six months. They are a blessing! Ken is blessing the truck at the left. Ken, Jack, and two Haitians – Jean Wiler and Anel – went to repair the school and church at Bellevue Baudin. The buildings were damaged by hurricane Gustav. Denise works with the people at FOHO preparing for teams. The large solar oven was placed on top of



the apartment, and Denise is experimenting with recipes with the goal of a small business being started for the Solar Energy program.

We now have 2 teams here working on two projects in Port. The childcare offices are being moved to the mission property, utilizing a building which housed 2 missionary families several years ago. The priority project is to complete the Parc Chretien church, which seats 1,700 people. It is a beautiful building, and several teams have continued to work alongside the Haitian people since 2004 to finish this project.

We are expecting several teams in the near future for various purposes. Please pray as plans continue to be finalized for the projects.

Jack and I continue to travel each week to churches, teach 2 classes each in the Institut Biblique, coordinate FOHO, do the accounting for the mission, interact in various meetings with the national church, work with the hurricane relief, work with the street ministry, etc. We also have been able to interact in one way or another with several young people who desire to serve our mighty God.



Katie Zook from Washington has been here several times and is now a senior at Northwest Nazarene University.



Miriam Powdril from Kentucky was a missionary kid in Africa. She is teaching at Quisqueya Christian School here for six months.



Lindsey Strauch is a graduate of Houghton. We met her mother in PA, who told us Lindsey is living in Port-au-Prince. Lindsey has a wonderful ministry with young people in a sister church.

Derek Riemenschneider also visited us on his way to Gonaives to help in a clean-up project. We did not get his picture, but he will be back!

Please pray for us in our various ministries.

Churches and individuals, please remember to let us know about the commitments you wish to make toward our support and toward the Haitian country shares. As you may know, each year we must have those commitments “recommitted” in order to remain in Haiti. You can go to www.fmwm.org, double click on “give,” follow the links to make the commitment.

Again, thank you for your faithfulness in prayer and giving. Here are some of our concerns.

- Pastor Lima is now in Florida and is on dialysis every 3 days. His family is here in Haiti, and they are trying to figure out what is next!
- After visiting several of our schools and churches, there is a definite need for repair and in some cases reconstruction.
- We are planning the first spiritual retreat for this class of students for February.
- The National Church is moving toward Provisional General Conference. This will take much planning and wisdom.
- Haiti is still suffering from the hurricane damage, hunger, lack of jobs, and many other challenges.
- The Institut Biblique is moving forward. We need wisdom, prayer, and support.
- Our pastors and churches are moving forward. The enemy is fighting vehemently. But God is giving all of us perseverance and victories!

For His kingdom to fully come to Haiti and the world,
Jack and Jeanne