

Hef



Haiti Education Foundation

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“Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.”

1 John 3:18

Education Brings HOPE

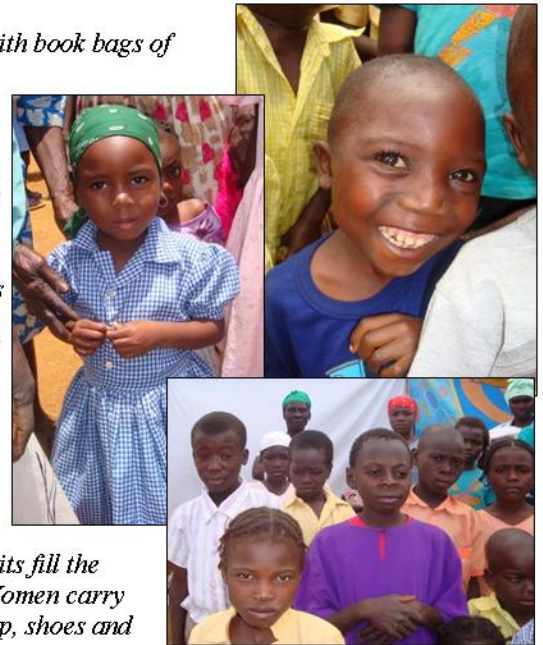
Victories and Struggles in the Mountains of Southern Haiti

As daylight breaks, children dressed in yellow and white gingham uniforms with book bags of every shape and size appear on roads and trails throughout the Grand Colline Mountains of southern Haiti. Some walk hand in hand, laughing and talking as they journey to school. Haitian teachers await the children's arrival. Assignments and class information fill the chalk boards lining the walls of the classrooms. Some arrive to a 6 or 8 room building constructed of concrete while others attend schools built of banana bark and tin. Regardless of the structure, one thing is certain; the children have come for a purpose – EDUCATION. In a country where the literacy rate is 45%, and where public education is dysfunctional, the opportunity to learn is a privilege. Today, the Haiti Education Foundation provides kindergarten through high school instruction to over 10,000 students throughout the mountain villages of southern Haiti.

The affects of the 2008 hurricane season are still evident in Haiti. Mountain side streams that once only spanned a few feet are now laden with a bed of rock a quarter mile wide. Many road ways are washed out – some four feet lower than they were only months earlier. Debris from destroyed houses lines the washed out roads. But there is an incredible resiliency in the faces of the people of Haiti. The markets are full of produce and goods. Mangos, grapefruits, papayas and other fruits fill the baskets of the vendors. Beans, corn and bags of rice also line the market streets. Women carry chickens and turkeys, bound in baskets, into the crowd to trade. Homemade lye soap, shoes and clothing are displayed in booths. As one travels through the mountainside, farmers are seen working their fields. Animals graze along the roads as well as in small pasture areas. A Haitian translator commented as a group looked in disbelief at the incredible amount of rock that had tumbled into the valley from the cliff above, “At least the people will not have to carry the rock down the mountain to reconstruct their houses...it has been delivered for them!” Life is moving forward.

Haiti Education Foundation students have just completed another school year. The beginning was rough...but just as the community has moved on, so have our teachers and students. Despite damages to all of our school structures, principals and priests have worked to insure that the children have a place to attend school. Immediately following the storms, school faculty met to dry out wet books and gather salvageable supplies. People from the school villages came together to help clean debris from the schools sites and to set the rooms back up for classes to begin. Funds donated for hurricane damages were sent over to make repairs that the people could not provide. We continue to work with our Haitian counterparts to repair the damages so that all will be ready for school to begin again in September.

As we look to the future, we continue to be inspired by the huge potential that education brings to the youth of Haiti. The main focus of the Haiti Education Foundation continues to be raising \$55 scholarships for our 10,000 plus students. Not only do the children benefit from learning to read, write and compute math, the Haitian teachers and staff are given the means to provide for their families. An additional area of expansion to our program is in the area of nutrition. While most families are able to provide food for their children, we realize that it is a struggle. We also know that it is very hard for the students to concentrate on learning



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Dear Friends,

*A few weeks ago, as I sat in my big red chair, I heard a sermon entitled, "Give and Glow," by Michael Guillen. The sermon began with a Chinese proverb that says, "If you want happiness for an hour, take a nap. If you want happiness for a day, go fishing. If you want happiness for a year, inherit a fortune. If you want happiness for a lifetime, **HELP SOMEONE.**"*

*The ministry of the Haiti Education Foundation has provided us all the opportunity to experience this **HAPPINESS.** By God's provision, over 10,000 students received an education in the mountain schools last school year... countless numbers over the past 30 years. As the next school year begins, more scholarships are needed to provide opportunities for students to complete their education. Please continue to **GIVE** and spread the **JOY** of God's work in the mountains of Southern Haiti.*



Tribute to Frances

Anyone who knows Frances Landers' story will agree that she is an inspiration to young and old. Last September, Frances was recognized on the United States Senate floor by Arkansas Senator, Mark Pryor.

"Mr. President, it is with great honor that I would like to recognize remarkable contributions of 91-year-old Frances Landers of El Dorado, Arkansas. At a time when most people consider retirement, Frances dedicated the past 30 years of her life to making education accessible to the children of Haiti. Through her selfless years of service, Frances' work and formation of the Haiti Education Foundation have opened educational doors of opportunity for hundreds of children who otherwise might never have learned to read.

Frances visited Haiti this past April to say her goodbyes, for this was most likely her last visit. She first came to Haiti in 1977 as a medical volunteer with her late husband Dr. Gardner Landers, an Ophthalmologist, to help people with cataract problems. Dr. and Mrs. Landers began making two trips a year, providing surgery and eyeglasses to the Haitian People. During these visits, she met Father Jean-Wilfrid Albert, a chaplain of the mission hospital. Through Father Albert and her numerous mission trips, Frances discovered that many villages had no school and most citizens were illiterate. Impassioned to make a difference, Frances returned to Arkansas and began raising money. Through her dedication, perseverance and conviction, she soon launched one school and over time, many followed.

Because of her establishment of the Haiti Education Foundation, there are now 40 primary schools and 10 secondary schools, which are currently educating more than 10,000 Haitian children. Through donations and scholarships, the foundation provides schooling, hot lunches, shoes, school uniform, textbooks, Creole Bibles, milk and goats for families. These schools set the foundation for students to enroll in universities and pursue careers that allow them to break past poverty barriers.

Mrs. Landers continues to raise awareness and funding to ensure the foundation's success. She has lived in service to the people of Haiti and is an extraordinary example of what can be achieved when committed to a worthwhile endeavor. Today, I honor and thank Frances Landers for her continual interest in others and inspiring those around her to do the same."

Thanks to Frances Landers, villages throughout the mountains wake up with HOPE and PURPOSE.

For more information about the Haiti Education Foundation or our partner programs, Floresta or Living Waters for the World, please visit our web site at www.haitifoundation.org. When we all work together, we can make a difference!

The Ultimate Experience for a First-Timer

In late April, I traveled to Haiti with a group of five, two from my home state of Arkansas and two from the east coast. My Arkansas buddies, John Lowery and Jan Gartrell, had never been to Haiti, so it was wonderful to be with them as they saw the schools for the first time. The two from the east coast are seasoned missionaries, Chris Carlisle and Sue Krueger. Their trips are centered in the Jacmel area where they have been involved with numerous medical missions and most recently the showing of the Jesus video in Creole. It was great to experience their mission focus! We stayed at the guest house in Cherident and were able to visit with our new priests, Pere Vil and Pere Desire and also attend church with them on Sunday. New bathroom facilities are being constructed at St. Matthias (the school) and the project is looking very good. From Cherident, we traveled to the Jacmel area on the southern coast. We visited four HEF schools in that area; St. Esprite at Marigot, Transfiguration at Duvillion, St. Thomas at Lavaneau and Christ Roi at Monchill. The children were all doing very well, as were the teachers. There is just nothing more exciting than visiting these classrooms! The equipment and supplies are extremely simple ...no computers or white boards...yet as long as class is in session, every eye is on the teacher. The children are like little sponges, soaking in all that they can learn. In each location, the Jesus video was presented to the children. At one of the schools, there were over 100 children in a 12' x 15' classroom watching the movie and you could hear a pin drop! Reading glasses and sun glasses were also given out to those adults in need. Following the movie, John Lowery, the Student Ministry Director at First Presbyterian Church led the children in an activity and then took them outside to play. John shared the following reflections of his first trip to Haiti:

Expectations: We all have them through different aspects of our lives, especially when we go somewhere we have never been. Before arriving in Haiti, I had the following expectations: I expected to see poverty, sickness, hunger, the need for our help, and sadness. Of course I encountered many of those different aspects and in some cases, the expectations were more than met, but the one that surprised me was the lack of sadness.

That's not to say I didn't encounter some "sad" people, but I was completely overwhelmed by how happy Haitians were even though they have so little in the way of material possessions. The reality is that they don't know they are poor. They don't know they are different. What they own is what they have worked hard for. Their joy in life is evident, and it's easy to see how appreciative they are.

During my time in Haiti, the Lord challenged me with the frustration of the language barrier between our people and the Haitians. Each day became even harder because it was difficult to converse and I felt that there was no way for me to communicate with these remarkable people. As we traveled up the long path to Duvillion, I prayed that somehow God would empower me with their language. Of course that didn't happen, but it was on this mountain that I experienced the breakdown of that barrier through one simple gesture.

The minute we stepped out of the truck the people gathered around us to shake our hands. This is all they wanted - our handshakes. How overwhelming it was to have these people I have never met to want "my" attention. Just a few minutes after we arrived, this little boy grabbed my hand and held it the whole time we were there. All he could do was smile. I would look at him, and he would smile. I would say something in English to him knowing good and well that he did not understand, and he would smile. I gave him a tennis ball, and he gave me a really big smile. This is when I realized that speaking their language was not as important as I had first thought. The barrier had been overcome by this child's smile as I understood the joy that we had given them. Our presence was important to them because they knew that they had not been forgotten. For the first time on the trip, I could not hold back the tears. This was the ultimate experience of my trip to Haiti.

Before arriving, I had heard many stories about this country and had mental images of filthiness. And indeed, when we arrived in Port-au-Prince, we saw crowded slums and trash everywhere. It makes you heart-sick to witness the people (children included) carrying on their daily lives surrounded by rubbish, as if it were not even there. As we continued on our way to our first destination, I was amazed by the paradox I saw. God's beautiful handiwork in creation was all around us. The sheer beauty of Haiti's countryside cannot be explained with words. It's something one would have to see first-hand to truly understand. These people live in the midst of both utter poverty on one hand, and natural beauty and splendor on the other. This was definitely not an expectation I had before my trip to Haiti.

Honestly, my time in Haiti is something that is difficult to put into words. As I said before, it's something one would have to experience to fully understand. For this first-timer, it was an experience that was full of adventure and this was a journey in which God spoke to me through many ultimate "eye-opening" experiences. My trip to Haiti is something that I will always treasure. I will never forget how one simple gesture communicated more than words could ever do. Sometimes back home in the States, I forget to smile. Then I remember how the simple smile of a little Haitian boy had the power to sincerely speak a thousand words.



when hungry. The Episcopal priests in charge of our HEF schools have established that for .25 cents per day, a Haitian child can be fed a nutritious meal...that is only \$5.00 per month or \$60.00 per year. We have often seen the children eat what they want and then pass the rest to a parent waiting with a younger child. The affects of this nutrition program are far reaching!

We have all asked ourselves, "How can I possibly make a difference in someone else's life, especially in a place where the needs are so great?" This is how; Give with confidence! The Haiti Education Foundation is a 501(C)(3) organization that gives 100% of every donation as designated by the donor. There are no overhead expenses deducted from your gift. If you give \$60.00 to feed a child, a child will be fed! If \$550.00 is given to educate 10 children, ten children will be educated. It is that simple. Join us in making a difference in the life of a child. EDUCATION brings HOPE. For additional information or to donate, please visit our web site at www.haitifoundation.org.

With each trip to the mountains, I come home with a greater appreciation of ALL that is being done for the Haitian children. The beauty of the Haiti Education Foundation is that people are able to give in so many ways! All are blessings to God's ministry in Haiti....and there is so much to be done. Many give scholarships so that students can attend school, mission teams are formed with specific focuses of ministry, individuals see that HEF is represented in their church Mission Fairs, youth organizations raise money to sponsor children and the list goes on and on. When we state, "Together, we are making a difference", THIS is what we are referring to...God using our unique gifts to give HOPE to the children of Haiti.

Susan Tarbeville

Please visit our updated website:

www.haitifoundation.org



Adding Email Communications

Please include your email address on the attached giving envelope. This will enable us to keep you updated on any special news from the mountains. We will continue to send our semi-annual newsletters out by regular mail.

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"Your generosity brings God's people from darkness to light. Light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it. Thank You for being His light in Haiti"

- Pere Albert

TUITION:

One School Year \$55

OTHER NEEDS:

Shoes \$10

School Uniform \$7

School Textbook \$5

Creole Bible \$4

Milk \$10

Total: \$91



**100% Used as Designated
by Donor**