

# Hef

## Haiti Education Foundation

Volume 19, No. 1

April 2011

*"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."*

Romans 15:13

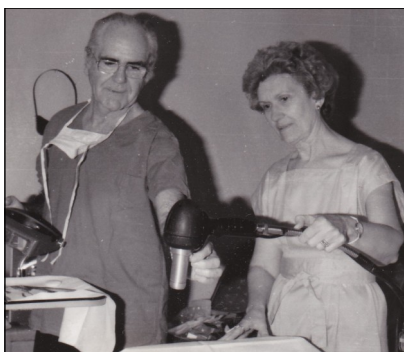
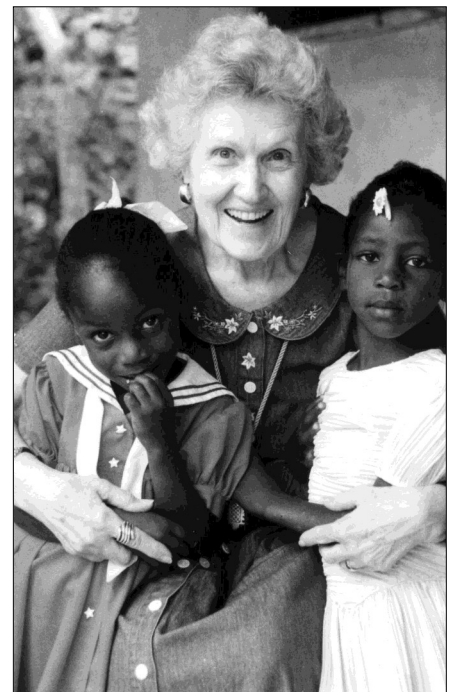
## Frances Maschal Landers

March 5, 1917 - September 14, 2010

Frances Landers was an inspiration to everyone. Whether through personal encounter or her written communications, she engaged and encouraged us all to be part of something greater than ourselves. She loved her family, her friends and offering HOPE to God's children in Haiti.

Frances' work now lives on in the hearts and hands of those she inspired. She once wrote of the work in Haiti, "In a nation as devastated as Haiti, it is difficult to decide where to begin to offer help. But EDUCATION is the one gift that multiplies in the sharing and can never be used up. When we first attended church in Haiti, there were no Bibles, no songbooks; almost no one could read. Now the children have taken their Bibles home and taught their parents and siblings to read. The Haiti Education Foundation changes the life of every child who participates. With your help in keeping these schools open, the History of Haiti is being changed."

Frances has handed off her mission...it is now in each of our hands as we continue her legacy of bringing HOPE through EDUCATION to God's children in Haiti.



Gardner & Frances Landers working in the Eye Clinic at Hospital St. Croix.



Frances is presented with special artwork from the students.



The Landers visit one of the HEF school villages.

## Dear Friends of HEF,

*This is truly an exciting, yet challenging time for our foundation. We welcome four new members to our Board of Directors; Rob Crittenden of Daleville, VA, George Brandon of Carolina Shores, NC, Don Miller of Westlake Village, CA and Devon Hobby of Conway, AR. Rob, George and Don have a long history of association with HEF and its mission; Devon is new to our foundation...all are active participants working to achieve HEF's goals.*

*In January of 2011, the Board met at Second Presbyterian Church in Little Rock, AR for the purpose of evaluating our current situation, re-examining our goals and setting our course for the future. Upon examination of the realistic costs involved in the yearly education of a child in an HEF school, the Board approved a modification of the price of an individual scholarship to that of **\$75.00** per school year. At this level, sufficient funds will be made available to cover the expenses related to an entire school year. This remains an unbelievable value for the gift of education to a child.*

*We at HEF thank all of you for the continued support of our mission to provide the way and means for a bright future for the children living in the mountains of southern Haiti through education.*

*Sincerely,*

*Mike Landers, President*



### Board of Directors

Mike Landers, President,  
El Dorado, AR  
[mikeark716@gmail.com](mailto:mikeark716@gmail.com)

Mary Jo Oliver, Treasurer,  
El Dorado, AR  
[komjo@att.net](mailto:komjo@att.net)

Chris McRae  
Fort Smith, AR  
[cmcrae11@cox.net](mailto:cmcrae11@cox.net)

Phillip Nelson  
Monroe, LA  
[pnel12@yahoo.com](mailto:pnel12@yahoo.com)

George Brandon  
Carolina Shores, NC  
[sgbrandon@brunswickfarm.com](mailto:sgbrandon@brunswickfarm.com)

Rob Crittenden  
Daleville, VA  
[rob@rvwc.com](mailto:rob@rvwc.com)

Don Miller  
Westlake Village, CA  
[d\\_m\\_miller@sbcglobal.net](mailto:d_m_miller@sbcglobal.net)

Devon Hobby  
Conway, AR  
[d-chobby@cyberback.net](mailto:d-chobby@cyberback.net)

\*\*\*

Susan Turbeville  
El Dorado, AR  
[haitifnd@att.net](mailto:haitifnd@att.net)

Vicki Lambert, Financial Secretary  
El Dorado, AR  
[haitifnd@att.net](mailto:haitifnd@att.net)

**Haiti Education Foundation, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 10775  
El Dorado, AR 71730  
870-862-1252  
[www.haitifoundation.org](http://www.haitifoundation.org)



## A Note from our Treasurer:

On behalf of over 10,000 students and 500 teachers in the HEF sponsored schools in the mountains of southern Haiti, I want to say THANK YOU. Because you care, EDUCATION is a REALITY in all of these lives! Monthly, we send by wire transfer \$40,090.00 to keep our schools operating. This enables our principals, teachers and aides to pass on your gift of HOPE to the students who are eager to learn.

The funding received for schools in January of this year was \$23,048, February- \$24,148 and March-\$40,945. We ask for your help as we continue to bring education to God's children in Haiti. Together, we are making a difference!



In Him,  
Mary Jo Oliver





### **Pere Fritz Desire, St. Matthias Parish Schools**

1. St. Matthias, Cherident
2. Bonne Nouvelle, Leveau \*
3. Christ Roi II, Monchil
4. Epiphanie, Morin
5. Le Vrai Cep, Beaudin Jn
6. Notre Dame, David
7. St. Barnabe, LaValee
8. St. Barthelemy, Barot
9. St. Esprite, Marigot \*
10. St. Etienne, LaMothe \*
11. St. John Baptiste, Moreau
12. St. Jos. de Arimathe, Pillard \*
13. St. Jn. Evangeliste, Hess
14. St. Matthieu, Begin \*
15. St. Pierre, Bereau
16. St. Thomas, Lavannau \*
17. Transfiguration, Duvillon

### **Pere Pierre Auguste, Epiphanie Parish School**

1. Bon Berger, Dano

### **Pere Frito Michaud, St. Marc Parish Schools**

1. St. Marc, Trouin \*
2. St. Jude/St. Simon, Duny

### **Pere Jeanne Vil, Ascension Parish Schools**

1. Ascension, Beinet
2. Bon Berger, Cavalier
3. Bon Samaratin, Bras-de-gauche \*
4. Christ Roi, Moise
5. Epiphanie, Grandou
6. Incarnation, Saurel
7. La Porte Etroite, Duperat
8. LaToussaint, La Feuillade

9. St. Croix, Gazou
10. St. Cyprinnne, LaBiche
11. St. Esprite, Chemin-a-boeuf
12. St. Jacques, Denard
13. St. Innocents, Bellevue
14. St. Luc, LaBresilienne
15. St. Nom de Jesus, Venant \*
16. St. Philippe/Jacques, Petite Rivierre
17. St. Thomas, DuTete
18. St. Timothe, La Rivoir \*
19. Transfiguration, Corps

\* denotes schools sponsored by churches in the United States



# “The Excitement is Building”

March 7, 2011

In the last week of February 2011, a group of 19 people from 5 states traveled to Cherident, Haiti, to begin the process of reconstructing the HEF buildings lost in the earthquake. (Our first project is the Guest House which is used for lodging visiting mission teams.) The anticipation was high but with some reservations of what lay ahead. Shipping the parts of a building from Arkansas to a remote village in southwest Haiti is a huge challenge. The task ahead of our mission team was to put this shelter together in one week's time. Just being around a crew of people with excitement and a “can do” attitude made my anxious moments disappear very quickly. Even though our building site was not level and much prep work was needed to set this up before construction began; our crew came through with flying colors. Our Haitian partners, the A-team as we affectionately called them, were instrumental in making the dirt work come together. Soon the first anchor beam was set into place and the chattering of the jackhammer driving anchor spikes into the ground could be heard throughout the mountainsides. We are on our way and hope is gradually coming back to a region of Haiti that has always been outside the purview of the January 12, 2010 earthquake restoration.



Even though the building was not complete by the end of the week; our construction leader, Gary Hays, was confident that the A-team could finish without us. They had worked at our side the entire week and had quickly caught on to this construction technique. The language barrier was overcome with many hand signals, role playing along with the learning of a new language. Did you know that a hammer is really “mato” in Creole? Anyway, as the US team pulled away on Sunday afternoon waving good-bye to all our Haitian friends, it was with the confidence of knowing that something really significant had taken place in Cherident. Not only had the A-team taken ownership of the project, but also, hope was rising out of the rubble. No more promises; it's time for action!

Father Desire challenged the team and HEF to continue the construction process by beginning phase 2 on September 11. I do not know why he chose that date but it would be only fitting that after 10 years have passed from the destruction of the twin towers in New York that reconstruction of schools begins in Haiti? Knowing the daunting task of planning, shipping and raising of money to meet such a goal; I want to run for cover. Nevertheless, I am haunted by the words of the late Jean Wilfred Albert who stated “If God wants schools in the mountains of southern Haiti then God will have schools in the mountains of southern Haiti.” Hope is still alive in Haiti. Do you want to be part of building God's Kingdom? The A-team waits for you!



In Partnership,  
Chris McRae



# HEF Student Section

by John Lowery, Director of Student Ministry, FPC, El Dorado, AR

Did you know that Facebook users average 7 hours a month on their account? According to a study done by Nielsen wire, that's a fact. As an avid Facebooker, I can see that being a reality for us social networkers. When I first started with this craze, there were only a handful of my friends putting themselves out there on the World Wide Web. Now you can find anyone and everyone using this system.

Facebook is a great way to reconnect with friends, old college buddies, and even family members but it's also a great tool to be used for promoting an organization. For example, our very own **Haiti Education Foundation** has a page that anyone can join. Through these pages you can get the most current updates on what's happening with the Foundation.

I would like to encourage you to join the page. Encourage your youth groups, Sunday Schools, school friends and family to join and see what's happening. As a matter of fact, I want to challenge everyone reading this to see how many people we can get to join our group! There are currently 271 friends...let's see if we can get to 350 by the end of the month!

Join today!!!! **Haiti Education Foundation, Non-Profit Organization**  
Also, check us out on YouTube – **"HEF Cherident, Haiti, Feb. 2011"**



John with a little friend in Haiti.

## Come and Go With Me

*This is a song the children sing as they walk over the mountains to school or church.*



Proud students in Cherident

COME AND GO WITH ME

(phonetic Creole!)

Come and go with me to my Fa - ther's house,  
Es ko vee ah lee lock ah Pa - pa mway,

To my Fa - ther's house, to my Fa - ther's house,  
Lock ah Pa - pa mway, lock ah Pa - pa mway,

Come and go with me to my Fa - ther's house,  
Es ko vee ah lee lock ah Pa - pa mway,

Where there's joy, joy, joy!  
Gay eem juwha, juwha, juwha!

2nd verse: Jesus is the way to my Father's house....  
Jesu say cha may lock ah Papa mway....



# Share a H.U.G!

In September of 2010, 52 people from across the United States gathered at Ferncliff Camp and Convention Center in Little Rock, AR for the H.U.G.(Haiti United Gathering) Conference. This is the second such event hosted by the Haiti Education Foundation where people came together to learn about the work of the foundation and share ideas for the future. Pere Desire and Pere Vil, along with interpreter Ancy fils Amie, joined us for the weekend-long event. To many, this was a reunion of folks who have long been involved with the work of HEF. In addition to information about the Haiti Education Foundation, presenters from Living Waters for the World, Solar Under the Sun, Haiti Healthcare Partners and Erecta Shelters gave updates on their work in Haiti. Much was learned and we believe all left invigorated to share what they learned about the work in Haiti with their churches and communities.

Please make plans to join us this October as we meet again! For more information, contact us at [haitifnd@att.net](mailto:haitifnd@att.net) or 870-862-1252.

*Pere Desire, priest in charge of St. Matthias Parish, "widening the road" in Haiti. At right, our 2010 HUG Conference group photo.*



*Following Rev. Dennis Falasco's HUG Conference charge to "widen the road" in Haiti, missionaries from 5 states drop their symbolic rocks in the road at Cherident. See article on Page 4.*



## 2011 H.U.G. Conference

October 7-9, 2011

Ferncliff Conference Center

Little Rock, AR

Please plan to join us for the Haiti Education Foundation

**Haiti United Gathering.**

This gathering will provide the opportunity for people from all over the United States to learn more about our mission, share ideas, and participate in training programs benefiting our brothers and sisters in Haiti. A few of our Haitian friends will be present to answer questions and help us to better understand the needs of the people. This is a vital time in our ministry! We hope you will join us as we plan for the future. Specific conference information will be out in August. Registration will be available on our website.

# Frances Landers: Her Legacy of HOPE

By Susan Turbeville

In going through the multiple boxes of photos and documents that Frances accumulated over the past 30 plus years, I ran across this story, written on index cards...undoubtedly used by Frances in her presentations about Haiti. It captures the heart and vision that Frances carried as she worked to bring education to the children in Haiti:

*As the sun rises over the rugged mountains of south Haiti, children peek out of their huts with a feeling of excitement. This is a school day!!*

*Esperance, who lives in a small hut with her parents and two brothers, rolls off her banana bark mat and quickly slips into her uniform and shoes. Her older sisters have gone to the mountain stream, an hour's walk from their hut, to get the day's supply of water. They may be late for school, but will join Esperance later.*

*Before Esperance departs for school, her mother combs her hair and ties two yellow bows that she wears each day. These are very special because they match her yellow school uniform.*

*During her walk through the sugar cane field, she meets friends who join her and they share her excitement. Madame Joseph, their teacher is so pretty and kind; going to school is fun. When they are joined by more children, the group begins to sing their favorite song, "Come and go with me to my Father's House, where there is JOY, JOY, JOY!!"*

*Soon the group arrives at the school building adjacent to their mission church where her family worships each Sunday. Before they were invited to the church, her parents went to the voodoo temple to worship. Sometimes Esperance was scared of the voodoo priest as he claimed to cast out evil spirits and gave them*

*bitter potions to drink. Now they worship in the church where the priest tells them about God's love for all people, including each member of her family. He tells them that it is very special to be a Child of God.*

*The school yard is full of children and teachers waiting for the morning bell to ring. At the tone, all line up outside of their classrooms and become very quiet. A prayer is said and a hymn is sung. Thus starts the day. The benches that the children file into are very rustic. Some are boards resting on concrete blocks. Nevertheless, the children in Esperance's room listen intently as Madam Joseph begins the day's lessons. At the blackboard, Madame Joseph starts with the math lesson. Later that morning, each child will have the opportunity to take that precious piece of chalk and work their math lesson for the day."*

Why does Esperance have a school to attend in the remote mountains of southern Haiti? Because churches and individuals from all over the United States support schools in St. Matthias and Ascension Parishes by providing scholarships of **\$75.00** per child per year.

This project started in 1989 with one school of 400 children. Now we have 40 elementary schools and 10 high schools serving over 9,000 Haitian children. Together, we are bringing HOPE to those for whom life is a continuous struggle.

In celebrating Frances' life, we celebrate the joy of giving. Although Frances and Gardner Landers made the first steps in this ministry, they brought us all along in this mission. Frances always said, "This is GOD'S mission, not mine!" Thousands of lives have been changed...because we worked together to bring HOPE through EDUCATION under God's leadership.

It is only fitting that we honor Frances' life by carrying on her vision of education for the children in the mountains of southern Haiti. As she has said countless times, "EDUCATION brings HOPE!"



# The Giving Multiplied

Dear Friend,

I already want to thank you for your support in the Haitian community, specifically the village Chérident (St. Matthias, large hill).

As you already know that the country was devastated by the earthquake of January 12 and our village was very touched, the parish of St. Matthias, primary and secondary schools, the guest house is completely destroyed.

I, Daniel Collin as a beneficiary of the community, I feel proud today by the education received at St. Matthias School (the Landers' School) in Cherident Episcopal and University of Haiti (UNEPH) . Now I'm in France to continue my studies in master's degree in computer science.

This small village needs you. Your support, your help, remains in the memory of the villagers. I saw the video and the info on the various activities that are running.

Courage and good continuity, with the help of the Almighty your projects, your dreams and wishes for this village will be realized.

Bondye Renmen nou.

Collin DANIEL



Please note our new mailing address:  
P.O. Box 10775, El Dorado, Arkansas 71730

**100% Used  
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by Donor**

**TUITION:**  
One School Year \$75

“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

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