

Hef



Haiti Education Foundation

*"I will bless them and the places surrounding
my hill. I will send down showers in the
season; there will be showers of blessing."*

Ezekial 34:26

Volume 21, No. 1

Spring 2013

God's Blessings

Because you care...
lives are being changed
EVERYDAY!



Pere Jean Fils Cherry
Episcopal Priest



Gracieuse Leandra
Principal



Jois Goursse
Episcopal Priest

Viergela Louis, LPN and French Tutor (See her letter on page 3)



Students at the Epiphanie School in Morin, St. Matthias Parish.



The hike to Epiphanie School is a steep one!



Papa Luc and his son Celestine Wilner. Celestine, educated at St. Matthias School, is an artist in Cherident.

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Students at the Terminal II school in Cherident



Financial Report

August 2012 - April 2013

Scholarship \$\$ Received	Scholarship \$\$ Sent to Haiti
\$333,177.93	\$368,158.22

Difference

< **\$34,980.29** >

As our chart shows, 90% of our scholarship funding has been collected to date. Since our teachers are paid 12 months of the year, we are behind in receipts and have 3 months to go for the year. Please consider how you can help us fund these salaries. We want to continue giving the gift of HOPE through education to the children of Haiti.

A few months ago, we received an email from one of our former students, Viergela Louis. We celebrate her accomplishments! This inspires us to continue on in our mission of education. Viergela is one of MANY who have been blessed because YOU care!



Hi! I am Viergela Louis, almost known by all members of HEF. I grew up in Grand Colline (St-Matthias), a church in which Mrs. Frances Landers was a very active supporter. I was in Elementary class when she first visited, in another word, I was a child. At that time, so many visitors used to go back and forth to visit Grand Colline and other surrounding schools. They brought different kinds of objects for the schools and churches.

I have been taught by Father Albert, the former priest in charge, and some visitors - to love God and pray every day, because He inspired them to come to Grand Colline to help us. I understood that was such a blessing for people in Grande Colline to have friends like them, to come help.

By the good help of Mrs. Fannie L. Tapper (a very nice lady from Houston and my best friend) and HEF, I graduated from High School, went to the Episcopal University and obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Education Sciences, I traveled here in the United States and went to Florida Atlantic University to improve my English level (receiving so many certificates and my diploma) and graduated as a Licensed Practical Nurse at Florida Career College.

After graduation at the Episcopal University, I worked for 3 years in Public Relations and was responsible for International affairs, I was Vice-Dean Assistant. I also worked for the Anglican Office of Education in Haiti for 2 years. I had to prepare and present seminars for the teachers in different Episcopal schools. Finally, I moved here to Florida to improve my knowledge.

I am a young married woman without children, working as an LPN and a Private French Teacher.

I find myself to be part of HEF as it helped me to become who I am today!

Keep doing the good work!

God bless you all!

Viergela Louis



Second Grade Class



We love school!



Principal and Teachers at Epiphany

Improbabilities . . . Chapter 2

By Jackie Kossin, FPC Johnson City, TN

A year ago, for the HEF Spring newsletter, dear Susan invited me to write about my first trip to Haiti in February 2012. I did that. Re-reading that piece now I absolutely know what I wrote about was not unique. Yet, there is that lingering wonder, the improbability, of responding to a whisper that it was right to go to Haiti. God makes us ready. We visited many different Foundation schools, stopping by, then moving on. Now a year later, dear Susan has again invited me to share my thoughts with you about my second trip. That happened in January 2013 with our mission team from First Presbyterian Church in Johnson City, Tennessee, led by Dr. Bill Bridgforth, chair of our Global Missions Team, a retired pediatrician. That's a clue.

Last year's team fell in love with the children of Haiti. We've let that be known a time or two around our church. Several months ago, our Session prayerfully agreed it was time to end our wandering ways and make a commitment. We "adopted" St. Innocents School in Bellevue, Haiti, up the rugged road to the mountain top about a half hour from Baint. When we visited there last year it was early evening. The 90 or so students had gone home. Our 2012 team was taken aback by the ramshackle school with few walls, a building strung together with slants leaving room for a good wind, correction, a bad wind to blow through and take the whole thing down. Principal Jean Baptiste talked about the need for clean water and food.

Now, here we were back in town courtesy of Ancy fils Aimee—January 2013--having the opportunity to visit again with Pere Soner Alexandre, our friend and the new priest-in-charge in Baint. Our own larger-than-life Big Jim Williams was along with his camera and equipment to take photographs of the students and teachers. John Smith and Howard Walker, two young dads and first-timers were venturing out totally by faith, helping with the whole production. Besides, being techno-types they brought all kinds of gear to document our journey and have since put together a great video available on line at www.vimeo.com (in Search, type Trip to St. Innocents School in Baint, Haiti). Gary Arner, our leader of Adult Discipleship, recorded student names and ages since we have in mind a sponsorship program by our church. Dr. Bill organized the chaos and did magic. Me, a senior citizen? What business did I have going to Haiti again?

Going gave me answers. We took with us about 40 pillow case dresses made by the sewing circle of St. John's Episcopal Church in Johnson City. They call themselves the Grateful Threads. Who would fit the dresses to the little girls? Ah. I was the only woman on the team. Yes, I felt the distended bellies. I stumbled but with my limited Haitian Creole made new friends. A little girl with one leg finally laughed as Dr. Bill did his slight-of-hand. She is in our hearts as her story is being written—more to come. What could we do for the 5th and 6th graders—grown men and women? Ancy translated as I had conversations with five of them; their aspirations were, are, large--their hopes boundless. It is all God-business. I am humbled.

The children are hungry. How can we get food from Jacmel to the school? Supplying a nutrition product and bread may work short term. For the elderly lady who totes water up the mountain twice a day, would buying a mule and putting her containers in mule-back baskets make that easier and supply more water? We left three Tiva water filtering systems behind. Our Gary, an engineer, walked the property with a local contractor. What would a new school building with a rain water collection system look like? What would it cost? We've received the estimates.

Unmistakably, God has extended His love lines according to His grand plan, now to us in Johnson City. He has asked us to take hold as He brings about what He has in mind. We are prayerfully holding on, seeking the how to meet many needs. With Pere Soner at Sunday's worship service we sing "What a Friend We Have in Jesus." He is with us, all together! Soli Deo Gloria. Amen.





Lots of projects to look at...



The children love having their pictures taken....and seeing what they look like!



Jackie and her note pad!



School buddies

FPC Johnson City has produced a video depicting their mission journey to Haiti.

To view this presentation, go to

www.vimeo.com

(In Search, type *Haiti Trip Video*)



Dr. Bill and Suzyhandy



Alternative Gifts
International

Look for HEF in the 2013 Catalogue

HEF would like to announce our new fundraising project with Alternative Gifts International (AGI). Please support our "Scholarship for Students" project for Haiti by visiting <https://www.alternativegifts.org/projects/project8/>. AGI is running a one year campaign for our cause. We encourage you to "like" Alternative Gifts on Facebook!

Sponsoring a School

At this time, the Haiti Education Foundation supports 40 schools in the remote mountains of southern Haiti. The dream of our board is to match each school with an American partner. This benefits the children in Haiti as well as the sponsoring church! We have heard time and again of the severe poverty of Haiti and that these people so often feel forgotten. A sponsorship creates a relationship between the two entities. This relationship involves two basic tenants; a financial obligation and involvement with the school.

Financial Obligation

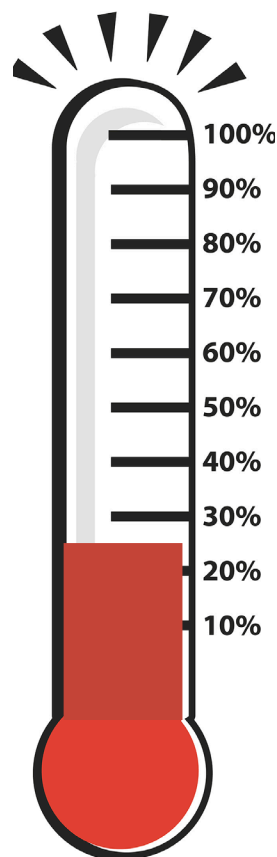
We are requesting an investment of at least 50% of the financial need of the school be met by the sponsoring church. Those needs are the salaries of teaching personnel and supplies. We ask that you consider a 5 year sponsorship for our planning purposes, but we do not request any formal written document. The sponsorship amount is a set amount and we will not ask for any increase within that 5 year period.

Church Involvement

Our hope is that a representation from the church will personally visit the school, meet the children and their teachers. This allows members of your church to see how mission funds are being spent.

There are many needs within each school. As your relationship grows, our hope is that you will be led to seek the specific needs of your school. This is not a requirement of sponsorship but an outgrowth of your investment in the lives of these children. If your church is interested in sponsorship, please call our office at 870-862-1252. Our email address is haitifnd@att.net. We can find a match for you!

Church Sponsorship of HEF Schools



Help us meet our goal of sponsorships for all 40 schools!

Windy Cove Pres. Church	Notre Dame School, David	St. Matthias
FPC Sparta, NJ	Bonne Nouvelle, LeBeau	St. Matthias
FPC Gainesville, GA	St. Jos. D'Armathe, Pillard	St. Matthias
Church of the Good Shepherd Lake Charles, LA	St. Mathieu, Begin	St. Matthias
St. John the Divine, Houston	St. Etienne, La Moth	St. Matthias
FUMC Women, Norphlet	St. Andre, Cavanack	St. Matthias
FPC Fort Smith, AR	Epiphanie, Morin	St. Matthias
Raleigh Court FPC, Romney WV	St. Thimothe, La Rivoire	Ascension
FPC Sand Springs, OK	St. Nom de Jesus, Venant	Ascension
FPC Johnson City, TN	St. Innocents, Bellevue	Ascension

The Haiti Education Foundation, Inc.

invites you to attend

HUG

Haiti United Gathering

2013

October 11-13

Westminster Presbyterian Church

West Lake Village, CA

What is HUG?

In the fall of 2000 the first Haiti United Gathering was held in El Dorado, AR. The purpose was to bring all who were interested in learning more about the mission of HEF together. Attendance at that gathering numbered more than 100 with visitors from all over the United States. Pere Jean Wilfrid Albert, priest in charge of St. Matthias Parish and co-founder of HEF, attended from Haiti. It was a wonderful celebration and time of sharing!

In 2010, we followed up with the second HUG. As God would have it, the conference took place on the weekend following HEF founder, Frances Landers', passing. It was a perfect time to pull together and resolve to carry on her mission of EDUCATION. The gathering was held in Arkansas in 2010 and 2011. Many ideas were shared, as well as, an opportunity to fellowship with friends and donors interested in HEF from all over the United States and our priests Pere Vil and Pere Desire and translator, Ancy fils Aime.

Last year, we held our HUG at Tinkling Spring Presbyterian Church in Fishersville, VA. We selected this area to visit with the idea that we would bring the message of HEF to our donors living in the eastern states. It was a great experience for all who attended! Once again, much was shared and learned.

This year, we will gather on the west coast. Our host will be the Westminster Presbyterian Church in West Lake Village, CA. We are looking forward to sharing with our donors living in this area of the US. Westminster has been a longtime supporter of HEF and also has a medical ministry in St. Matthias Parish.

If you live in this area...or need an excuse to visit the west coast, we hope that you will consider joining us for this great opportunity to hear about our mission. When we work together, great things happen!

One Year Scholarship...

\$75



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

100% Used
as Designated
by Donor

TUITION:
One School Year - \$75

Current Resident or

Haiti Education Foundation
HEF

"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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