

Hef



Haiti Education Foundation

Volume 16, No. 2

September 2008

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

1 John 3:18

Education Brings Hope

As we begin another school year, our hopes are high for Haiti's children and the opportunities they are given through education. Please join us in this mission as we strive to provide the same HOPE for the children in the 2008-2009 school year. The children are ready and excited to go back to school! Be part of a mission that will change the life of a child forever.



Scholarship.....	\$55.00
Shoes	\$10.00
Uniform.....	\$7.00
Books.....	\$5.00
Creole Bible	\$4.00
Milk	\$10.00
TOTAL	\$91.00

Current Conditions In Haiti

**HURRICANE
DISASTER RELIEF
NEEDED!**

See Page 3
for details.



Education Continues to Bring HOPE to the Mountains!

"I think it was the best trip to Haiti ever," commented Frances Landers when asked about her recent trip to the mountains.

A group of 10 missionaries visited St. Matthias Parish in April. Among the group were a reporter and photographer from the Arkansas Democrat/Gazette and a videographer from Houston. Frances celebrated her 91st birthday in Haitian style by visiting children and schools in the surrounding area. All were very pleased with the visit. Classrooms were full, teachers were teaching and children were learning!

The 2008-2009 school year begins in September—full of promise for God's children!



Our children are returning to the HEF schools in the mountains of southern Haiti. They are excited about the opportunity to obtain an education—a treasure that once obtained can never be taken away.

We are excited about the many ways these schools impact these mountain communities. Not only do they bring education, but they provide jobs, income and hope. These villages are continuing to move from the darkness of poverty and illiteracy into the LIGHT of Hope—knowledge—a future.

In these tougher economic times that we are experiencing, HEF is feeling the pinch as our donors have less available to give. We ask that you continue to support the efforts of HEF even if it is at a reduced level. No gift is too small—all gifts bring Hope—Opportunities—a Bright Future.



Mary Jo



Adding Email Communications

Please include your email address on the attached giving envelope. We will be emailing a quarterly progress report. This will also 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.

Current Conditions In Haiti

HURRICANE DISASTER RELIEF NEEDED!

Dear Friends of HEF,

I am sure that you have seen and read about the severe flooding and destruction in Haiti following the hurricanes Gustav, Hanna and Ike. Reports from our priests and OCDES board members are grim. There is widespread hunger and devastation from loss of crops, livestock and shelter. The following is an excerpt from a letter written by Pere Michaud, priest in charge of one of our schools in the mountains.

Please accept my excuses for not having already responded to your email, but we have not had any signal in most parts of Haiti, including Trouin, because of the hurricanes, both Gustav and Hanna. Their destruction, especially in Trouin, but also in the other areas of the country, has been enormously sinister. The people in Trouin are truly victims from the water and wind which penetrated the houses of hundreds of people in this area. Many houses were completely destroyed as roof tiles and whole roofs were blown away by the horrible winds, not to mention the relentless water and mud running everywhere. The livestock is gone. Many gardens producing food were washed away by the unceasing water. Fruit trees (oranges, mangoes, bananas, avocados) were blown to the ground before the fruit was ready for harvesting. So, in the face of these hurricanes, people living in the Trouin area have become even poorer, truly the victims of grave misfortune. With all this, what they need is food and a new means for daily lodging and shelter.

This is but one of 40 villages where our schools are located. As Pere Michaud said, we believe that we must send help for food and shelter most immediately.

The Haiti Education Foundation would like to request your help. No amount is too large or too small. Together, we can do big things to help our Haitian friends in this perilous time.

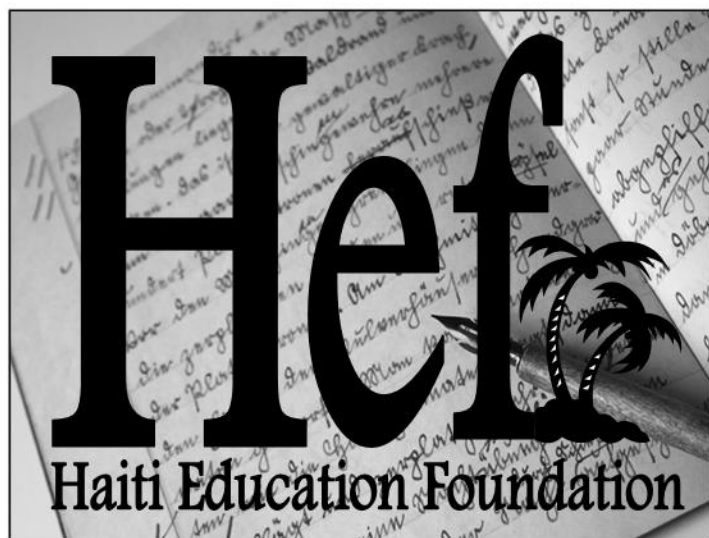
Seeds for replanting..... \$30
Food for a family..... \$50
Goat..... \$20
Cow..... \$50
Chickens..... \$10
Shelter \$100

These funds will be distributed by our priests and OCDES board members to those most in need.

As you might well imagine, many of our schools have also been damaged or destroyed. Please continue to pray for all who are suffering. We will have an update as information becomes available.

Thanks for your help.

Frances



We are collecting information so that a book can be written about Frances and the history of Hef's work in Haiti.

If you have a story to share, please e-mail it to haitifnd@att.net or mail it to Frances at 1801 West Block, El Dorado, Arkansas 71730.

We look forward to hearing from you!



**100% Used as
Designated by Donor**



Where is Haiti?

500 miles from Miami

Why help Haiti?

It is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere

How “Hef” Educates Haiti’s Children:

- ❖ Provides education in remote mountains of southern Haiti
- ❖ \$55 per year educates a child
- ❖ 100% of every gift is used as designated by donor

Map Key : ■ Parish Headquarters ■ Schools and Churches

“He’r” Educates Thousands in Mountains of Haiti

Frances Landers’ Story

Frances Landers of El Dorado, Arkansas, celebrated her 91st birthday with a trip to the remote mountains of southern Haiti. This remarkable woman has replaced Voodoo doctors with churches, and poverty with education for thousands of children in the mountains of Haiti. The irony is that Frances is not an ordained minister or an educator fluent in Creole, Haiti’s official language. Here is the story of how one Christian woman established the Haiti Education Foundation, “Hef”, which brings education to thousands in the mountains of Haiti. Believe it or not, her organization can provide school, shoes, uniform, milk, lunch, textbooks and a Creole Bible for \$91/year or 24 cents/day. The secret to the success of this story is that 100% of all donations go directly to the mission in Haiti.

Thirty-one years ago, at the age of 60, Frances began traveling with her husband, Dr. Gardner Landers, ophthalmologist, to a hospital in Haiti where he performed cataract surgery on many Haitians who were needlessly blind. With Frances at his side, they spent one week, twice a year for the next 12 years in Haiti. During those years, Frances met Father Jean Wilfrid Albert, an Episcopal priest serving as hospital chaplain, who told her how desperately the children of Haiti needed education. He drove Frances to a small village where Voodoo was practiced and there were no schools. The poverty-stricken children, with bloated stomachs and blank stares roamed around aimlessly. After seeing the hopelessness in the children’s eyes, Frances came back to El Dorado determined to help. Armed with photographs and the goal of raising enough money for one school of 400 children, Frances asked for help from her church, family and friends. Thus, the first school and church at Mercery was established in 1981. Upon her return to Haiti, Father Albert showed Frances the new facilities. Many of the children walked miles to school. She saw the students’ smiling faces as they proudly sat in their desks with Bibles and textbooks. Frances hoped that someday, these children would read their Creole Bibles to their parents. Believing that her work had been done, Frances returned to the United States.

On the following trip to Haiti, the Landers learned that Father Albert had been reassigned to the very remote mountains of southern Haiti. While visiting, Father Albert challenged Frances to help him establish four more schools and worship centers in the mountains. When she reacted with doubt of her ability, Father Albert confidently looked her in the eye and said with a smile, “If God wants schools in the mountains, there will be schools in the mountains.” Frances returned home and went to work! She set up her office at her kitchen table and started raising money. Her plan in raising this money was to establish a foundation where 100% of every dollar donated would go to the schools in Haiti. She arranged speaking engagements at churches and civic organizations in Arkansas and paid all her own traveling expenses. Frances acknowledged all donations with a personal, handwritten note of thanks. The money for the four projects was quickly raised.

A few months after Frances wired the money to Father Albert, she received a letter

from him that simply said, “Come and see!” Frances approached Gardner, who had recently retired from his practice, and asked if he would like to accompany her to Haiti to see the new schools. He turned her down, stating that he was no longer practicing medicine and really did not care to go back. As he was leaving to go play a round of golf with his friends, she asked what he thought about her traveling alone. As he left for the golf course, he agreed that she could handle the trip without him. Later that day, after his round of golf, Gardner came back to the house, threw his hat on the bed, and said, “I really want to go with you.” To that, Frances responded, “I always knew God spoke to you on the golf course!”

Today, the Haiti Education Foundation (Hef) supports 40 elementary schools and 10 high schools, educating over 10,000 students in St. Matthias and Ascension Parishes in Haiti. Thirty “Hef”-sponsored students are now attending college in Port au Prince. This organization not only educates Haiti’s children, but also builds school and church buildings. A whole economy has been created where moms and dads are hired to be part of the construction team. “Hef” only hires Haitian teachers and principals. This builds pride in the villages and helps develop the church as a focal point of the community.

You might wonder how all of this has been accomplished. It is Frances’ personal touch and the guarantee that 100% of everything donated is sent as designated to Haiti. Frances spends several hours every day answering emails and writing letters to donors. Her tireless efforts encourage us all to press on and use the gifts God has given. Volunteers spread the news of this mission organization through speaking engagements in their local churches. Many have visited the mountain schools and have taken on projects to give “not a hand out, but a hand up” to people in the villages. Donors from all over the United States continue to give generously to this life-changing mission. What lies ahead? Frances wants her work to continue through her volunteer staff. “Hef” is made up of volunteers of all denominations. There are Haitian children waiting for their opportunity to go to school. Amazingly, the cost for school, shoes, uniform, milk, lunch, textbooks and a Creole Bible is \$91, which is only 24 cents a day.

This mission will continue to grow and the generosity of Americans can help spread hope and good will to our neighbors in Haiti. If you want to join this mission of HOPE, please visit our web site at www.haitifoundation.org.

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

*“let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.”
1 John 3:18*

Education Continues to Bring HOPE to the Mountains!



In June we learned that the Bishop of Haiti had reassigned priests in both of our Parishes. Pere Inel, who was in Ascension Parish, will now be on the northwest coast in Arcahaie And Pere Alphonse, who was in St. Matthias Parish, will now be on the southwest coast in Torbeck. These two men served well and we will miss them. The new priests assigned are Pere Fritz Desire, St. Matthias, and Pere Mardoche Vil, Ascension. They have each written to tell you about themselves. This transition has been very smooth thanks to the placement of the OCDES Board which is our liaison in Haiti. Board President Mike Landers, Chris McRae and Susan Turbeville are traveling to Haiti in early September to greet the new priests.

Following are notes of introduction written by the priests:

Greetings from the mountains of Grande Colline. I am very happy to work in St. Matthias Parish with you to continue my ministry and Father Wilfrid's plans in these mountains. First, let me introduce myself to you. I am Father Fritz Desire. I was born in Leogane on October 12, 1970. After high school, I studied law and then started my studies in theology in the Episcopal Seminary in Haiti. I was ordained a deacon September 1, 2002 and priest on June 29, 2003. After my ordination to the priesthood, I served at the Holy Trinity Cathedral and Saint Vincent's School for Handicapped Children in Port-au-Prince. I worked there for five years. I am married and have a two-year-old daughter and a newborn son.

I met Father Wilfrid for the first time in Leogane. He worked in the Holy Cross Hospital and St. Luc Mission in Mercery. When I was in Leogane, I used to hear talk about Mrs. Landers, a good woman who helped Father Wilfrid Albert in his ministry. I always prayed for God to give me opportunity to see her face to face. I don't know her yet, but I love her for her love for the poor people in Haiti—especially the people in the mountains of Grande Colline. When Father Albert started his ministry in Grande Colline in 1989, I was the first person to teach music for him in St. Matthias Parish to the children and young.

Madoche Vil in Baint and I want to work together for the progress of these two parishes.

Peace and love of Jesus Christ to you,

Fr. Fritz Desire

Thanks be to God for this new assignment to Ascension Parish. Thank you also to each of you for your kindness, your friendship, your love and your continuing support—especially for opening your arms and your hearts to welcome me and invite me to keep working together.

I am Fr. Jean Madoché Vil, born in a family of four members. Two family members are living in the USA and another one and I live in Haiti. I completed my classical studies in Haiti and my theological studies in Haiti and Puerto Rico. I was ordained as a deacon in November 2001 and to the priesthood in July 2002.

I worked at Ste. Croix Parish (Leogane); Epiphany Parish (Port-au-Prince); Les Innocents Parish (Port-de-Paix). Now I am called by God to work the Ascension missions in Baint, in collaboration with you. I am getting married in December 2008.

I promise to work in a very good and strong relationship with you as Fathers Albert and Duveaux did for the well-being of the poorest ones in the mountains.

May God speed his blessings upon us in our vocation to serve our neighbors according to Matthew 25:40.

Greetings and blessings to you all,

Pere Mardoche Vil

New Board Members

The Haiti Education Foundation welcomes to the board two new members. Chris McRae from First Presbyterian—Fort Smith, Arkansas, has worked with Frances and HEF for a number of years in spreading the news of the foundation. He is currently the Living Waters of the World Haitian Liaison. Phil Nelson from First Presbyterian—Monroe, Louisiana, grew up in El Dorado and has followed the mission of Frances and HEF. Phil specializes in marketing and business. He made his first trip to Haiti in April. We welcome the wisdom and insight of these men.

HEF Speaking Engagements

Please join us if you are in the area!

September 13 Presbyterian Women Cluster MeetingHorseshoe Bend, AR
September 14 First Presbyterian Church.....Mt. Pleasant, TX
October 22 Germantown Presbyterian Church.....Germantown, TN
Feb. 6-8, 2009 First Presbyterian Church.....Gainesville, GA
February 2009 First Presbyterian Church.....Birmingham, AL

Mission Trips to Haiti

August Windy Cove Presbyterian Church
October 4—11 Chris Carlisle and group to work in Jacmel area
October 21—28 Chris McRae and group to install water purification systems
November Susan Turbeville and group to visit Cherident and Bainet

We have once again included the insert map and information page. Please use this as a tool to spread the news of the Haiti Education Foundation.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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El Dorado, AR 71730

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
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Permit No. 139

"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

Hef
Haiti Education Foundation

**100% Used as Designated
by Donor**