



December 2008

## NWMSU Students Sit on Toilets in Public to Give Dihydrogen Oxide to Kids

Yes, it's true. Northwest Missouri State University students sat on a toilet in the student union from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. for several days. Why? Well it's simple really. They heard that people in Haiti crave the chemical dihydrogen oxide, and they decided to help them get it. They wanted to demonstrate how Americans have so much of it, they flush it away everyday, while millions of people in the world don't have enough.

Fortunately, dihydrogen oxide is not a dangerous chemical. In fact it's just water (H<sub>2</sub>O)! The rest of the story is that these students are from the Christian Campus House. Along with members of Countryside Christian Church in Maryville, Missouri, they committed to drink only water for two weeks. The money they would have spent on soft drinks, coffee, etc. was donated to help provide clean water for the people of Haiti, through the House of Hope ministry. Their hard work and sacrifice raised over \$3000!

We're very excited to use these funds to help the people in Haiti for at least two reasons. The first is simply that they need it and we can share Jesus' love by giving it to them. Contaminated wa-

ter is the number one cause of death in developing countries. In fact, contaminated water accounts for about 80% of all diseases in developing countries. However, in much of Haiti, they don't just lack clean drinking water, they lack water for any purpose.

The second is that it gives us a chance to teach the children in the House of Hope ministry how to serve. One of the biggest problems in Haiti is that the people have not learned to serve each other. Often, Christian missions do little to combat this. In fact, if they focus on providing too much for the people in their own ministry, while ignoring the needs of the surrounding community, they can make matters worse. Last year an American couple paid \$400 to have a well dug by hand at the house that Pastor Quene rents. *[See pictures of the well on page 2].* Pastor Quene is allowing at least 60 other people in the neighborhood to draw water from it daily! I can't help but think of the multiple opportunities this gives Pastor Quene to share the good news about Jesus when people come to his house to get water! When I asked him about his ideas on how to spend the funds we received from the H<sub>2</sub>O project, he said that more wells are badly needed in the community.



Students at Northwest Missouri State University sit on a toilet to raise money for clean water in Haiti.

As time goes on, I believe that we can train the children in the House of Hope Haiti ministry to make a huge impact for Christ in their country. And I believe that providing both physical and spiritual water to a thirsty country will be part of the formula. One of the last lessons that Jesus taught his disciples was to demonstrate how to be a humble servant. You can read in John 13:1-5 how Jesus did the work of a slave and washed his disciples' feet. I believe that giving water to the community is a great way for the kids in the House of Hope Haiti ministry to begin a life of service in Jesus name.

***The House of Hope Haiti is a tax-exempt organization under IRS 501 (c)(3). All your gifts are tax-deductible, and 100% of donations go toward ministry.***



*60 people come every day to draw water from the well at pastor Quene's house.*

*Pastor Quene getting water from the hand-dug well.*



## Once Upon a Bake Sale...

On a warm Saturday morning in July, several determined "pastry chefs" from a Bible Study group in Topeka, Kansas, set up tables at the downtown Farmers Market, hoping to raise \$100 from selling baked goods for the House of Hope Haiti. The day was predicted to be a scorcher. Two tables full of brownies, snack mix, cakes, pies, breads, and garden produce drew early shoppers. But by 10:30, beads of moisture collected inside the packages of plum and apricot bread, and it was clearly time for a 1/2 price sale! Things moved quickly, and when we packed up at 11:00, we counted a profit of \$185!

We had paid for a year's worth of booth space, so we set a fall date to try again. On a Saturday in early October, the weather was perfect and we were really getting the hang of the routine. Candied apples appeared among the homemade pies, fruit cobbler and cookies, and watermelon was a popular item. One customer remarked, "Why didn't I see you here last week? I like your prices!" Our profit that day was \$170, but we knew we could make our \$500 goal for matching funds from a benevolent organization.

Late October after a rainy week, Saturday

dawned sunny and cold. Shoppers didn't show up until 10:00 a.m. By now we had big signs reminding purchasers that our profits went to the House of Hope, and many were generous in donating their change. Yeast rolls, pumpkin pies, apple pies, rum cake and more arrived from the dedicated cooks in our group. This time we counted our profit at \$213. With matching funds we were able to raise \$1,113 for the House of Hope!

What a great feeling it is to make a difference in the lives of kids while reaching our community with quality desserts at reasonable prices! Besides, it was fun to spend time together, and our customers were interesting too! Thank You, Lord, for answering our prayers! –Marilynn Bahr

*The House of Hope Haiti would like to express our sincere thanks to all the members of the Bible Study group who sponsored this wonderful project—Arloa, Berdine, Brenda, Donna, Eleanor, Lila, Lois, Linda, Marcia, Marcy, Marilyn, Marilynn, Nancy, Pat, Vince, Pastor Wally and others.*

# A Letter from Lemy, 10 years old

I was truly happy when I received your letter (from Eleanor & Bill Hisky, Lemy's sponsors). And I immediately thought of what I need to tell you. You know that my parents are poor, so I would like that whatever I choose to be one day will be useful for everybody. One day Mirlande will be dead, and the plan that she has will continue. I would like to be an electrician because I want a lot of things. I am in need of a laptop, so I am starting to learn about electronics. I never cease to tell you thanks for thinking of me. And don't forget that the Bible says, "Let the little children come unto me, for theirs is the kingdom of God."

I pray to God for you and thank you for thinking of me because I love you.

Lemy

*Mirlande, the director of the House of Hope orphanage, reports that Lemy was born in Troubaguette, Haiti on January 8th, 1998, and was 9 years old when he entered the House of Hope. His dad passed away and though his mother is still alive, she is too sick to care for him. Lemy was taken into the House of Hope because there was no one to care for his daily needs. He is very happy to have a new family at the House of Hope.*

## RESPONSE TO LEMY'S LETTER:

Lemy's letter illustrates the harsh reality in Haiti. There are almost no jobs. I remember driving mile after mile up the coast of Haiti and not seeing any industries. I asked myself, "Where do the people work?" For the most part, the answer is that they don't.



Even 10 year old Lemy is aware of the fact that he will need some sort of job skill in order to survive. I remember talking with a woman who had gone to Haiti each year for the past 30 years. She beamed when she told me about some of the kids that she had helped and how they are doing well. She also lamented that some of the kids that she worked with "disappeared into the streets."

There are many small schools in Haiti that go through about the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, or 6<sup>th</sup> grades. However, good high schools are very rare. The ones that exist are private and too expensive for most Haitians. What good does it do to teach a child for a few years and then stop?

Our goal is for Pastor Quene to start a high school near the House of Hope orphanage. This school will not only serve the House of Hope children after

**We would like to raise \$15,000 over the next few months in order to open a secondary school for Lemy and children like him.**

they complete grade school, but it will serve children from several other small schools in the area.

We are praying for God's direction, and we ask that you do the same. We are currently looking into buying a 1.24-acre piece of ground, which will cost about \$12,000. We want to have it purchased within the next couple of months. We then want to build at least a one-room school so that Pastor Quene can start offering a 7<sup>th</sup> grade class next fall.

Please consider making a year-end gift to help us start this school.

# Straw, Sticks, or Brick?

The House of Hope Haiti orphanage helped the Good Samaritan school expand. Last summer the roof of the main room in the school was blown off by a hurricane. The roof was supported by sticks that were only a few inches in diameter. The director of the school asked us for help putting the roof back up. We gave her \$800 to put the roof on concrete pillars.



The children at the Good Samaritan School now have a sturdy roof over their heads, thanks to our faithful supporters!

## Our Upcoming Trip to Haiti in March

If you are interested in visiting the House of Hope, we are planning a trip to Haiti in March. Here are some important details:

We'll leave Thursday, **March 19<sup>th</sup>** from Kansas City and return on Wednesday, **March 25<sup>th</sup>**. The cost of the flight has been fluctuating around \$630, but we're hoping that it will go down before we purchase tickets in the middle to January. We'll stay at a hotel near the House of Hope, which costs about \$65 per person per day, including three meals. Each person should plan on about \$325 for the hotel. We'll rent a car while we're there for transportation.

It will cost about \$100 per person for the car.

You will need a passport, but the visa will be obtained in the Port-au-Prince airport. While in Haiti we plan to do a variety of activities, including teaching Bible stories and songs to the children, visiting people in the mountains and distributing seeds for their gardens.

If you are thinking of going or have any questions, please contact me at [bellamy@nwmissouri.edu](mailto:bellamy@nwmissouri.edu) or 660-562-8171.

-Mike Bellamy

*The House of Hope is a Christian ministry located about 41 miles north of Port au Prince, Haiti. The ministry is dedicated to spreading the love of Jesus by providing food, shelter, clothing, and both Christian and secular education to the children of Haiti.*

[www.houseofhopehaiti.com](http://www.houseofhopehaiti.com)