



EL SHAMMAH PRIMARY SCHOOL OPENS!

About two years ago, House of Hope board member Bayo Oludaja and I decided to explore the mountains behind the House of Hope orphanage. We knew that some of the students who attended the Good Samaritan school, attached to the orphanage, walked down from the mountains to attend school. Impressed that they would make the daily three-hour trek to school, we wanted to see how they lived and what their needs were.

After a very strenuous hike (for a couple of old guys), we reached the first community. Above, right, are pictured children and their families from the area. Many are so poor they have nothing. Our hearts went out to these people because we could see that they were subsistence farmers with no hope for a better future for their children. In these types of communities, parents often cannot take care of their children and abandon them or sell them as "servants" in Port-au-Prince, where they often face abuse and neglect.

When we were there, the people told us that they hoped and prayed for a school for their children to give them hope for a better future.

The House of Hope Haiti is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Your contributions are tax-deductible, and 100% of donations go to ministry.

Below: 60 children attend the school, which also serves as a church for the community.



Praise God, today we can show you pictures of the opening day of school at the El Shammah primary school located in the center of the mountain community. With donations from our faithful partners here, our partners in Haiti built a cement block building with a metal roof over enough of the structure to get the school running. This was an amazing feat because every bag of cement, block, wooden pole, and piece of steel rebar had to be carried up the mountain!

Even the water for mixing concrete had to come a considerable distance, one bucket at a time.



Above: Many of the families in the mountain communities are desperately poor, unable to provide for and clothe their children.

We are also thankful for faithful workers who are willing to stay in the mountains all week to direct the school. Through God's power, the House of Hope ministry plans to help develop these children into Christian leaders with a heart for God, and for His people. We believe that this project will help break the horrible cycle of poverty in Haiti.

We are still looking for donors who are willing to sponsor children in the schools for \$20/month.



Above: Children lined up in their best (and for some, only) clothes for the first day of school. Most of these children have never been to school, and are starting from the beginning.



A Finished Water Project

Montrouis is a community about 25 minutes from the House of Hope orphanage, and is where Pastor Quene and his family now live. As we drove through the community, we only saw one well, and worse, there was a person standing next to it charging money for the water. In order to provide clean water for their families, women had to haul heavy buckets from long distances, or pay a high price for it. We were convinced that access to a free well with a pump would be a great blessing for the community, and a witness to the love of Jesus, who gives living water. With funds provided by the Christian Campus Fellowships at the University of Nebraska Kearney and Northwest Missouri State University, and Countryside Christian Church in Maryville, Mo, we were able to dig this well and two others last year.

This year, Bethel Baptist church in Ord, Nebraska donated money to install a pump on the well. We estimate that this well will be the sole source of water for at least 25 large families. The House of Hope ministry is currently working to finish the other two water projects.

“Jesus answered, ‘ Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.’” John 4:13

Letter from Louis Almeida

I am writing you this letter to tell you thank you for the beautiful gifts that you sent me. They made me very happy! I hope that you can come and visit us during your next big vacation here. I'm really looking forward to seeing you. My family is made up of 5 girls and 2 boys. My mother is dead and my father is also dead. Someday I would like to become a doctor. I really like my school, I also like the classes. I do good work in my classes. Thank you! Louis Almeida

(Louis is one of the children living at the House of Hope. He is seen here with his gift bag from the trip last March.)



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

Pray for our Trip to Haiti

We will be traveling to Haiti December 31 to January 6 to see the children at the orphanage and the new schools. We are planning to do a Vacation Bible School program at the different locations and help Pastor Quene with an evangelistic revival in the Williamson area.

We are also taking down many bags of donated school supplies, medicine, clothes, Bibles, and other supplies. We are excited to be taking 26 people along on this trip, from Nebraska, Missouri, Kansas, & Colorado. The largest group that we've taken in the past has been 12, so please pray that this very large group will have a safe and smooth trip, that God will bless our efforts and teach us how to serve Him both in Haiti and at home. If you are considering going to Haiti, our next trip is planned for July, and we will have more information about it in future newsletters.

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