

2010—A Year of Tragedy and HOPE

2010 has been a year of great tragedy and suffering for Haiti, but it has also been one of tremendous growth for the House of Hope Haiti ministry. After the devastating earthquake in January, we wanted to do our part to help. Because of the outpouring of support from our faithful donors, God has allowed us to accomplish much more this year than we thought possible. There is still much to do, and the urgency we feel is great. We thank you for all your gifts, volunteer work, and prayer. We praise God that so many of you have taken up the cross God has given you to bear by sacrificing your time, energy, and resources to reach out to His children in need. May God bless you this Christmas season and in the coming year!

Shepherding the Shepherds of Haiti

By Grace Knuth

After a first trip with House of Hope last January, it was hard to imagine traveling to Haiti on my own. Without Mike's hard work and know-how, I was pretty sure I would lead a mission team into some kind of catastrophe. God graciously gave me the opportunity, however, to watch and learn over the course of three week-long trips, before entrusting my pastor and me with a team of 10.

What an honor and privilege it was to introduce my church family, Calvary Lutheran of Lincoln, to our dear friends at House of Hope Haiti. Our trip's primary purpose was to provide a seminar for Haitian pastors and evangelists to learn about topics such as counseling, preaching, avoiding burnout, marriage, and conflict resolution.

The seminar was a beautiful success. One hundred men traveled long distances (some for hours each direction each day) to participate, to grow, and to learn. I don't think I've ever seen a more focused, eager group of students. These pastors bravely shared about their experiences following the



Children of the Valley House of Hope stand in front of the nearly complete fence. It will take about \$2000 to complete the fence around the compound.



Around 100 people came to the leadership training seminar led by a team from Calvary Lutheran Church in Lincoln, Nebraska.

earthquake and about their personal struggles caused by the cholera epidemic. We all laughed and cried, and our friends asked more questions than we had time to answer.

All ten people from our team returned home completely changed by what we have seen. We all fell in love with the children at House of Hope and Valley House of Hope
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What God Has Done Through You This Year

Here are some of the things that God has enabled you, our donors and volunteers, to do through the House of Hope Haiti this year:

- Build a new orphanage and take in 43 new children, while continuing to care for and educate the 17 children at the original orphanage.
- Start a new K-4 school for the new orphans and children in the Williamson community.
- Build a new high school and multipurpose building for the Williamson compound.
- Add a 9th grade to the middle school at Williamson & add computer-skills training to the curriculum
- Add a new grade to the K-2 school in the mountain community, where over 60 children are attending school
- Provide the mountain community with bathrooms, a rain-water collection system, seeds and chickens to improve their economy. Finish the church/school building in the mountains, and fix the roof damaged by Hurricane Tomas
- Provide food, medicine, school supplies, clean water, beds, lanterns and other essential items for the children and adults of the ministry
- Hand out Bibles and minister to the people of Haiti through leadership training and spiritual encouragement
- Support and encourage the staff and children of Haiti through your gifts, prayers, emails & messages, and your comforting physical presence when you have visited.



Installing rain-water collection systems in the mountain community. So far 12 have been installed, and we hope to install 30 in the near future.

**May your unfailing love rest upon us, O LORD, even as we put our hope in you.
Psalm 33:22**

Below is a summary of how House of Hope Haiti donations were spent this year, as of November, 2010. The U.S. board, staff, and volunteers of the House of Hope Haiti are unpaid, and administrative expenses, including travel costs to Haiti, are paid out-of-pocket or donated for that purpose.

Contributions to ministry:	\$ 179,860
Ministry expenditures:	
Food, supplies, & Haitian staff support	\$ 47,824
Orphanage & school buildings, fence	58,850
School salaries supplies, & expenses	26,452
Land for fish farm & training	10,112
Ministry pick-up	5,900
Rain-water projects, wells, generator	10,525
Tools & chickens	700
Creole Bibles	1,429
Miscellaneous fees	<u>63</u>
Total Expenditures	\$ 161,855

You have also donated an estimated \$15,000 in clothes, medicine, supplies, seeds, Bibles, toys, and other non-cash items, which have been distributed to the people of Haiti.

THANK YOU!!



Above: Middle and elementary school children line up to start the school day at the Williamson Compound. The opportunity to go to an affordable middle school and high school is a rare privilege.



Educational Hope for the Region

We are currently offering K-4 grades and 7-9th grades in Williamson. The director of the original orphanage offers a K-6th grade school, and the school in the mountain (Duveger) offers K-2nd grade. Our hope is to add a grade a year in Duveger until it reaches 6th grade. We also hope to add a grade a year in Williamson until it is a K-12th grade school.

Children in Haiti must pass a standardized test to progress to 7th, 9th, 11th, and 12th grades. Our dream is for children from many different schools in central Haiti to attend the high school in Williamson.

At left, students at the Williamson middle school learn computer skills and English, which will greatly improve their opportunities for employment when they leave.

Pray for Groups Going to Haiti Soon

Please pray for two groups going to Haiti soon. A small group will be going December 16-22, and a large group from the Ord, Nebraska, area will go January 1-8. The groups will be bringing supplies and gifts for the children and workers, working with the mountain community to help develop their agriculture, doing Bible studies & VBS, and helping to make the orphanage & schools more comfortable, organized, and secure. The groups are also taking water purification tablets and oral rehydration kits to help the ministry fight the spread of cholera in central Haiti. *(As of the writing of this newsletter, violence in Haiti may delay the trips to a future date. Please continue to keep them in prayer.)*

A note to sponsors of school children who do not live in our orphanages: we are so thankful for your dedication to these children and to their education. Without your support, they would not be attending school. We wish that we were better able to help you communicate with each child individually, but because the children live in a remote community, and because family situations change, it is difficult to send you updated information on specific children. Our resources are limited there, and so we appreciate your patient and faithful support!!

Running out of Christmas gift ideas? How about a donation to the House of Hope Haiti in the name of that special someone on your list?

You may send your tax-deductible gift to:

House of Hope Haiti
917 R Lane
Oberlin, KS 67749

or donate online at
www.houseofhopehaiti.com



Our Christmas Wish List

- Finish the buildings , grounds, and fence at the Williamson compound and make them comfortable (about \$5000)
- Add a 10th grade next year and an additional grade each year (about \$7000 per grade per year).
- Open a medical clinic. We have received \$5000 to start, but will have on-going expenses for equipment, medicine, etc.
- Expand wells & water projects (we have been pledged about \$15,000 for our next project, but we will continue to expand)
- Start our fish farm and agricultural training (we have received \$1500 to start, but will have on-going expenses until it becomes self-sustaining).
 - Hire more Haitian staff to help with translating & communicating with sponsors, & to help keep books.
 - Our regular expenses for orphans and education are now around \$7000 per month. We depend on your faithful support to continue to care for and educate these children

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orphanges, we formed friendships with many colleagues in ministry that I hope will endure for years to come, and I think it would be safe to say that we each have a renewed sense of urgency for our work in God's kingdom, wherever that work may be on a day to day basis. We look forward to continuing this Kingdom work in Haiti very soon and thank the Lord that He has allowed us to be part of what He started.



Above & left: Rachel and Grace play with the children at the orphanages.