

House of Hope

Haiti

JUNE 13, 2008

Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, "Who is the LORD?" Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God.

-Proverbs 30:8-9

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Orphans Doing Well and Ministry Expanding

Dear friends of the House of Hope,

After considerable prayer we started the House of Hope about three years ago. There have been many challenges along the way. Things that are simple in the US are not in Haiti. Simply figuring out how to communicate with the people in Haiti was difficult. However, this year has been a turning point for the House of Hope in the sense that we're able to focus less on surviv-

ing and more on making the ministry excellent.

The 16 orphans who live at the House of Hope have undergone a real transformation. I remember first seeing the kids and how they were wearing rags. Many of their eyes were glassy since they were sick. They didn't even have the energy to play. Smiles were rare.

Now when we visit the kids, they look and act much like our own children. When I watch them run and play I almost forget what they once looked like.

The children are

learning to read and write. More importantly, we see that the children are learning about Jesus. When we visit the House of Hope, the children are able to recite some Bible verses and sing many Christian songs. When we attend church with them, they seem to really understand the hope that Jesus offers them.

However, the orphans have turned out to be only a part of the ministry. When we started the House of Hope, the director was already running a small, struggling Christian school that we inherited. What we've learned is that in many parts of Haiti there are no schools, and if you open the door of a school, it quickly fills up. To make a long story short, we now have a K-4th grade school that has 110 children!

The need for Christian education in Haiti is so great that we prayerfully (and fearfully) have decided to add a grade per year to the school. We also want it to do two things. The first is to provide a Christ-centered high school education that is of good enough quality so that some (continued on back)



Spring break 2008. Mike Bellamy (back right) with 3 college students from Northwest Missouri State University and House of Hope children.

House of Hope Haiti

of the children can possibly go on to college in Haiti. The second is to teach the children some employable skills.

In order to develop the school, we hired Pastor Quene full-time. He had been teaching Bible lessons to the children part-time. I think that Proverbs 30:8-9 (see top of first page) really highlights the challenge of serving God in Haiti. In America, we Christians struggle against materialism. In Haiti, the desperate financial situation tempts people to steal to survive. We have observed that Pastor Quene has kept his focus on serving God and has a heart for his people even in the midst of extreme poverty.

Pastor Quene has been praying for a long time that God would allow him to plant a church in Haiti and to direct a high school. More specifically, he really wants to teach the students English because it opens many doors for them.

Each year, as we add a new grade, we will need to add one



Children eating breakfast at the House of Hope. Eating three meals a day has helped the children to thrive.

or more teachers. We currently pay our teachers \$70 per month, but we'd like to increase this to \$100 per month. In August, we plan to go to Haiti to discuss different options for expanding school.

We'll also be working on plans to provide water to the people near the House of Hope .

Please be praying for the children that the House of Hope serves and consider how you can financially support this growing ministry. You can

keep up with our news on our website, which we are updating this summer.

Please feel free to contact us any time that you'd like.

God Bless,

Mike Bellamy
President, House of
Hope Haiti

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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