



## AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE: OUR RESPONSE

When the earthquake rocked Haiti on January 12, 2010, we worried about all of our children and staff in Haiti. We were glad to hear that our sites were just far enough north to avoid damage. And, as we communicated with our staff there, we learned that immediately following the earthquake, they went to Port-au-Prince to help dig people out of the rubble and distributed food, water, and medicine. Some of the young people on our Haitian staff who speak English volunteered to translate for medical personnel who came from around the world to help treat the wounded.

Even though the initial crisis is over, the work in Haiti is just beginning. In order to have a lasting impact, we must be committed to help Haiti "for the long haul." The House of Hope can do that by caring for as many orphans as we can, providing education to help the people of Haiti become economically self-sufficient, and sharing the hope that comes from knowing Jesus.

Our ministry is currently caring for 22 new children who were orphaned by the earthquake. We are housing them temporarily at the school site in Williamson, while a new orphanage is being constructed. The congregation there has mobilized to provide a family atmosphere for the children. Several church members have been staying with them, caring for their physical needs, playing with them, singing songs and having devotions, and going on outings.

### Mobilizing the Valley for Orphans

Eleven of the 26 people who went with us to Haiti in January are from the Valley County, Nebraska, area. After the earthquake, they challenged their community to raise \$25,000 to help build another orphanage for the House of Hope Haiti. So far they have raised about \$21,000! Impressively, the children from the community primary and country schools raised about \$6,000 of this money! These funds have been a real blessing and will allow us to take in more children than we would have. Construction on the **Valley House of Hope** begins this month!



*New orphans being cared for at the Williamson School site*

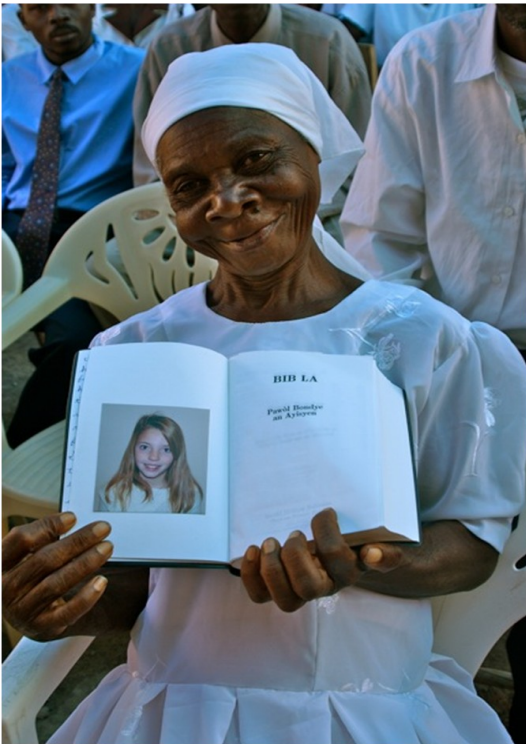
You can now donate online at  
[www.houseofhopehaiti.com](http://www.houseofhopehaiti.com)

**Sponsor an orphan or a school child or give  
where most needed.**

If you have been following along with us on our website or Facebook page, you may wonder why the number of children that we have taken in from the earthquake has changed from time to time. Initially, the children who were orphaned or separated from their families were taken to "tent cities" in Port-au-Prince. Our staff in Haiti went there to bring children to our care, and they were registered with our ministry. In some of those cases, the parents of the children were located, and the children were returned to their families. In other cases, unfortunately, parents brought their children to be taken to an orphanage "for a better life," and have sometimes lied about them being orphaned. When it was discovered that these children had parents, they were also returned to their families. The tragedy of this situation really demonstrates that there is much work to be done yet in Haiti.

If you have agreed to sponsor a child, and that child was returned to his or her family, we will find another child for you to sponsor. We have already taken in more children, and many more will come when we are sure that we can properly care for them. A team of nine people will visit Haiti this month and will work with our Haitian partners to decide when and how to take in more orphans. The new orphanage that we are constructing will have space for between 50 and 60 children. Once that facility is full, we'll pray about what God wants us to do to help more children.





*Children from Bethel Baptist church in Ord, Nebraska each gave up a Christmas present in order to buy Bibles for the people of Haiti instead. Each Bible had the child's picture in the front.*

### Grace Notes

I joined Pastor Lonnie Jacobsen's staff at Calvary Lutheran in September with a goal of finding a place somewhere in the world where we might be able to serve on a regular basis. Even before the earthquake, folks at Calvary were getting excited about doing ministry in Haiti, as they very quickly raised money to pay for my trip and for some Bibles that I was able to take along with me. Along with the rest of the world, our hearts were broken when we heard the terrible news about the earthquake, and many people responded generously by giving offerings to House of Hope. Those initial offerings totaled \$6,600, and money is still coming in. As we observe the season of Lent, our congregation shares a meal every Wednesday night until Easter. Those meals will serve as a fundraiser for House of Hope. As news spread from Calvary about the good work happening in Haiti through House of hope, I received many invitations to speak to groups and raise additional funds. Heartlands church took an offering on behalf of House of Hope. Amy Schmidt, a local recording artist, gave some of the proceeds from her cd release show. And Morely Elementary is in the midst of a school wide fundraiser even now! I have been inspired by people's generosity over the last couple of months, and encouraged by their desire to continue to serve.

—Grace Knuth (Calvary Lutheran Church, Lincoln, Nebraska)

*At right: Grace Knuth is shown making crafts with the children at the Good Samaritan School and of the House of Hope Orphanage this past January.*

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

### What is God's "earthquake response?"

"If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk,  
<sup>10</sup> and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.

<sup>11</sup> The LORD will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.

**<sup>12</sup> Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations; you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings."**

Isaiah 58:9-12



*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.*

## “The Harvest is Plentiful”

When we go to Haiti, people are very anxious to interact with us. When we go to the different schools that we help support, crowds of people gather to sing songs with us, to make crafts, and to hear Bible stories. One cannot help but be reminded of Luke chapter 10 verse 2 where Jesus sends out 72 evangelists, telling them that “the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few...”



*Tenise Bogus from Ord, Nebraska and Grace Knuth from Lincoln, Nebraska lead songs at the El Shammah secondary school in Williamson, Haiti.*

It's all about the kids—on the January trip to Haiti, we visited the El Shammah Primary School in the mountains that opened last November. Below are some of the 60 children that are currently attending this school. Many of you have agreed to sponsor them at \$20/month. We plan to add another grade this Fall, and will enroll more children. We will continue to look for more sponsors.



## Coming Soon –

### E-Mail Your Sponsored Child

The Rotary Clubs in Oberlin and Atwood, Kansas donated \$3,180 towards an internet system that has been installed at the 7-12 grade school in Williamson. The students will run an internet business which is referred to as a “Cyber” in Haiti, in order to pay the expenses for the internet fees. Our goal is for the students to gain some valuable work skills as they run the Cyber. In addition, we are hoping that the internet system will allow people to send and receive e-mail messages from the children that they sponsor. If things go well, you'll be able to e-mail your sponsored child by this summer.

## Thanks to all our Wonderful Contributors!

After the earthquake, many people have given **sacrificially** to help the House of Hope take care of new orphans. We are overwhelmed by the response. This includes student groups, such as the Navigators, Christian Campus House, and Campus Crusade at NWMSU, many individuals, and many churches. These funds are allowing us to take in more orphaned children in the coming weeks, and provide them with a Christian education.

**THANK YOU!**