

Mercy Meals, Orphan Grain Train and Pillow Case Dresses!

When Pete and Nannette Zander, from House of Hope Haiti, spoke at our church in September of 2010, it sparked an idea in Genene, one of our members. She had already sewn a number of "pillow case dresses" and had them on display at our special service. She asked Nannette if they could be of use for the children in Haiti. One thing led to another and now more than five hundred of these dresses either have been delivered to Haiti or are in process of being made. To make a dress out of a pillow case, cut it in a few places, add some elastic, some ribbon, a little this and that, and behold - a dress! (if you need a pattern, give us a call!) Word spread in Madison, and as of this writing, members of the local Catholic, Methodist and ELCA Lutheran churches, students in confirmation class, one of the local 4H groups, and a local Girl Scout troop have all helped to make these lovely dresses for children and women in Haiti.

—Rev. Martin Schmidt, Trinity Lutheran Church, Madison, Neb.

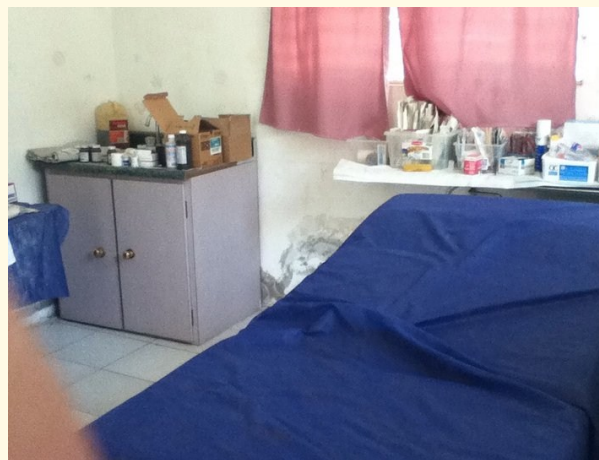


Pastor Schmidt introduced us to two wonderful organizations: **Mercy Meals & Orphan Grain Train**. Both are based in Norfolk, Nebraska. Mercy Meals are made by volunteers, with rice, soy protein, chicken base and dried vegetables. When water is added and the mixture is boiled for 20 minutes, it makes a nutritionally balanced meal for up to six children. It is enough for their nutritional requirements for one day.

Mercy Meals has partnered with Orphan Grain Train, which regularly sends relief items to many countries. Since the earthquake a year and a half ago, Orphan Grain Train has shipped almost 90 cargo containers to Haiti to help those devastated by that tragedy. They will be shipping 14,000 Mercy Meals, sewing machines, desks, and dental equipment for distribution in Haiti by the House of Hope Haiti projects.



Top left: Rosse Kerry models her new dress made from a pillow case. Above: one of the treadle machines from Madison going to Haiti with the Orphan Grain Train shipment.



Above: A medical clinic visited by those who went to Haiti in May. This medical clinic is reaching out to those in need, but is in need of equipment. Orphan Grain Train is donating and shipping dental equipment to the clinic.

Pastor Schmidt's church in Madison is also helping the House of Hope Haiti provide vocational training to the children at the orphanages as they mature. In Haiti, if a person owns a good sewing machine, and has the needed skills, they can earn a living making clothes, school uniforms, and alterations.

Members of Trinity church were able to find six old-fashioned treadle machines, and we purchased one in Haiti with funds from another one of our donors. These machines work well in Haiti, as they do not require electricity or a lot of maintenance. We have already hired a sewing teacher, and the youth will start lessons this month.

Find more about Orphan Grain Train and Mercy Meals at
<http://ogt.org>

and

<http://mercymealsofnebraska.org>

Soup, Soap, Song & Salvation—in a Bag!

From May 10-15th, fifteen of us from Nebraska, Missouri, Colorado, and Tennessee served with House of Hope in Haiti. One of our main ministries was performing informal mini-concerts and using the music to draw people. As people gathered, we handed out small paper bags each containing soup, soap, a Bible, and some Gospel tracts. It was a little campaign we liked to call “Soup, soap, song, and salvation—in a bag!” It was a sweet way to simultaneously meet physical and spiritual needs.

Another outreach we did was show the JESUS Film three times, including once at each orphanage. The JESUS Film Project is a



ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ that reaches the peoples of the world in their mother tongue. I was amazed at how engaged the viewers were. Even kids remained completely engrossed in the film. After each showing, Pastor Jeremiah Knoop made a brief, visual Gospel presentation through an interpreter. At the end, he prayed a prayer for them to receive Christ as Lord and Savior of their lives. Listening to people repeat that prayer aloud in Haitian Creole was one of the most beautiful sounds I've ever heard.



In addition to the JESUS Film and the “Soup, Soap, Song, and Salvation in a Bag” campaign, we got to spend quite a bit of time with the kids at both orphanages. We took the original HOH kids to the beach, which is a rare treat for them. We did a couple of projects with the VHOH kids, including decorating plastic totes for them to keep their personal belongings in and providing them with personalized mesh bags that they got to fill with toiletries. Another treat we had for the VHOH kids was a picture slideshow of themselves. It was a joy to see their smiles and hear their squeals and giggles at seeing themselves. What a privilege it is to share God's love with these people, and what an honor it is to learn love and joy from them as well. —Bailey Andreesen (To read more of Bailey's blog, go to www.livingwaterhaiti.wordpress.com or you can find House of Hope Haiti on Facebook)

Gardens, Shoes, Kids & Love

Another team of 23 people traveled to Haiti May 6-12. The team visited both orphanages, did some physical labor helping to clear land, fix the road, and till a garden at Valley House of Hope. They also fitted the children with new shoes, and climbed the mountain to visit the projects there. New trees, tools, and water tanks were given to the mountain projects, to continue their agricultural development. Physician's Assistants Jo Ann Stock and Brad Dirks gave all the children medical check-ups, and children were interviewed and photographed for reports to their sponsors. It was a memorable & moving experience!



***“Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust in Him,
and He shall bring it to pass.” Psalm 37:5***

Lora & Stenio

My parents (*Wally and Linda Friedrichs*) have sponsored a young boy named Stenio from the House of Hope Haiti for about 5 years I think. They have his picture on their refrigerator. For my parents' 60th wedding anniversary, my 5 siblings and I decided to make a donation to House of Hope Haiti in their honor. Needless to say, they were thrilled! After that, I began asking questions about Stenio and

the children in Haiti. I began to pray about going to Haiti to meet him. Well, God opened all the doors; and on May 6th, I boarded a plane in

Tulsa to go to Haiti. I got to meet Stenio the morning after we got there. I was able to interview him with an interpreter and tell him who I was, that my family loved him and prayed for him, and that his picture was proudly hung in my parent's home. Every day after that, when he saw me, he would call out, "Lora". The language barrier made it difficult to communicate, but I know he knew who I was and that my family cared about him. Most of the boys loved to play soccer and I noticed that Stenio didn't always jump right in the game. But when one of our team members was putting together a volleyball net, he was right there helping. Terri - a teacher from Nebraska - had extra seed packets left over from our garden project and she gave them to him and he seemed thrilled with the prospect of planting them. He even found a place that he thought would make a good garden.

On the day we were to say goodbye, I was so sad! I think I hugged him 5 or 6 times! I hope and pray that God allows me to go again. When I talked to my parents and showed them all my pictures, the first question my mother had was, "Is he happy?" I think it gave my parents great comfort to know that Stenio is healthy, happy and living in a cheerful environment and getting an education.

My time in Haiti definitely changed me! I went hoping and praying that I could show the love of God to the children and instead, THEY showed the love of God to ME! I'll never forget it...the kids, their smiles, their singing, their hugs! Meeting Stenio was a dream come true - what a gift from God. To God be the glory!—*Lora Samuelson*



A gift of pigs provides a new life for a widow and her children

In January, board members visiting Haiti were introduced to a widow and her five children, living in the mountain village where the House of Hope Haiti works. David, our mountain minister, had formed a special bond with Mirlou, the oldest boy. The family was so poor that they did not eat every day, and Merlou was unable to go to school because he spent the day trying to eke out a living for his family. With the help of our donors, we were able to provide this family food, and were also able to purchase pigs for Merlou to raise. The pigs will sell well in market, and provide a sustainable income. In addition, some of the income from the pig project will eventually also help the school in the mountain to become self-sustaining by paying for teachers' salaries and school supplies.

We plan to start a similar project soon in a nearby village, where a gift of goats will provide the income to start and sustain a new school. A generous HOHH donor has already responded to the need, and the project will be underway soon!

Below: Merlou cares for his pigs, and continues to “shadow” David, our mountain minister, as he works in the mountain villages.



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**

Thank you for your prayers and support!

The ministry of the House of Hope Haiti continues to grow, and with the growth comes both joy and discouragement, successes and failures. We are constantly learning how to listen to God and how to obey, believing that if we commit our ways to Him, he will bring it to pass (Psalm 37:5). Please continue to pray that we will be faithful, wise, discerning, and compassionate.

Beds & Mattresses needed for children at another orphanage near our projects in Haiti

Both groups that went to Haiti in May were transported to and from the sites in an old school bus. When they got to know the owner/driver of the bus, they found out that he was also operating an orphanage, clinic, and schools in a nearby town, and had been doing so for almost 19 years. The orphanage and schools do not receive outside help, but are funded through his family businesses and loans. 30 of the 53 children at the orphanage do not at this time have beds, and are sleeping on mats. The board of directors of the House of Hope Haiti has agreed to ask for funds to help purchase beds for these children. **This would cost about \$5,500. If you would like to help with this project, please designate your gifts to "Beds & Mattresses Project."**

Thank you!



Above: Adam Kretzinger plays soccer with children in a dry swimming pool, used as a soccer field, at the orphanage we visited.

Turning Salt-Water into Chlorine

A chemist by profession, Mike has been working with a group called SWIM (Safe Water International Ministry) to improve technology to convert salt-water to a chlorine solution to help disinfect water. In May, he and Dennis Florom, from Lincoln, Nebraska, helped teach Haitians (*left*) how to make chlorine. More information to come in future newsletters!



House of Hope Haiti will hold its annual meeting August 7th, 2:30-4:00 p.m., hosted by Calvary Lutheran Church in Lincoln, Nebraska. The meeting is open to all HOHH donors. We will present the year's accomplishments and challenges, as well as plans for the coming year.