



## How Haiti Changed my Life

*By Jo Ann Stock*

After traveling to Haiti twice, I have learned to look at life from a completely different perspective. I raised 3 kids by myself and sometimes felt like giving up, but persevered and finally succeeded.

I thought we were poor, but then I saw real poverty in Haiti. I saw people living on the streets, having only one set of clothing, barefoot, not because of choice, but because they had no shoes. Drinking water out of the gutter because there is no well. Walking where they were going because there are no cars, and no gas.

I thought our house was in disrepair until I saw Haitians living in tents, wooden crates, even in small 8 ft. x 10 ft. concrete buildings cooking on an open fire in front of the doorway, washing dishes in cold water without soap. They have no running water, no sanitation, no electricity.

I thought our country roads were hard to drive on, until I traveled over Haiti's highways, that suddenly disappeared and became everything but impassible, with holes over a foot deep, and ruts that had to be straddled.

**“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him, endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”**

**Hebrews 12: 2-3**

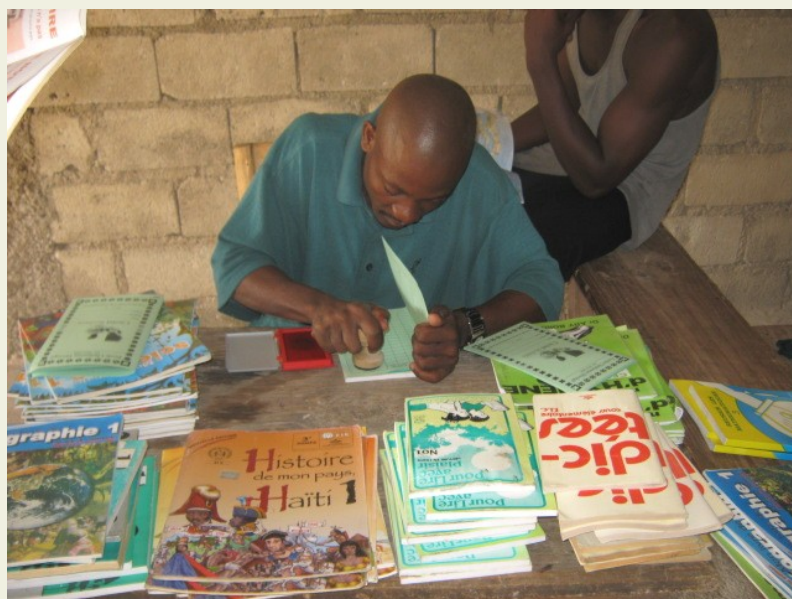
*At right: One of the teachers at the mountain school in Duveger stamps report cards. We follow a curriculum set by the Haitian government, which includes French, Math, History, and other subjects. We hope to have this school self-supporting within the next couple years.*

I thought my kids hated to go to school, then I saw the hundreds of kids who want to go to school and can't because there aren't any schools. I saw the smiles on the face of those lucky ones who do get to go to our orphanage's school when they received a simple pencil and tablet.

I saw all this poverty and destruction, and then saw the joy on the faces of the Haitians as we attended a church service. They laughed, they sang, they shouted praises to the Lord, they danced. And they prayed to the God that takes care of them. They grabbed the Bibles we gave away, and clenched them to their hearts. And they thanked us and they thanked God. And they loved on us, and they let us love on them, And my life will never be the same. Come go with us. Your life can be changed too.



*Jo Ann Stock hugs a child at the original House of Hope orphanage during VBS in July 2010. Jo Ann is a P.A. who has helped the ministry tremendously through her God-given talents, skills and generosity. What a blessing to have her with us!*





*Above: Children at the Williamson compound show off the new chicken coop constructed with the help of the team from Nebraska. They report that they are already collecting eggs, which improves the protein in the childrens' diets, and gives the kids some "chores" to do.*

## Farming—Haitian Style

*By Richard Bogus*

On my first trip to the mountain community a year ago, we wondered why the people didn't farm more of the land. This trip we planned to "show those mountain village people how to farm." We decided to spend the night, and then took a tour of the village. WOW! That was the most beneficial thing we could have done. After walking for awhile we realized that they DO farm everything. (Even on the steep mountain sides). We just weren't seeing crops before because we thought we were seeing weeds. Their beans don't look at all like ours. They grow as tall as we do and put on pods that have about 8 to 10 beans per pod.

We took garden variety seeds again for the farmers. They



were excited to get them, and this year Tom Thompson and Greg Moody (both agronomists) took the people on a "field trip". They showed them how deep to plant the seeds and how far apart. They tried to explain to them that they could get a jump start on their season if they planted a little earlier and watered the seeds instead of relying on rain.

When we go to Haiti we find ourselves with our minds spinning on how to help these people. It is like we entered a time machine and went back over 150 years. No tractors, no horses and plows, not even any real hand tools. It is like you are sitting on the porch with your great great grandpa telling you how his grandpa farmed but instead of sipping lemonade and enjoying the cool breeze, you are standing back in time looking at it in real life.

Our hope is to come up with a way to provide the farmers with tools that would help them farm better. The growing season now depends on the rain. The weather is constant enough that they could raise a crop year round. We would like to come up with a way to encourage them to irrigate at least their garden so that they would have food year round. We would like to establish a garden at the Valley House of Hope Orphanage and teach them to water the plants. When this works we would like to have some of the mountain people come down and see what is possible if they just carry a little water to grow plants in the dry season. I'm also excited about some ideas for generators made out of old washing machine motors! Please continue to pray that God will direct our plans.

**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](http://www.houseofhopehaiti.com)**

*Above right: Tom Thompson, Richard Bogus, and Greg Moody, farmers from Valley County, Nebraska, are learning and sharing about mountain farming with the help of David Baptiste, our mountain ministry director. Below: Richard teaches the high school students how to assemble the chicken-nest boxes for egg-laying at the new chicken coop.*



## What a Difference a Year

### Makes *by Sara Andreesen*

It had been ten months since I last visited Haiti. As our group of seven drove through Port au Prince January 19, 2011, it was as though time stood still. The rubble remains, though the long lines of people receiving food aid from the UN trucks were gone. The streets were still swarming with displaced people, but there seemed to be more of a pattern or purpose in their movement.

On arrival at the new House of Hope Haiti orphanage in Williamson, it was amazing to see all the new buildings, busy school staff, good looking kids, and caretakers at the Valley House of Hope campus. Last March we saw only the foundation of the dormitory in progress, and at that time the newly orphaned kids were sleeping on mats in tents. So to now see an actual campus with dorms full of bunk-beds, a high school, a pavilion that serves as a primary school classroom/cafeteria/kitchen, the foundation for a large chicken coop, a huge water tank and new well.... staff housing and supply depot... the changes were unbelievable. It is a testimony to God and his faithfulness.



*Sara Andreesen and six others from the Valley County, Nebraska, area, visited and worked at the House of Hope sites in January. Here Sara is enjoying the company of her sponsored child, Paulson, and their daughter, Bailey's, sponsored child, Rose Kerry.*

So, is it appropriate to say we have the best orphans in the world? Well, we do. Our kids are healthy, cared for, caring towards one another, fun, funny, happy, respectful, and very well behaved. They ARE the best! It was pure joy to hang with them for a couple of days in the midst of a busy schedule. You might find that you know nothing about playing dominos until you've "slapped" the table with these kids. And playing the game "spoons" with rocks...? Well, let's just say it takes on a whole new light.

A personal highlight for me was meeting the very handsome young man that my husband and I sponsor – 9 year old Paulson. Paulson, his brother, and two sisters have made Valley House of Hope their new home after losing the rest of their family in the earthquake. He asked us to pray that he

would not have bad dreams, and for a better year in in 2011... We can't even imagine.

Another highlight was getting to better know the staff. Our last night in Haiti we had the privilege of honoring the orphanage and school staff with an evening banquet at the hotel. We ate over the water as the sun set on the ocean. We laughed and laughed (a couple of times at the universal expense of our men!) The banquet was meant to encourage the Haitian staff and let them know how much we deeply appreciate their sacrifice and hard work. Later, the evening took on a lot of emotion as they too expressed their gratitude that encouraged us. We truly felt like a boundless team, drawn together in God's provision and grace. I'll never forget that night.

**THANK YOU for your response to our funding requests in the last newsletter! Because of this, we now have the funds to complete the security fence around the compound and other projects.**

**Our new water and agricultural projects are well underway and we'll have a report for you next time. Here are some of our current and future needs:**

- **Completing the legal paperwork in Haiti for the orphanage will cost about \$5000.**
- **Finishing the high school will cost about \$10,000 and adding 10th grade this year and 11th, and 12th grades in the future will cost about \$700/month per grade.**
- **Our agricultural and training projects, including the tilapia farm, sewing school, and raising animals will all continue to require funds, but will eventually become self-sustaining.**

*Below: Children eat lunch in the newly constructed cafeteria at the Valley House of Hope. This multi-purpose building also serves as a classroom and a church sanctuary.*

