

HOHH Donors Come Through—Big Time!

In our June newsletter, we requested special funds to buy beds and mattresses for an orphanage that we visited in May. The orphanage is in Montrouis, Haiti, not far from our projects. That spring, the owner,



Pierre, had to move the children quickly during the night when their orphanage was overtaken

by flash flooding from nearby river. As a result, the children were in need of beds and mattresses. We were so excited to be able to give the orphanage \$5500 for 30 beds, and to see them being built and moved into their temporary living quarters when we visited in July. Another donor gave 30 sets of twin sheets, which were immediately placed on the beds when they received them. Pierre and his children are so grateful to HOHH and our wonderful donors for their help. Thank you!



HOHH Supporters in Topeka hold their 4th Annual Farmer's Market Sale

To all you HOHH supporters—we, HOHH supporters in Topeka KS, are happy to be a part of this mission endeavor. Always good to read the HOHH newsletter details of progress. What wonderful work you traveling groups are doing to ease the burdens of these less fortunate.

Good to read in the newsletter also of state~side activity that makes useful contributions.

I am here to say that our Topeka group felt blessed at our recent garage sale! It started out by having cash donors interested in our cause. Then church members delivered plenty of items to the Templers' garage; while setting up, we made \$55 and we hadn't even opened!

After two days of many customers, we totaled \$1457 some of which were matching funds from Thrivent. Some of our customers encouraged us with their interest in this project. One customer bought fabric to make curtains for a local cause. The leftover items went to needy area families.

Since we began supporting HOHH four years ago with a farmers market baked sale booth, the sales from each project has consistently grown as has our commitment and prayers for HOHH!

— Marilyn Bahr, Topeka HOHH fund raising group

Note: Marilyn and her group were among the very first supports of House of Hope Haiti, when we started with 16 children in 2005. We are so glad they have stayed firmly committed through all our growing pains!

“Proclaiming” the Word of the Lord!

The group that visited Haiti in July brought “proclaimers,” which are hand-cranked audio versions of the Bible, in Creole. Groups have brought them before, and they are greatly prized in communities where many are illiterate, but are hungry to hear God's Word. This picture captures an amazing moment when David showed a young man in a remote mountain village how to listen to the proclaimer. Upon hearing the Word of God, the young man spontaneously raised his hands in praise!!

On a later day, we visited another mountain village. Merlou, who is the young man who is raising the pigs that HOHH donated, saw one of the proclaimers. He picked it up and carried in on his shoulder like a boom box. He then proceeded to turn the volume up, and recite scripture along with the proclaimer, word for word, whole chapters from the Bible. We were stunned, as it seemed almost supernatural, but we know that God's Word is powerful, however it is “proclaimed!”



Building Character in Haiti—and at Home *by Pastor Lonnie Jacobsen, Calvary*

Lutheran Church

During our recent visit to Haiti, we were blessed to lead a seminar for about 50 church leaders. The topics were Teaching God's Word, Christian Character, Preaching, Marriage/Sex, Ministry Challenges, and a section for the women to discuss their unique challenges.

During the section on Christian Character, I asked, "How tempted are you, when you are presented with the offerings, and yet your own family is struggling with poverty?" "How tempted are you when you are called to feed hungry children, yet your own children are going without enough food?" "How distracted are you, when you are asked to pray for the sick, and yet a member of your own family is ill?" I wanted to allow the leaders to consider the many different temptations that seek to affect their Christian character. Upon finishing my list of questions, one young pastor stood and spoke, saying that I just described his life. He went on to tell about his poverty, his hungry children, and his wife who was ill. And yet as he spoke, there was a unwavering power in his voice. He wasn't asking for help, and he wasn't seeking sympathy. Instead he simply spoke of his status as a child of God, his divine call to serve the Lord, and his commitment to proclaim the Gospel as long as he lives.



Over the days and the weeks that have followed, I have prayed for my brother, and am reminded of my own weakness. I am blessed with enough resources for my family, healthy children, and a supportive and healthy wife. It's true that I still have many temptations that seek to assault my Christian character. But my life is relatively comfortable, compared to my Christian brother. I would imagine that yours is too. Listen to what God says about this:

"And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope."
Romans 5:2b-4

Maybe we shouldn't be so quick to avoid suffering? Doesn't God call us to be willing to "suffer" for the sake of the Gospel? Join me in praying for the Christian leaders that serve in Haiti and for our House of Hope leaders. Pray that any suffering that they endure would bring perseverance, character, and hope, and that each of us would respond with the same boldness as our brother, proclaiming that we are the children of God, called to serve and proclaim the Gospel as long as we live.

Painful Changes and New Beginnings

This past year has brought many joys, as well as some difficult times for the House of Hope Haiti's ministry in Haiti. We became aware of some accountability problems with some of our staff, and have had to make some painful changes. As Pastor Jake discussed in his article above, Christian Character matters, and we seek to find and develop Haitian leaders



who are committed to God and His ways. We know that we are all susceptible to assaults on our character, and we ask that you join us in praying that God will keep all His servants and leaders in the ministry firmly within His will.

As we move past this difficult transition time, we are excited about the direction we believe God is leading us. We hope this year to finish the Williamson compound, dig a new tube well so they can have clean running water, add a 5th grade to the elementary school, a 4th grade to the mountain school, continue with vocational and agricultural projects, partner with a medical clinic and continue to proclaim the saving and redemptive grace of Jesus Christ. Through all the trials, we believe God has not and will not forsake us, but instead will build His character in us.

Mosine—How God Changed my Life in Haiti

by Carol Wilkerson

"It will change your life!" I heard this many times before leaving for Haiti. Having recently returned I find myself asking--has my life been changed?

On the very first morning of my very first mission trip, I met Mosine. She is 34 year old woman with three young children. I know very little of her history except that a few weeks earlier she and her little family had shown up on the doorstep of Pierre's orphanage in Montrouis.

My concern for Mosine was immediate as she was obviously very ill. Mosine was of medium height but she weighed only 86 pounds, she had a high fever, chest pain and vomiting. As a nurse accustomed to immediate and decisive action my reaction was to whisk Mosine to a hospital. It was not to be.

After some discussion, it was decided that since Mosine was



already in the care of a local doctor we should do what we could for her there in Montrouis. I left Mosine that day troubled and confused, feeling I had failed miserably in my mission to heal and protect. I wasn't at all sure I was cut out for such a heartbreaking

'life-changing' experience.

We have recently been told that Mosine is now hospitalized and is being treated successfully for tuberculosis. Her prognosis is good, but in her weakened condition her recovery will take many months. We are told in 1 Timothy chapter 2:

"I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them."

Part of understanding God's will is to embrace verses such as this. My role in Mosine's life was not as a bedside nurse, but in prayerful intercession.

I'm still praying for Mosine and am looking into sponsoring her precious children. I have begun the process of adjusting my 'global attitudes' of how care giving is accomplished.

Here is the question I think **God** is asking--not was my life changed, but did I in some way alter the life of another? By his grace I think I can say 'yes!' Please keep Mosine and all the Haitian children in your prayers.

To God be the glory!

The Rest of the Story...

I was moved as I listened to Carol share, during our devotion time the first night of our trip to Haiti, the pain of her encounter with Mosine. We prayed with her and asked that God would use this time for His glory and her growth. Although I was



sad, part of me was thanking God that He had pulled her heart toward His work in Haiti. The next day, Carol, who is a nurse from Colorado, was able to teach a young mother to breast-feed her newborn (pictured with Carol, above) She and Marva, her good friend and nurse, worked very hard and helped many people during our trip. I was amazed at their tireless, uncomplaining attitude as they treated, played with, interviewed, and loved the children.

As for Mosine—she is being treated in a hospital in Port



and is expected to recover from TB, though it may take many months. Her three children (two of them are pictured at left) are being cared for at Pierre's orphanage, and Carol, Marva, and a friend have decided to sponsor the three children to help cover the costs of their care.

Pierre's orphanage is in need of more help, and we hope to partner more with him as funds allow.

We know that God has truly changed our lives when he turns our pain into compassionate action.

Lenore Bellamy

Scenes from Haiti..

This summer a group of around twenty visited the House of Hope Haiti sites. They led a Christian leadership conference, did VBS with the children at the orphanages, did medical checks, measured feet for shoes, delivered lots of shoes and clothing to the different orphanages, visited the mountain sites, and more. Here are just a few scenes from the trip:



HOW YOU CAN HELP:

You can partner with us to help provide orphans and other needy kids a future by contributing to our **SCHOLARSHIP FUND**.

Contributions to our **GENERAL FUND** are always welcome and help us with Haitian costs that sponsorship funds don't cover. As always, U.S. administrative costs are paid by our all-volunteer staff.

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!

The House of Hope Haiti annual meeting has been moved to October 9, 2:30-4:00 p.m., hosted by Calvary Lutheran Church in Lincoln, Nebraska.