



Hosean International News and Update

Spring 2008 Newsletter
Vol. 3, number 2

www.Hosean.org

HIM ACTIVITIES 2008!

Thus far, 2008 has been even busier than previous years as news of better security conditions encouraged many to return or to come for the first time. Of course, ongoing ministries such as the schools and camp outreaches have continued despite everything with HIM's staff here in Haiti. The school campus has over 900 students attending for the 2007-2008 academic year. Over 110 teachers and staff are employed to keep the school running throughout the year.

New this school year, through generous donors we were able to establish a "book bank". Sadly, in the past, many families were not able to provide basic texts for their children attending school. (Neither schools nor do the gov't provide these) Understandably, the student's performance suffered. However, we dreamed of providing texts through a "lending library" of books each year. One supporting church has donated the start up costs for this program. Now, all students can receive their books and are supposed to keep them clean and then return them at year's end to the school to be recycled for the next student's use. For this service, they pay a small fee of \$3.50 per year and that helps us cover the ongoing/replacement costs of the program. Area parents are telling us that the program is a huge "relief" to them to help their students succeed! Praise the Lord with us for His provision!

MESSAGE FROM CALEB

I just can't believe it's already been 19 years since I've returned to Haiti. It's also been 15 years since College de la Grace has been in existence. Our graduates have turned out to be teachers, pastors, lawyers, medical doctors, nurses and lab technicians, parents, engineers, and agronomists that are making a difference all over Haiti.



Be praying with us for the future of these and the other students attending HIM's schools!

YOU ARE INVITED TO

CELEBRATE COLLEGE DE LA GRACE'S 15TH
ANNIVERSARY WITH US!

WHEN: MAY 19, 2008

WHERE: COLLEGE DE LA GRACE CAMPUS,
PIGNON, HAITI

RSVP BY APRIL 30TH: LUCIENSCD@AOL.COM
OR MAIL@HOSEAN.ORG

PLEASE CONTACT US FOR HELP IN PLANNING, AND
ASSISTANCE WITH TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS!

(continued)

Recently I received a letter from a 2003 graduate who just completed a degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Haiti. The day after his graduation, he wrote a letter to express his gratitude to all his teachers and to encourage them to continue to be involved in the lives of children. We do make a difference whether in great or small ways, lives are being touched! More than anytime in the history of our ministry we need your prayers and support!

We are continuing to have a major shortfall in our giving since 2007 and we will not be able to continue to make a difference without your support. We need \$12,000 every month for teacher's salaries, \$2900 for operating costs and \$3,900 for our feeding program, and \$2,100 for tuition for our university students on scholarship. This coming September we will have an additional \$1800 every month to provide medical insurance to our staff.

Please, please, pray with us!

Caleb

Report from Winter Outreaches...

Our first team of volunteers of the year was from Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of Moorhead, MN. They came in early January to finish the work on the new elementary school second story roof! Cheerfully working alongside our national builders, they got the roof completed! (see right) This allows the new classrooms to be put to use even while we wait for the Lord's provision for total finishing work.

Two members of St. Mark's Baptist Church of Little Rock, AR came to volunteer their plumbing expertise on the new Lucien home later in the month. Pastor Frankie Williams and Deacon John Parish graciously spent several days doing installations for us.

Mid-February saw two more teams visiting Pignon. One was the return of the Electrical Linesman work crew from assorted co-operatives in Minnesota. This fun-loving team spent the week checking connections and training the Pignon electrical co-operative staff (see photo)

Late in February the Lucien family made a quick trip to the states going to different coasts for different reasons. Debbie and the girls attended a mission's conference with long time supporting church, Grace Immanuel Bible Church in Jupiter, FL. Caleb flew to Los Angeles and spoke at the Anaheim Convention Center to his first audience of over 15,000! In 7 minutes he graciously shared all the miraculous events leading to the start of electrical power in our village. That national audience of electrical co-operatives responded with a standing ovation. Please be praying that more people can be touched by knowing the difference they can make in others' lives.



MN team shows the fruit of their labors, the new roof for classrooms! Jan. 2008



Electrical linesmen with some of their Haitian trainees!

Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church returns to Pignon!

The final group came from Washington D.C. under the leadership of Rev. Freddie Davis. It was a joy for Caleb to welcome Pastor Davis back to Pignon after 20 years and share what the Lord has done. Caleb and Pastor Davis became friends and ministry partners years ago while Caleb was an undergraduate at Washington Bible College. Pastor Davis and his church members painted Jerusalem Baptist Church's interior walls and built new bunk beds for the camp. Their work was greatly appreciated by all.





The first Habitat house walls going up (above) and house plans pictured below



March Madness (Haitian style)

Instead of play-off madness, Caleb spent the early weeks of March traveling between the capital of Port-au-Prince and our village as he struggled with the port/customs import situation. In December 2007, port staff had a strike about the same time a container of donated supplies/gifts was to depart Florida. This hold up as well as new regulations in customs caused over a 3 month delay. It took three weeks of solid work by Caleb for the container to be released by mid-March. Several outreaches were affected by all of this, but mainly the Micanopy Christian Fellowship group from Florida which came in March to install fencing at the school campus. (the supplies got stuck at the dock!) However, this 6 member team graciously "flex-ed" to work on other needed tasks. Besides doing repairs at the camp, they assisted another visiting team building homes with Habitat for Humanity. The first team for the new Habitat project traveled from Lafayette, IN. The local committee had decided they should build the first home for a local widow whose home was in horrible shape. The team was able to get all the walls up of this new home while here from March 10-17th. They plan to return every two months to continue progress on the overall project to complete 50 homes in 2008. Everyone in the community is excited to see this project come to fruition!

Easter presents!

Another outreach that was slowed was the distribution of holiday gifts. However, the kids in our community didn't seem to mind receiving them on Easter instead of Christmas! Easter weekend was when we were finally able to distribute the holiday gift boxes donated by Grace Immanuel Bible Church of Jupiter, FL and Meadow Spring Community Church of Shakopee, MN



All these boxes had been delayed as they were shipped on the same container we told about previously. Over 350 kids enjoyed the hot meal and gifts we distributed despite being given on a different holiday! The Lord's timing is perfect!



Teacher's Training

Four members of Summer Street Church of Nantucket, MA joined us at the end of March. Pastor Rich Leland taught a seminar on the teaching style of Jesus, "Teaching with Style" to over 100 area teachers at HIM's retreat center, "Camp de la Grace". Participants raved about the practicality of the content of the 3 day seminar. The visiting team from Summer Street enjoyed Caleb's method of distributing school supplies to the teachers. He started by giving away items to the professors with the most experience, the most students, etc. Finally he announced that he was giving away the last classroom supplies to the "ugliest" teacher. The desire for the teaching tools was so great that two teachers argued for several minutes as to who should qualify to win! Everyone laughed and enjoyed the time together. Please be praying for all these eager teachers!



Pastor Rich Leland teaching Jesus' teaching methods to area educators in Pignon, Haiti- March 2008

What all of us really want, to make a difference . . . by Debbie Lucien

I've had something rolling around in my mind now for a few days. It's become so persistent that I've felt I really need to share it. But let's back up for a minute. I'm privileged to have an insider's view on the inner workings of many charities and ministries working all over the world. By this I mean, I have heard and seen many of the struggles of leaders as they try to work to make a difference with usually very limited resources. At the same time, I hear about these huge (\$100 thousand +) grants that are awarded to varying agencies. While I'm glad for these expressions of giving, announcements of large gifts like this can be *intimidating and misleading for the average citizen* of the world. (i.e. What difference does my small donation make?)

A few years ago, I shared with a good friend that our personal support comes from three organized churches and a few individual donors. Can ten people and three churches make that much difference? It's kept this seminary trained worker and his family on the field for close to 20 years. She was shocked. Most people, without realizing it, make all kinds of assumptions about giving. While we are grateful for folks who can afford and do give big amounts (over \$100); the majority of programs and outreaches that we maintain are funded by regular people who give around \$30 - \$50 a month. **Hard to believe?** It's true.

The reason I feel it's important to share this is because I have recently run into people who have stopped being involved in charity work because they feel they are not making a difference. *Maybe they are not making the difference that they wish they could. Maybe they want more visible results.* But isn't it a step of faith? To trust God that He is going to use what little I can offer, to work His purposes? I think **giving by faith** is as much a part of the Christian life as any other. But I want you to know, **your gifts do make a difference!**



Aerial view of school campus, College de la Grace. All built by donors like you, through HIM!

(Continued)

While it may be hard to believe, a small donation or gift would do much to encourage workers that you know.

There are many organizations that employ full time donations managers and utilize advertising and marketing to let the needs be known very specifically. While I don't think that is necessarily wrong, I want people to know that there are also charities and ministries out there that work in the simple tradition of **letting God know** the needs. They trust the Lord to meet their needs in the tradition of faithful servants in the past.

I want to challenge every Christian I know, to ask God how HE would use them and their resources this year to further HIS purposes. Please let God use you. Have you really taken the time to listen to Him? Does he want you to give a gift to your local church? Is there a charity in your community that you know is doing a great work? Are there some international workers that come to mind? **Your gifts make a difference.** It is how He is providing for His purposes worldwide, using people like me and you.

Did you know?
Hosean International Ministries has a new address?

To write to our stateside office or make donations please write:

Hosean International Ministries
P.O. Box 17668
Little Rock, AR 72222

Easiest way to give: ONLINE!
Visit www.Hosean.org and give via paypal!

NEW HIM Board Members

The Lord has graciously provided two new board members for Hosean International Ministries. Following several trips and outreaches here in Haiti, Rev. Kirsten Frantsvog has agreed to serve in this capacity. While she is busy with her local church ministry and activities, Kirsten has long been interested in international missions and has led by serving in Haiti. She led the most recent (Jan. 2008) outreach from her home church, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of Moorhead, MN (Kirsten on right)-smile....



Lucien House Update....

So many friends have kindly given to the new Lucien house that we wanted to give you a quick update. As you can see the walls and second story roof are up! However, due to higher than anticipated inflation and construction supply costs, (prices have risen over 50% in the last 2 months alone), we are making slower progress at present. We contentedly wait on the Lord and His time frame, knowing that in His timing we'll be able to entertain all of our visitors in a new home. Thanks for praying!



Our second new board member is also from the far north, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran of Moorhead, MN. Gary Lundgren has agreed to assist on the HIM board as well. Gary has visited Pignon, Haiti several times in recent years. Through his contacts gained as a computer analyst he has obtained donations of valuable software and software for the ministry's school campus computer lab. We are so grateful for Gary's quiet and generous servant leadership. Please be praying that these new members along with the rest of our board finds clear direction as they lead the ministry in the midst of challenges.

One of our long time donors recently suggested to us that we encourage our supporters to consider donating their upcoming "economic stimulus" or tax refunds to the work. This seems kind of bold, but we would say that...your donations *do make the difference* as to whether we can maintain & expand outreaches, or have to cut back! Please do consider giving to the charity of your choice! www.hosean.org (give online!)

New Stateside Coordinator!

We are really excited to have found Anna Martin, our new stateside staff member. We asked her to introduce herself:

Hi! My name is Anna Martin. I was born and raised in Little Rock, Arkansas. I now live in North Little Rock with my wonderful husband Travis and our beautiful 2 year old daughter Emily. My original goal when going to college was to get a degree in Marketing/Management, but after some thought I opted for Early Childhood Education. After graduating from Arkansas Tech University with a B.A. in Education, I went on, not to a classroom, but to an accounting firm of all places! Now I see God's marvelous hand at work through all of it. Teaching has always been a passion of mine, but more so was being able to stay at home and raise my children! I am so thankful and so excited to be a part of this ministry that allows me to do that! After my recent trip to Haiti, I really fell in love with the people and was able to see first hand the many needs that exist there. It is easy to be overwhelmed when there is so much to be done. But ultimately anywhere you go, while the scenery changes one thing stays the same, what people truly need is Jesus in their hearts! I hope to be able to serve this ministry for many years to come and be a part of bringing the love of Jesus Christ to the people of Haiti.

Please praise the Lord with us for the provision of Anna at this time in the ministry. We're so grateful for her work! For any questions on the ministry, give her a call at: (501)-352-7700 or via e-mail at: anna@hosean.org

Child of Haiti

Child of Haiti, child of dust
Rocky paths and mountain shade,
Burros carrying your cooking sticks
And hunger stalking your nights

Child of Haiti, child of dust,
Sticky pineapple smiles and tears of pain
Wasted hours without school
Or jobs or pay

Child of Haiti, child of dust,
Clogged market streets
And burdens carried for miles
...and centuries.

Child of God, child of dust
Simple faith in better days
And heaven's platters
Full of food.

Child of God, child of dust,
Invisible in your misery
.....and your beauty

Child of Haiti, child of God,
Teach me how to hold you hand,
"fanmi mwen"
Teach me how to be your brother.

By C. Peterson, written following a trip to Pignon,
Haiti in January, 2008

Our top 3 praises:

1. Praise God for our new board members!
2. Praise God for our new stateside coordinator!
3. Praise God for His provision for the first three months of the year.

Top 3 Prayer Requests:

1. We are really having a shortfall financially. We really need your prayers for some financial miracles.
2. Our ministry vehicle, a used Ford Expedition, is going downhill. We are praying for a new vehicle.
3. Pray for our 15th anniversary celebration that it is a time glorifying the Lord!

Thanks for your interest, prayers and support!
Blessings to you,
Caleb



Two of Pignon's children.....