

Sharing the Gospel with the people of Haiti through evangelism, education and medical care in partnership with the Mission Communautaire de l'Eglise Chrétienne des Citiés. (MICECC)

A Publication of Haiti Outreach Ministries



A SCHOOL YEAR LIKE NONE OTHER:

Reflections from Haiti

Completing the 23-24 academic was a particularly remarkable achievement for HOM/MICECC, given the insecurity and violence in Port-au-Prince. Jacqueline Dorleans, Superintendent of Schools, and Jimmy Honore, Assistant Director of the Baryé Fé secondary school, share this joint reflection on the schools' challenges and successes.

This school year was the most difficult we have ever known at our four Christian schools. We are more grateful than ever to God who has miraculously kept open the doors of our schools while 900 others in the capital were forced to remain closed due to unparalleled insecurity.

Seeing news about Haiti, you may be asking yourself the following questions: *How did the schools manage to stay open? What were the biggest challenges faced? What were the biggest successes that were achieved?* Let us share with you about our experiences.

From the start of this school year, every morning during devotion we were committed to motivating and encouraging the students for at least 15 minutes. During this time, we talked especially about their responsibility as students, while considering the destabilizing situation in the country, and we emphasized the following messages: "We live in an unstable country. Today is the only day we must count on. Every second counts. You must study and do your homework every day."

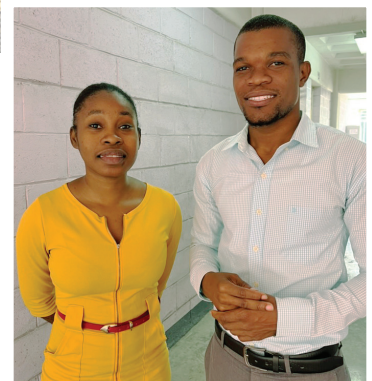
During periods of turbulence, all the staff members united themselves around this philosophy: "Whatever the number of students who show up, we work." Some days, we had less than 10% of students show up; regardless, every teacher gave 100% of themselves to those who were present. We often combined classes



Headed to class after morning devotion.

on these days to reinforce to the students that their attendance was not in vain.

Normally, school would start at 6:20 AM. Taking into account the insecurity in the area, we adjusted the start time to 6:30 AM. Then again, after the massive turbulence which took place in March, we pushed it back again to 6:45 AM.



Baryé Fé staff members Marceline Laurius and Jimmy Honoré.

Aside from fear of banditry and looting, one of the biggest challenges we faced was the absence of some teachers, especially those who do not live in the area, due to the inability to cross high-risk areas. Another challenge was the difficulty for parents to meet academic and economic demands and the need for us to explain to parents that they must continue to help their children to continue working to give good results. Many parents left that responsibility solely to the schools.

We are proud to say that we experienced many successes, despite everything. The main success was keeping our doors open even in turbulent times. We also achieved more than 75% academic success for each marking period. We were able to

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A LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CAROLINE CHAMBRE HAMMOCK

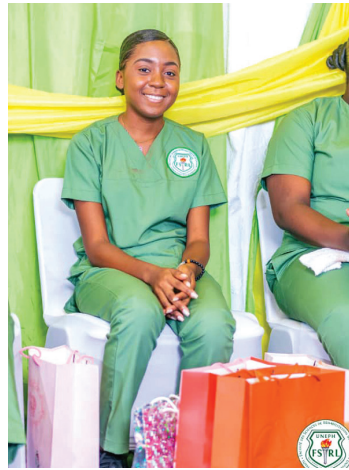
As you've read in this newsletter's cover story, Jacky and her team at the HOM-sponsored schools achieved the remarkable feat of keeping the school doors open over the past 10 months, despite numerous obstacles. Their determination was a witness to Jacky's belief that "the hope of Haiti is education, education, education."

At HOM's 35th anniversary celebration in May, we had the opportunity to hear from Jameson Charles, born and raised in Cité Soleil and who tragically lost his mom at the age of 7. A graduate of the Cité Soleil primary school, Jameson shared this reflection: *"The school believed in the potential of every child and was dedicated to helping us succeed. The teachers went above and beyond, not just providing an academic foundation, but also teaching us about good character, values, and having a sense of purpose. The school is truly a lifeline for children and families."*

Jameson now attends the University of

North Carolina at Chapel Hill, majoring in French and minoring in Religious Studies. Jameson shared, *"The Cité Soleil teachers and staff gave me the tools, the knowledge, and the confidence to pursue my dreams and to make a difference in the world one day."*

Jameson's success is not an isolated example. As you may recall, two years ago in this newsletter, we featured the inspiring story of Achelène Albert, a student at the Baryé Fé secondary school, who was struck by a muscle disease causing progressive paralysis. With both the emotional and financial support of her school family, Achelène endured a difficult treatment regime,



Achelène at credentialing ceremony.

fighting to recover and return to class. Ultimately she was able to walk again, successfully completing 13th grade and passing the required national exams to graduate.

Last month, Achelène finished two years of study in a prestigious physiotherapy program, receiving her credentials to move into the final year of the program. The smile on her face says it all! Achelène's desire to become a physiotherapist was born out of her own personal experience and wanting to give back to help others.

There are many more Jamesons and Achelènes out there. While our school staff takes a well-deserved break this summer, thanks be to God for all they do to nurture Haiti's young people – and for all you do in supporting our schools.

THOUGHTS FROM HOM BOARD CHAIR CAROL VASSEY



There are times when I feel led to reflect upon where I've been and what is happening around me. Sometimes I even take the time to evaluate where my heart (or head) seems to be leading me.

This is one of those times – in my 5th year of 'new adventures' following 44 years of working in the legal profession, I feel so very blessed and fortunate. That feeling is tempered with intense concern for all the troubles that abound in our world. Being able to see the balance of joys and heartbreaks can be a challenge. Often it's a temptation to overlook God's great gifts and be overwhelmed by the evil. Or, to be tempted to just be a 'Pollyanna,' and chose to see only the good. I confess that is my tendency.

My heart was full of joy as we celebrated Haiti Outreach Ministries 35th Anniversary. It was wonderful to see so many of our supporters engage with us! At the celebration I felt surrounded by fellow sojourners with faith in Haiti! As I traveled cross-country, east to west and south to north this winter and spring, I always take one very important item with me – Haiti. Haiti is always in my heart, on my mind and in my prayers. While my heart is heavy that I haven't yet been able to travel to Haiti during my retirement, I have continued to try to make small contributions to the country about which I care so very much. Sponsoring an HOM student is very important. Encouraging others to pray for peace, as we want peace for Haiti very soon (as well as for other troubled countries.) Sharing with my church and friends the Good News of the incredible work that continues to happen in the schools, churches and clinics which HOM and MICECC support. There is more than enough sad news coming out of Haiti – isn't it refreshing to be able to point to the remarkable stories of our students and church members?! Over 900 schools closed this school year in Port-au-Prince; yet our schools remained open! Those students continued to be fed. The clinic treated patients and clean water has been made available in our campus communities.

Haiti has many problems; however, it also has many citizens who shine in their commitment to the Lord and one another. God doesn't abandon us in troubled times – God uses dark times to allow our lights of hope to show the way. In my prayers I ask the Lord to strengthen us all as we walk the road, longing for God's Justice and Mercy. Especially I ask for protection for our Haiti brothers and sisters. Humbly I ask that each of us take Haiti with us wherever we go, praying daily that our supplications be woven into God's plan for a brighter tomorrow. Lapè (PEACE) is a gift from God.



Daphnée with Leon, Troy, and Emile (above) and in her MICECC office (right).



MICECC SPOTLIGHT: Q & A WITH DAPHNEE ADRIEN

Tell us about your job and what you do. What is a typical day like for you at work?

I work in the Administration, as an Office Manager and Assistant Accountant. I also assist the MICECC Executive Director. My tasks may differ from day to day, depending on the type of activities we have planned for that day. In general, I am in charge of managing the office's overall services. I develop meeting agendas and ensure that the MICECC entities follow all administrative management procedures, among other things. As an Accountant Assistant, my responsibilities include preparing and recording financial transactions, managing petty cash, classifying and organizing supporting documents, and performing other accountant-related tasks such as preparing bank reconciliations.

What do you like best about your job?

I mostly like what MICECC does, which is helping those in need and spreading the message of God. Through my work, I feel that I contribute to this cause. Additionally, I like the work environment, the team spirit, the love, the trust, and the respect that we show to each other.

Tell us about your background and your family.

After college, I worked as a teacher while simultaneously studying accounting at a well-known institution (UNIKA), Université Ciskei Amérique. After five years, I earned a degree in accounting with a specialty in financial

analysis. I was born into a Christian family that valued education. We are members of one of the MICECC churches. I have 3 brothers and 3 sisters, and we all share the same values.

Is there anything else that you would like to share or would like HOM supporters to know?

I can't finish without thanking Pastor Léon Dorléans, Mrs. Jacqueline Dorléans, Mr. Troy Sanon, Mr. Lenes Pierre, and Pastor Profaite Médéus for believing in me and assisting me in growing and acquiring much more maturity and understanding in leadership and personal development. Thank you to all the HOM partners that support this cause. Many vulnerable children have received a quality education because of your assistance; after their academic studies, they are able to attend a university and pursue a career. People who do not have financial resources have received free medical care and medicines. The community has access to clean water, and other individuals have received new or repaired houses so they have a safe place to live. In the churches, MICECC has restored souls for Christ, they have repaired broken hearts, and provided meals to children, church members, and the community with your help. A simple thank you is not enough, so I leave you with these verses: *"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."* (Colossians 3:23-4:6)

ON THE ROAD: A MESSAGE FROM LEON



Leon loves to visit with groups big and small.

During this prolonged time when HOM friends cannot come to Haiti, I am spending more time in the United States visiting with mission partners, and today I'm asking for your help. I would like all friends of the ministry and church members as well as pastors to talk to their friends about what HOM is doing in Haiti and the great progress that's being made. I am willing and desiring to visit as many churches as possible here in the US.

The ministry is growing and requires more finances to keep it going. In spite of what's going on in Haiti, we're expecting growth and harvest time. This is not the time to give up in Haiti... God is at work in that island...we need to remain faithful to what He has called us to do together for Him in that part of His world.

I would love to see each ministry partner introduce me to at least two other churches by the end of this year. I - as well as Caroline and other HOM leaders - would be more than happy to visit new churches that are interested in joining our team.

Please pray about that and see how the Lord is leading you to promote HOM for His honor and glory. My prayers and those of the HOM/MICECC team are with you all.

Together we can do more for Our Lord.

Leon



Scenes from the 35th Anniversary Event



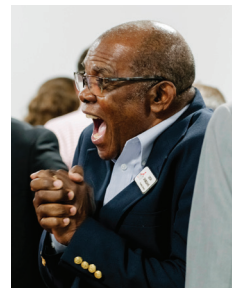
Former student Peterson Jean shares remarks via video.



Full house at White Memorial Presbyterian Church.



Nadege Gay Haney reflects.



Leon sees an old friend.



Former students Woodley Jean and Jameson Charles.



Former Board members Janet Horton, Rick Wesley, Wick Smith.



Jewel Williams greets a friend.



Walker Gaulding reminisces about meeting Leon.



Greeting friends from Haiti on Zoom.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES LEARN AND LOVE THROUGH ART PROJECT

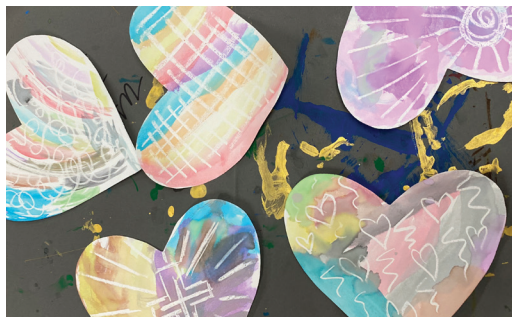
by Suzy Edwards



Leon & Suzy at the "hearts wall" in May



Hard at work at Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church



Kids' hearts for Haiti.



Bowen shares her heart for Haiti.

Months before HOM's 35th Anniversary event, I started thinking how special it would be to involve children in a project as a part of the celebration. The idea that kept coming back to me was to have the children create a piece of art as they learned about what a day was like for the children in Haiti. I felt it important for the children to pray as they worked and as a group for the children in Haiti. The name of the project became **A heART for Haiti!**

Children and families from churches that support HOM were invited to structure a time and way for the children in their church to learn about and support Haitian children and their communities. There was a lot of flexibility in how each church could go about hosting an event. I decided to take some of the pictures I had from previous trips to Haiti and create a book for children. Many used it as a guide to teach and help the children learn about a day in the life

of a HOM child. Through the book, *A heART for Haiti*, the children could see a glimpse into some of the similarities and differences between themselves and the children in Haiti. The result was an opportunity to educate our children and families about the many ways we can love and support our Haitian brothers and sisters in Christ. By raising awareness and praying and supporting the children in Haiti and HOM, our children were able to see how their support could help Haitians thrive and flourish in life despite the hardships they face daily.

At least 6 churches were involved in the project! The best part was displaying the beautiful hearts from the churches that participated in the walls at White Memorial Presbyterian Church the night of the anniversary event.

Thank you to those that participated and those that inquired. Several churches could not host an event beforehand but were interested in using the book at a later date to educate and involve the children of their churches in being a part of HOM's mission. **Our prayers and love surrounding Haiti are not finished; it is a continual process, much like the art of a child.**

Thank you to all for sharing this with your children and families! To God be the glory.

If anyone would like a copy of the book emailed to you, please let me know. I will gladly share. You can email me at sedwards@mppc.net.

Suzy Edwards is the Director of Children's Ministry at Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church in Mount Pleasant, SC.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

by Bob O'Brien

OVERVIEW

There have been no major construction projects underway on the five campuses. However, the construction team has been busy with two very important projects as we note below.

BARYÉ FÉ CAMPUS

Cafeteria/Chapel/Kitchen



Architect's drawing of proposed Baryé Fé cafeteria/chapel.

- The construction team has completed the conceptual phase of the project and is now concentrating on the details of the design and soon will be constructing a budget for the project that will be used in fund raising.
- The dining hall is designed to seat 352 students for either 2 or 3 lunch periods. A stage will be provided at the far end of the dining hall for various programs.
- The kitchen expansion will allow an enclosed dish washing room and storage for container shipments of food stuff and other food supplies purchased locally. It is envisioned the kitchen expansion will serve as the main depot for all the schools to use.

REPATRIOTE CAMPUS

As highlighted in the last newsletter, HOM/MICECC has reached an agreement with a local Haitian-owned solar company to provide solar power for the campus. MICECC representatives have visited four sites the provider has completed and were very impressed with their work. Currently, MICECC and the provider are working on contractual and logistical details. We hope that once the security situation improves that work can begin.



Rendering of proposed new solar system at Repatriote.

CLEAN WATER REPORT

All four campuses report a total of 300,385 gallons of clean water distributed to the schools and communities we serve from January to May of this year. It was good news that the recent shipment of water repair parts, filters and replacement ozone bulbs were received in Haiti even with the violence, picked up at the shipper's terminal and are safely in the MICECC storage area.

MAINTENANCE

Maintenance work is being coordinated by Tad Prewitt in the US and Poudy Wisly in Haiti. With the summer recess in the schools, there will be a number of projects that will have to be completed before classes resume. Such projects as exterior painting, desk and chair repair, and classroom painting will have to be accomplished in a short timeframe. Many items of deferred maintenance will need to be addressed. This work will be a challenge for the maintenance crews this summer. Maintenance funding from all would be a blessing and is sorely needed.

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A SCHOOL YEAR LIKE NONE OTHER

register 100 9th grade students for the official Ministry of Education exams taking place in July. Lastly, the First-Place winner of the 2024 Haiti Science Olympiad competition was a student from our Baryé Fé school.

During the entire school year, we ultimately had only one choice: that of having the courage every morning to get up very early, despite the bad news circulating in the area, despite the shooting in the surrounding areas. We also had to deal with the worry of our loved ones who sometimes wanted to prevent us from leaving the house because of shootings.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the sponsors, and all the friends of the HOM and MICECC who throughout the year have supported us with their prayers and with their unfailing financial contributions to maintain this quality Christian education in the commune of Cité Soleil.

Despite everything, we achieved the impossible for this school year. Glory to God for his love, kindness and faithfulness!

We have just had a new transitional government put into place. Let us



Morning assembly at Terre Noire primary school.

continue to pray together for a possible normalization of a safe life in Haiti. Again, we thank you for your unwavering attachment to the work of the Lord Jesus in Haiti. We love you very much.

The past six months have been challenging for the clinic, but we have a great staff and together we have continued to provide the population with medical and dental care. Here are some of the successes and challenges we have experienced so far in 2024:

HIGHLIGHTS:

- The relationship between clinic staff and patients has been very good despite the social situation/unrest.
- The support that we receive from HOM/MICECC for the clinic really encourages the staff.
- The staff have stayed very committed to helping patients and saving lives despite the challenges.

CHALLENGES:

- It has been difficult for the staff to get to the clinic due to the insecurity. Sometimes they have had to be really creative, relying on taking motorbikes to get to the clinic and disguising themselves, due to the exchange of fire either between armed gangs or between police and gangs.
- Difficulty recruiting a gynecologist due to the location of the clinic.

Overall, we can say that the clinic remained open thanks to the unconditional will of the staff who braved danger by risking their lives despite everything.

The number of patients is increasing every day, although from January to March patients could not attend the clinic in very large numbers because of gang shootings everywhere.

We have implemented a new patient recordkeeping system, and it is working very well so far. We keep the patient's medical file at the clinic and give him or her a card containing a code that is used to pull his/her record at their next visit. Previously, the patient would take their medical records home with them, and this caused problems as the records often were lost or destroyed in bad weather like heavy rain.

We are sad to say goodbye to Mrs. Gethro R. Ismé, who has worked as our Registrar faithfully for the past 10 years. She is leaving Haiti, and we wish her well and God's blessings. She will be replaced by Ms. Slande Thelusma.

There have been delays in operating the new on-site lab because of the situation in the country; some of the equipment has not been able to be purchased or installed. We are hoping this will change once things settle down and shipments to Haiti resume.

We thank all our friends in the US for continuing to support the clinic with your prayers and financial gifts. The patients are truly grateful for the care that they receive at the HOM/MICECC clinic, especially now during difficult times. We could not provide these services without your help which keeps our doors open to those in need. May God bless you!



Thank you and Godspeed to Gethro Ismé after 10 years of service to the clinic!

CLINIC STATS JAN - MAY:



78

of days open



1,581

Total # of vaccinations
(OB & peds)



2,000

New medical patients



5,521

Total # of medical
patients seen



512

New dental patients



1,128

Total # of dental
patients seen

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CLINIC?

Contact Janet Horton, FNP at medtrips@haitiom.org. Clinic donations are always appreciated at haitiom.org/donate.

DONATIONS

Contributions may be made securely at haitiom.org or by mailing a check to:

Dawn Walker, HOM Financial Secretary
PO Box 942
Matthews, NC 28106

Designate your funds on the check memo line.
Undesignated funds will be added to our general fund.



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VBS TO SERVE 700 CHILDREN



Happy VBS-ers during the 2023 session.

“LET’S TRY JESUS - WE WON’T REGRET IT!”

is theme for this summer’s Vacation Bible School. 700 children between the ages of 5 and 12 will participate in Bible lessons, as well as sports, recreation, and fellowship time. Each child will be fed spiritually and physically, with a nutritious lunch being served each day.

VBS Coordinator Cenot Fritznel states, “Because we are facing a lot of security issues and the kids are experiencing violence in their community, we believe that the only way we can have a real peace is to try Jesus – hence our theme for the year’s VBS.”

Over 150 teachers and staff will be involved in providing this enriching summer experience for the young people. Please pray for these leaders and for a safe & enriching VBS for all.

Donations are still needed to cover VBS costs. **Donate at www.haitiom.org and note “VBS 2024” in the notes section.** Mesi!