



HOPE Advisory Board

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HOPE is a federally recognized
 501(3)c registered in the
 State of Connecticut

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” 1 Peter 1:3

April 2017

Hurricane Matthew hit the western part of Haiti as a Category 5 hurricane on October 3, 2016. Despite the preparations many in the USA were able to make, most people in rural Haiti did not have an accurate understanding of the devastation that was to come. The hurricane caused tremendous destruction to homes, schools, churches, hospitals/clinics, roads and gardens. Washing out major bridges caused the western part of the country to be cut off from aid for a time. Logistics, poor infrastructure and poor telecommunications made it very difficult to establish contact and determine needs. Thankfully, in the Duchity community, only four people lost their lives. Nearly every home was damaged or destroyed. Gardens and livestock- gone.

We are grateful for so many ministries on the ground that provided updates via social media, so that we could get an overall picture of what was happening. Organizations like HaitiOne, Mission of Hope and HaitiAlive were extremely helpful to us personally as they provided needed food and relief. It's amazing how small the world becomes through the internet and how quickly people are able to band together and help!

Without communication with our contacts in Duchity, we were thankful when friends said they would travel to the village 4 days after the hurricane to check on the community. We were able to wire them money for travel and to provide immediate relief to those staying on our property. In the aftermath of the hurricane, 45 families (close to 200 people) took refuge in the HOPE Library. It is amazing to think that the investment of so many of you over the years was able to meet an immediate need at a time of crisis. Thank you!

Over the following two weeks, we worked with larger organizations and NGO's to coordinate relief for our community. We were able to provide food (rice, oil and beans) on a number of occasions. Through a large NGO, we received tarps, blankets and hygiene kits and were were able to give a set to 90 families. Local nurses also held a Mobile Medical Clinic at the Library. Many were able to have their physical needs met.

We are thankful that NONE of our staff, contacts or sponsorship children/families were killed in the hurricane!



Receiving a tarp to cover the roof of her damaged home



Community members lined up to receive relief



Mobile Medical Clinic held at the HOPE Library



Relief Supplies provided by US Aid- tarps, blankets and hygiene kits

After the Hurricane

In addition to providing immediate relief, our Board quickly met to discuss other immediate needs and ways we could assist the community. We agreed to begin assisting our staff (7 individuals) with either repairing or rebuilding their homes. These are the men and women who make HOPE happen! Pastor Zacharie is the glue that holds our work together, overseeing all ministries and serving as the spiritual overseer. Sergio teaches our weekly Computer Skills Training Course. Soso oversees our Child Sponsorship Program and coordinates with local schools for payments and acquiring materials. Mertha runs the library and provides oversight for materials and the children who come to study. Roodly helps set up our weekly movie nights. Three others help with security and grounds. \$6500 was provided to these 7 staff members to repair or rebuild their homes.

As far as the HOPE Library, we experienced little damage in comparison to the surrounding community. We have been able to make repairs to our roof where there were leaks. Some doors were water damaged and the roof on our outdoor cistern was destroyed. Our solar system was destroyed during the hurricane and will need to be completely replaced. We also need to replace the water tanks that sit on the roof of the building. We are very thankful that it was not worse! And that God allowed this building to be used as a relief center for the community in the weeks following the storm. Repairs have started and will cost approximately \$10,000.

We have also evaluated the needs among the families of our Sponsored Children. Currently, we have undertaken \$7500 in repairs to help 8 families and 1 school. We look forward to sharing updates on progress!



Rebuilding one staff member's home



Lots of progress for this family



Rebuilt and stronger to face the next storm



Pastor Zacharie (yellow) who serves so faithfully



HOPE is Grateful

We want to say thank you to all who gave donations towards Hurricane Disaster Relief. Your generosity impacted **HUNDREDS of LIVES!** We appreciate your trust and providing us with the resources to help.

Special **THANK YOU** to the following churches for your sacrificial giving:

Calvary Chapel, Canterbury CT

Stamford Baptist, Stamford CT

Community Baptist, Pascoag RI

Eastford Baptist, Eastford CT

Centerville C.E. Church, Beverly MA

Bible Christian Church of Ellicott CO (Gift towards replacing laptops)

December 2016 Ministry Trip ~ Wilfrid Decossard



Donations delivered to the Duchity Community

A small team traveled to Duchity in December and held 3 nights of spiritual revival meetings aiming at encouraging the believers in their faith in Christ. On the 2nd night, 14 people came forward. Three of them asked for healing prayers (all 3 have some issues with blood flow). The other 11 understood that if they were to die at the time of the hurricane, they would not be in heaven. Therefore, they came and received Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. We also invited all leaders (Pastors, Lay Leaders, Deacons, and the worship team) to come forward for a prayer of God's protection upon them and unity among themselves



Micheline and her baby

On the third night two people testified God's grace and power during the hurricane. Alande Souffrant recounted how God led her along with her parents and siblings to the HOPE Library. While her mother was leading the family into prayer, the roof of their home was taken up and they decided to head down to the library. On their way, they encountered all kinds of resistance – trees and sheet metals flying, but God brought them safe and nothing hit them. Alande understands God's grace and was thankful for the library.

Micheline Dorvil shared that the roof of her home along with a big tree collapsed, she hid herself and her baby girl (6 months old) under her bed for awhile. As the winds and the rains threatened to kill them, she asked God for guidance and left hoping she would make it to the Library. Like an angel, the winds carried (in the air about ½ mile) Micheline and her daughter to the library unharmed. She praised Jesus for this miracle and HOPE for blessing the community with this building.

HOPE Benefit Concert in Rhode Island

Prior to Hurricane Matthew, we had scheduled a Benefit Concert in Rhode Island. What a blessing it was to be able to connect with many new friends and share about the urgent needs in Duchity. Thank you for Jonas Woods, who donated his musical gifts and shared so poignantly about our need to reach the world for Jesus. Many thanks to Philanthropy and The Purple Cat Winery of Chepachet RI for providing the hall. Crystal Giaquinta was the coordinator for the event and we are most grateful for her continued service on behalf of the people of Haiti.



Jonas Woods provided a wonderful concert!



HOPE Display



Photographs of Hurricane Matthew damage and relief efforts



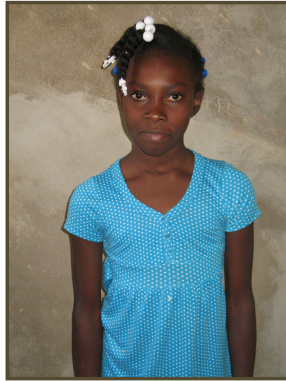
A great evening of connecting, fellowship and worship

URGENT Need for Child Sponsors

We currently have 70 children enrolled in our Child Sponsorship Program. This program provides a year of schooling, uniforms, shoes, textbooks and supplies for \$20/month. We have many additional children waiting to be sponsored. From time to time, sponsors have to end their sponsorship due to financial constraints. So far, we have been able to maintain the program. However, it is becoming more difficult. *The last thing we want to do is drop children from the program or increase sponsorship commitments.* Please consider sponsoring one or more of our children. Visit our website to see the most needy children and select one for sponsorship.



Billjohn Decossard



Albertine Polyte



Dixon Guerrier



Fedia Pierre

Ways to Get Involved

Join us in Duchity!

Consider joining us Summer 2017! We have teams headed to Haiti in July- and there is room for you! It's going to be exciting and you won't want to miss it! Cost is approximately \$1100 plus airfare. Let us know if you are interested!

Consider helping in the following ways:

- Donating towards ongoing Disaster Relief
- Donating towards HOPE Building Repairs
- Donating monthly to support to the General Fund
- Sponsoring a Child- \$20 a month provides EDUCATION

AMAZON SMILE

Do you like to shop online at Amazon? Sign up for Amazon Smile and make HOPE Mission, Inc (CT) your selected non-profit. A portion of qualifying purchases will be donated to HOPE.

It's a great and easy way to contribute to our work!

We also have a **WISH LIST** on Amazon of books and movies that would be a great addition to the HOPE Library and our Film Ministry. Search HOPE Mission International to donate an item
Facebook and Instagram

LIKE us on Facebook and **FOLLOW** us on Instagram for regular updates, prayer requests and pictures.

It's the **BEST** way to stay **CONNECTED!**

Search HOPE Mission International to find us.

HOPE Mission International

P.O. Box 265

Canterbury, CT 06331

I commit to pray for HOPE: _____ Daily _____ Weekly _____ As the Lord brings to mind

I would like to give the following one-time gift: _____ Disaster Relief _____ HOPE Repairs _____ General Fund

I commit to support HOPE with the following monthly gift towards the General Fund:

\$25 \$35 \$ 50 \$75 \$100 \$150 \$ _____

I would like to sponsor a child in Duchity Haiti @ \$20/month _____ boy _____ girl _____ most need

I would be interested in more information regarding joining a Summer 2017 Ministry Team to Haiti

My email address is: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please make checks payable to HOPE Mission International
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