

HOPE
Mission International
Helping Other People for Eternity

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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

July 26, 2013

When Wilfrid told me that we would be hosting a graduation ceremony for the HOPE Computer Skills program, I pictured a brief informal ceremony with certificates. Little did I know that our community planned an event full of pomp and circumstance! Days before the event, the graduates met each evening to rehearse. They practiced marching in and out- I should say this was a choreographed, stylistic march. They practiced special musical and dance presentations. This made me very curious- how big was this event going to be? Two days before, we were asked to arrange for graduation robes from Les Cayes for all 60 graduates. By the morning of the graduation, beautiful garlands and tissue flowers decorated the library. Truly, this was an event of a much larger scale than I had imagined! Right on time, hundreds of people began to arrive. We’ve had large crowds in the building before but never this many. It was standing room only! The graduates walked from down the road to the library escorted by the triumphant fanfare of the local brass band. Once they arrived at the library, the graduates began their choreographed entrance. As the program began, Wilfrid announced that the HOPE Library would be opening the following week!. He introduced and took time to thank all of the key community members that have made the HOPE project successful. Prayers of thanksgiving were given by a local pastor, speeches were shared by the honorary God-parents of the event (a Haitian tradition- Mr. Jean Claude, the public school administrator and myself had the honor). Entertainment was enjoyed by all. Finally, the graduates were each recognized and received their certificate. Afterwards, sandwiches and drinks were served and there was much celebrating!



Brass Band leading the graduation processional



Proud Graduates!
Micheline and Amanda

It was a long ceremony and being a non-French speaker, I was able to focus on the expressions and reactions of all the participants. I saw pride on each of the graduates faces. They had attended weekly classes for a total of 50 hours. This required dedication and commitment on their part. The classes covered the basic skills involved with Word, Excel and Power point. Albeit an introduction, they had achieved skills that will aid them in the future. There is now a foundation present that they can build upon for future training, educational opportunities and employment. I also noticed the great pride on the faces of their family members and friends. They too recognized the hard work and commitment of their loved one. I also saw HOPE on their faces. They know that now their loved one has a little more skill to make them a viable, employable individual. Above all this, each week during the class, time was set aside for evangelism and Bible study. This has always been our goal- to provide the HOPE of Christ to this community and demonstrate that there is HOPE in this world. Thank you for contributing to help us provide this training program in Duchity. Two more classes will begin this fall!



Sandwiches made by ladies to feed ceremony guests



60 Graduated from the Computer Skills Training Course



Wilfrid and Elisabeth with Pastor Zacharie and Mr. Josephat- key community leaders



Graduates receiving their certificates



Child Sponsorship Program

We were able to spend some quality time with more than 40 of the students in our sponsorship program. While we met with each one to write a letter to their sponsor and take an updated picture, older sponsored students led them in coloring pictures and making bracelets. We also treated them to PIZZA! (A special gift enabled us to purchase the pizza ingredients and huge thanks to Wilfrid for cooking it.) They all enjoyed it and there were no leftovers! We look forward to sending the letters and pictures to sponsors in August.

We have a number of students who have an immediate need for sponsorship.

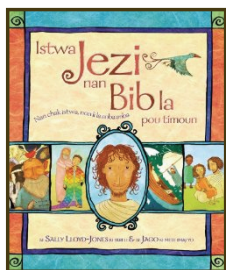
\$20/month will help cover their school fees and provide textbooks, a backpack, uniforms and shoes. Please visit our website to view their pictures and choose a student to help today.



Community Library Update

Our goal since the inception of HOPE was to open a community library that both children and adults could access. With the building complete, bookshelves ready and books filling the shelves, we are pleased to announce that the library is now OPEN! We have been blessed with a woman from the community who will oversee the library. Students will be able to use the resources in the morning and afternoon. There will be a quiet place to study as well as access to textbooks and reference materials. We will be offering reading circles for mothers with young children as a means to introduce literacy at an early age. We also hope to start adult literacy courses this year. We will continue the two weekly Bible Studies, two weekly computer training courses and the weekly Film Outreach. It is exciting to see how God is allowing the HOPE Community Center to be used daily to encourage the community as well as as a tool to share the Love of Jesus and the HOPE of the gospel!

Ways to Get Involved



We recently learned of some exciting opportunities to bless our community. Through the generosity of a number of supporters, we were able to purchase 16 Jesus Storybooks for Children in Creole. This exceptional children's book will be available for them to read at the library and is in the heart language of our children!



We also received 15 FREE Wheelchairs from Operation Blessing for our community. These will certainly enable those with limited mobility to have greater ease. Thank you to the children who attended Vacation Bible School at Calvary Chapel in Canterbury for helping us cover the transportation costs to bring these to Duchity.

Join us in Duchity! A team is forming to travel to Haiti December 26th-January 1st. The team will be involved in children and adult outreach as well as work projects. Contact us for more information.

OR- consider joining us next summer! We hope to bring a number of teams to Haiti to complete outreach, English day camp for teens and pilot a youth vocational program. It's going to be exciting and you won't want to miss it! Consider organizing a team from your church or community group!

Consider helping in the following ways:

- Donating towards our Solar Energy Project- \$6,000
- Donating towards Internet Access- \$5,000
- Donating monthly to support to the General Fund
- Sponsoring a Child- \$20 a month provides EDUCATION
- LIKE us on Facebook 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: _____ Apply to: Energy____ Internet____ 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 Pestel, Haiti @ \$20/month _____ boy _____ girl _____ most need

I would be interested in more information regarding joining the December Ministry Team to Haiti

I would be interested in more information regarding joining a Summer 2014 Ministry Team to Haiti

My email address is: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____