

Dreams for Haiti / ACH

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Merry Christmas! We would like to wish you a Merry Christmas this year. Unfortunately we were not able to send small McDonald type toys or stuffed animals or candy for the children this year due to shipping problems. Also due to the gangs in Haiti Jackie was not able to travel. So the sponsored children will not have their usual gifts. We do have some rice that may make it there in time for their small party. There will be singing and praying and a program and a lot of excitement on Christmas just the same. Time off from school, extra food and a party!

School started on time this year even though most of the country was not able to start school for months due to gang violence. Our children did make it and are doing well. Pastor Charles reported last spring that we were going to lose some of our kids because the school only went up to 9th grade. We made the hard decision to add grade 10 on to the school because without the sponsorship these children were going to drop out. We had to juggle some class rooms around to make it work but we are so happy to see these kids continue their education. The added expense of adding another teacher was difficult but worth it. Last summer they took their big national test and almost everyone of them passed! That is not easy to do when they missed so many days due to gang activity, kidnappings, rapes, and killings. Brave teachers, parents and children.

Animal project is doing wonders to help the people. They are able to raise chickens and ducks or have eggs to feed the family. Those with goats are able to eat the goats or sell at market. They are all excited to be a part

of this program and even would like t-shirts with our animal logo and name on them.

Church in Gonaives is going well with a few adjustments to the schedule. Things might start earlier or at a different time so the people don't have to be on the streets walking home after dark. Since none of the families besides Pastor Charles has a car and many have a very long walk to get home we are trying to keep everyone safe.

Pastor Gilbert started a new church close to St. Marc. It is going very well but he is needing folding or stacking chairs for this new church. If you have a source or want to contribute to this please let us know.

Sponsored kids are looking well. We have lost a few due to families moving as they look for work or were scared and wanted to go farther out in the country to get away from gangs. I will be sending out new pictures of "your" kid(s) with this newsletter if you sponsor. Also with our economy and inflation we have lost a few sponsors. If anyone is interested in helping a child go to school and have a meal every day please let us know. \$25 a month or \$300 for the year. Makes a great Christmas gift for those hard to buy for people on your list. We appreciate our sponsors so much. You are going to be very surprised to see how much the kids have grown!

Cholera has now struck Haiti again. Most people get their water from streams or wells. Because of the fuel not being available people cannot run the generators to work the pumps on the wells. If they could afford it they could buy Culligan water but now the Culligan plant has shut down because they don't have fuel to run

their plant. So many people are getting sick and dying. Haiti needs our prayers.

Containers are almost impossible to get into Haiti right now. We sent 2 in January that arrived but the gangs came to the port and dumped all our boxes and things out and took what they wanted and left us with a big mess. After getting that straightened out we shipped a third container that only contained a condensed dried soup mix. Praising God that the gangs did not touch that one and all the food got to the people. The first of August Jackie was asked to ship a container for another group. It was all big stuff so they offered very generously to allow us to place some of our boxes on to help fill up the holes. The container arrived BUT it is still sitting in port. With the gangs running the streets the customs office rarely opens. The place where we were going to unload was taken over by gangs and we cannot haul a container up that highway. As much as 90 percent of the people in the area have left and there were many killed, raped or held for ransom. Even if our paperwork was able to be finished we still have the problem of where and how to get it unloaded. Please pray for this container as there are some very important things on it. Each day the container sits in port we are being charged a \$70 a day fee, whether they are open for business or not. We are trying to negotiate this with them.

Monetary Donations are down I am sure due to the economy. We are still getting donations of goods though. Our sewing ladies are keeping busy making dresses, diapers, shorts, blankets, bags and all sorts of things. If you like to sew I can put you in touch with a great group of ladies that deposit beautiful items on my bench regularly.

We were also grateful for the 2 churches that remembered us after their rummage sales. We collected a lot of nice items that will be going to Haiti. Others that weren't suited for shipping we either were able to sell or to donate to needy people locally. We had other people moving and donating things they no longer needed. It was a very busy summer! We appreciate all types of donations.

Condolences to Pastor Charles and the school children on the passing of the school guard / watchman. He was a very elderly gentleman that had nowhere else to go and had become blind but Pastor Charles took care

of him and let him live at the School in a spare room for about 6 years. His son did not come to visit him but only showed up when he learned he was dying. Once he found that the guard had nothing of earthly value he left and never offered to help with burial expenses. So Charles is paying what he can and a donor has volunteered to pay some. If you would like to contribute to his burial please let me know.

Condolences also to the King Family on losing their 30 year old son, David. David was a special young man and his large family is going to miss him terribly. The Kings have adopted 11 children after having a biological son. They have always been supportive of helping children here and abroad.



We are always collecting dried food items such as rice, noodles, beans and also canned food. 120 cans collected plus some Halloween non-chocolate candy for parties and special occasions.



Haiti is starting to put solar panels in place to make electricity. Great idea with plenty of sunshine.



Beauty school is still going on. Learning a skill.



One of our sweet sponsored children. If you would like to receive pictures like this please contact us about a sponsorship. You may write letters, send gifts and receive updates and pictures of your child.



We provided rice for desperate people in the Port a Prince neighborhood that were starving. Many of the families sit beside the road and sell items but it is too dangerous and now they can not go and buy the items they need so these families are in dire and desperate need.



Thank you to the sponsor that provided the money so his sponsored child could have the surgery he needed after he fell out of a tree and broke his wrist and it healed wrong. Very grateful! He is now able to use his hand again.



This cutie's sponsor passed away and he is looking for a new one. Would you like to be his sponsor?



These ladies were so proud to show off their healthy goats. They are able to help their families and maybe make a little extra money. We are encouraging the older children to take responsibility for watering and caring for the goats, chickens, ducks, and pigs.

+++ To nourish your body, give it wholesome food. To nourish your soul, give food away+++



Plumbing class in st Marc. We need plumbing, Carpenter, tiling tools

Josue is holding classes to teach young men a trade. He is concerned that they will end up in gangs if they can't earn a living. We even had one little 9 year old boy that I was interviewing for sponsorship answer the question "What would you like to be when you grow up?" with the answer "In a gang, I want to sit fire to tires in the street and carry a gun".



Sitting in the road with nowhere else to go. Feeling despair over the state of his country. A sense of hopelessness and fear have taken over so many of these beautiful, loving and humble people. Praying peace comes to Haiti in this holiday season.