

Dreams for Haiti

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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year This year has seemed to race by with some things remaining the same and others changing a lot. In Haiti, Christmas and New Years are spent at Church. There will be praying, singing, games, food, special programs and lots of laughter. Both days are joyous occasions in the lives of the Haitian School: Some of our older children have moved on but we have gotten quite a few new students. We are having to pay extra to help feed all the extra students. We have a well at the school but it is needing some work to provide enough water and repair some parts that have worn out. If you feel lead to help with either of these needs please let us know.



Twins taking care of their goat that just had 2 babies

Church: The Church is the heart of the community so there are a lot of programs held there. There are singing contests held with choirs from other churches. There are parties for special occasions where they have pot luck dinners, Each holiday is celebrated at the Church. There are prayer groups, mens, women and youth groups, choir groups and Bible studies. With out electricity and all that goes with it the Church becomes the entertainment and community center.



Animal project: This is one of the changes we have made. When Pastor Charles would question the animal recipients a lot of times he would be told the chickens ran away, the goats got in a garden and were killed (a law in Haiti says if your goat gets in someone elses garden they may kill it) or the family moved in the middle of the night to hide from the gangs and took the goat with them or they just got very hungry and either sold the goat or ate the goat or chicken. So, Pastor Charles has been giving the animals to children in the school that he feels are responsible and he can keep a better eye on the animals. This seems to be working as we now have a new goat that will be given to another family in January as everyone is required to give the first and third goats back to the program and then all others are theirs to keep. The first year a goat will have one baby. After that she will have multiple babies. There were 2 goats born this week and another that is very pregnant so the kids are seeming to be more responsible than the adults with the goats!

Containers: We believe we have found a way to ship a container through a northern port and then truck the container to Gonaives. Charles has sent me lists of things they really need, food being the main one but they are out of school supplies, and medical items such as wheel chairs etc. Please pray for paths to open up and make this possible and that the gangs do not move into that area. We will need funds for the container also. We are hoping to ship in the spring.



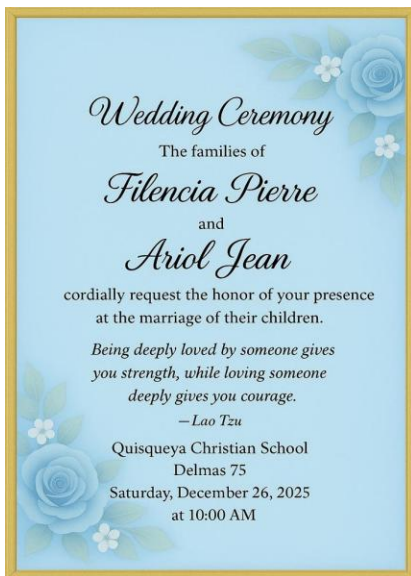
Hurricane damage left in Southern Haiti. Farmers lost most of their crops. These banana trees toppled in the wind

The Hurricane: Pastor Gilbert and his wife, Dr. Legette, have been working in the south of Haiti for quite some time now. Dr. Legette is holding clinics and Pastor Gilbert is holding pastor training classes. Dr. Legette was in southern Haiti when the hurricane came through. She reported a lot of devastation done to gardens, roads; homes washed away and between 20 and 50 people lost their lives. We were able to send some money to help feed people that lost everything.

The NEW program: While in the south of Haiti Dr. Legette and Pastor Gilbert noticed there were a lot of children not in school. (About 50 % of Haitian children do not go to school) They have now started a program where they pay a very small amount to a university student and he or she then mentors 5 or 6 children in their school work. That person makes sure the student is doing home work, going to school and keeping their grades up. Each family will get a small amount to pay for tuition, buy rice for their lunch and a very small amount will be put away for times of emergencies. We are excited that we have our first university student taking care of 6 children. For each group of students we are sending \$100 a month. If you would like to help with any or all of one of these groups please let me know.



School children in their new uniforms eating lunch.



Wedding: We are asking for prayers as Ariol and Filencia become man and wife on Dec. 26th. We were able to help them get started on a small business of owning a pharmacy. Times are so difficult in Haiti right now with the gangs but these 2 are making the best of a horrible situation.



New Life: Congratulations on Pastor Charles new grandbaby. A boy! Mother and baby are doing well