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10 Years of Making Disciples!

In February, 2009, my wife Brenda and I sat in a cramped room meeting with Gladys about our dream of starting a Bible school in Haiti with the focus on discipleship and sending indigenous missionaries. At the end of the meeting Gladys gave us full use of all the properties in Ti Goave and asked us if we could start right away. The grounds were deserted and out of repair. I had never been in Ti Goave before and did not know the area or people. We drove back to Port Au Prince a little overwhelmed, glorifying God for what He had just done. At the same time a bit apprehensive and scared because we had absolutely no idea what we were doing or how we could ever get something like what we were dreaming of off the ground. We did not even have a name for this new ministry yet!

Fast forward 10 years and those same grounds are bustling with activity. EDTC has supporters from 5 countries, and has had students from every corner of Haiti. In 2018 we had our 200th graduate. There are reports of new believers, churches overflowing, and Voodoo being eradicated in some areas. The local church has become strong and is leading in vision and implementing new ways to reach the community on their own. A new leadership school has been launched which will further strengthen the local Church so that it will not diminish, the Lord willing, but rather increase into the next generation. Our staff is now over 20 people, full and part time. We have amazing partnerships which look to increase in 2019, and with Haitian Harvest we

have been able to provide business opportunities and sustainability to the mountain people and churches.

All of this has been ordained and provided for by God, and through the obedience of His people. As the founder and director I am humbled to see what God has done, and am overwhelmed by the army of people He has built in support of EDTC. It is a testimony to the purpose of the Church, and the unity that is promised when we focus on Christ and the purpose He gave us, to complete what He started 2000 years ago when He said "GO and make disciples"! What an honor it has been to get to know you all in the last 10 years, and I anticipate many more great things in the years to come! To God be **ALL** the glory!

Two years ago Pastor Marc approached me and shared that they had a desire to start a new class. The students going through Discipleship Essentials desired to go deeper into God's word and learn how to apply what they were learning into their lives and into their Church functions. Since then we have been developing a new class focused on Christian leadership. It has not been easy, and there have been many road blocks, but I am happy to share that our very first leadership class has begun! The core curriculum is Leadership Essentials, which is the follow up to DE. We are so excited to see this inaugural class and to see the effects this class will have on the church.

With the new class comes new needs. We are blessed to have the new classroom completed and in use. We are still in the process of finishing the dorms above the classroom. We also had to hire

new teachers, and kitchen staff to accommodate double the students living on site. The budget increase for this new class is \$2000 a month, which is quite substantial. We, as a board, discussed this increase and we all feel that God is calling us to move forward with the class so we are stepping out in faith. Our plan is to fund one class to start, and then before starting another class, spend some time assessing the first class, and making sure that it is beneficial in its current state. That way we can add or subtract to the class before starting another. This will also give us some time to see our financial condition to ensure we do not overextend ourselves.

Thank you to everyone who has been involved with developing this class, funding the classroom and dorms, and praying us through the developing phase of this project. We covet your continued prayers as we move forward. If you wish to see the progress of this class please join the Facebook page for updates!

Nate



2009

Same place 2018



Find us on Facebook for constant updates:

facebook

Search: Ebenezer

Discipleship Training Center

And request to "join the group"

Lamarre Guy Current Student



"When I was younger I was very ill and at the hospital. The doctors said I was going to die. So my parents went to a voodoo witch doctor and spirits came to me in a dream. At that time, I also experienced the Holy Spirit knocking at the door to tell me He was my Lord and Savior and could save me. The evil spirit threatened me telling me at the same time that 'if you accept Christ I'll break your neck'. I decided to follow Christ. The next day, that spirit went into someone else who had to be taken in an ambulance to the hospital. I've had other spiritual attacks, but God's power is stronger and able to cast out the spirits. I was baptized and God has used me to spread His Word. The class has opened up my eyes on how to serve God in major ways. I enjoy the meditation time we have every day to spend time in God's Word."

At the end of the interview, Lamarre shared that he was given a vision that missionaries would be at the 10 year anniversary celebration. He also never stopped smiling the whole time we were there.

Meet our Newest Staff member



Sephora is the daughter of Pastor Marc. We hired Sephora to be our person on the ground in Haiti who can give us constant updates on the discipleship training, the students, staff and any other activity going on in Haiti. Here is a little more about Sephora. She did some amazing work for us while we were there for the 10 year celebration. She got to interview past and current students and translate that to us. You will see some of those stories in future newsletters.

"I had the chance to grow up in a Christian family. As a teen, my parents were always encouraging me to have my own relationship with God, but I didn't understand that. I thought that they were bothering me. I remember that being baptized was just to please them. I wasn't really interested in

that. Deep inside I wanted to do only what I thought to please myself, and I didn't realize that I was heading away from God. After high school I moved to another city for college and I had more freedom to do what I wanted. But I always had something to hurt me. I felt incomplete,...It's like I was looking for something that I didn't even know. I was always depressed, and all I tried didn't help me feel better. After college I went back to my family but I didn't tell anyone that I felt bad. And one day I tried to approach God. Every time I was sad I prayed and I felt comforted afterwards. That was like that every day. Gradually my sadness was disappearing and I've begun to find back happiness. Currently I don't have any torment. I feel complete and assured. I feel that God is working in my life. I start realizing how it is great to have a relationship with God. That's why I want to get closer to Him every day to better understand His grace, I want Him to guide my path because I know now with Him I can achieve anything that's good for my life, and only with Him I can have true happiness.

Upcoming Mission Trip Opportunities

Date	Trip type	Leaders	Contact Information
May 3—10	Vision	Frontline Church (full)	haitidiscipleshiptrips@gmail.com
Aug 1—9	Vision	Open to Anyone	haitidiscipleshiptrips@gmail.com

Now Booking Teams for 2019...

We are so excited to be partnering short term trips with the ministry, A Light of Hope! Please keep these groups in your prayers as they are sacrificing their time and money to partner with our Haitian brothers and sisters. God is sure to do a good work in and through them!

We are still looking to schedule more trips! Perhaps you or your church are interested in gathering a small group for one of these life changing experiences. Contact Matt and Grace Peterson, our Trip Coordinators, for more info: haitidiscipleshiptrips@gmail.com.

Biblical Partnership (formerly Fundraiser)

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, name of the Son and the Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:19 (NIV)

This is what Ebenezer DTC has always been about. And because of your help in the past we have been able to follow God's Word for our mission. Some of you have contributed by being a monthly donor, going to a fundraiser, and donating one time. We are so thankful for your help. Did you know that we are excited to add a Leadership Essentials Class to Ebenezer. This is a way to train and assist the pastors of churches on how to lead others. Because of the higher cost, we had to take another look at our budget. For the 2019-2020 year we need to

raise our budget to \$9200 per month. We have faith that this is totally reachable. As you read this newsletter, I was wondering if you could take into consideration what Ebenezer is all about, what it is doing and where can you help; join our prayer warrior team, make a one time contribution, become a monthly donor, or increase your monthly donation. If we receive \$50/month from 200 people we reach our monthly goal every month. For contribution or monthly donations you can go to www.EbenezerDTC.org and click on "donate". Thanks so much for praying on this and considering your part in this mission. We do have some upcoming fundraisers: Celebration Dinner (details in this newsletter), Parking Lot Pop-up Sale (Details to follow), and Huge Indoor Garage Sale (Details to follow). Let me know if you have any interest in any of these.

Have A Very Blessed Day!
Sally

One of our Past Students



Maxine Sainere was part of the 21st class of Ebenezer DTC and graduated a year ago Jan. 23, 2018. He is 57 years old and from Sous-District of Petit Goave. He states he learned a lot in the class and that it affected him greatly. As a leader in his church, he really took hold of Matthew 7 and how the Holy Spirit guides you to the righteous path. Prior to the class he did not lead or encourage his church this way. He has been encouraging people to join the class.

Ebenezer Discipleship Training Center

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"And I will give you shepherds according to my heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding"

Jeremiah 3:15

We are on the web!
www.ebenezerdtc.org

mission statement:

Ebenezer Discipleship Training Center seeks to raise up and equip indigenous disciples of Jesus Christ in Haiti while helping to transform the community in which it operates, through the local church, by joining in what Christ has already started. We also seek to encourage spiritual growth in the short term missionaries who visit and to help them understand that when they go home they are indigenous missionaries as well.

U p c o m i n g

New in Haitian Harvest

New Tin Art



These garden stakes are available to order for \$22. ea or 2 for \$39. Email your orders to edtchaitian-harvest@gmail.com. These will be available mid-May. We will have pick-up points in the greater Grand Rapids area. For more information and more tin art go to our Facebook page or our website.

Celebration/Fundraiser Dinner

Saturday, April 27 from 5 to 8 pm

Spring Valley Church

5947 Lake Michigan Drive, Allendale MI 49401

Our Guest Speaker for the night will be Greg Ogden, author of Discipleship Essentials and Leadership Essentials, curriculum used at EDTC

We will have dinner with a dessert auction. There will also be a live/silent auction on other items.

Host a table for \$80, or \$15 per person. Please contact Samantha Varner at 810-730-1791

varnersa10@gmail.com

or Joanne Gates at 616-510-5485

joyfuljoanie43@gmail.com

For more details on hosting a table. You won't want to miss this blessed night of fellowship and worship!

Table hosts can decorate their table to compete in the Best Decorated Table Contest. A prize will be given to the table voted #1.

Please contact Nate Yonker, Brenda Yonker, or Grace Petersen to volunteer!