



## Ebenezer DTC Newsletter

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### *Finally, Be Strong in the Lord*

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil." Eph. 6:10-11

For years I have been doing my best to articulate the reason discipleship is so important. As I write this, we are in the middle of the global Covid - 19 pandemic. Many have lost jobs, security, incomes and hope. There are so many people asking questions as to "why", and "what ifs".

When I started EDTC 11 years ago it was because I was concerned what would happen to the spiritual state of Haiti should all the missionaries have to pull out due to some economic crisis or worse. That time is upon us. Almost all foreign

missionaries have left Haiti, and many of the mission compounds are empty. We are so grateful that the ministry of EDTC continues in Haiti even during this crisis. Even though we have suspended classes for 2 months, there is still plenty of ministry going on. Our trained missionaries are out sharing the hope of Christ, and teaching how to put on the armor of God. We are meeting needs in the community, both physical and spiritual.

My prayer for our supporters, our staff, and all those who have interest in EDTC, is that we all come out of this stronger than we went in. This is a great time to do some self evaluation on how solid our anchor is holding in the midst of the storm. I would love to see a huge desire for discipleship

when this is over. There are some blog posts on our Facebook page that dig a little deeper into this. As the director, on behalf of the board and staff of EDTC, I want you all to know how much we love all of you, and are praying for you daily. Stay strong, stay positive. If we can pray for you specifically, please contact us on our web page.

Nate

**Find us on Facebook for constant updates:**

**facebook**

**Search: Ebenezer**

**Discipleship Training Center**

**And request to "join the group"**



## Now Available for Purchase

*Discipleship Essentials* is a study on discipleship by Greg Ogden and EDTC has been using this as the curriculum since discipleship training started. EDTC received permission from InterVarsity Press (IVP) to make copies of the rough translation into the Creole language but only for use in the discipleship training. The same is true for *Leadership Essentials* by Greg Ogden and IVP that EDTC has been using for the leadership training.



We have been working over the last two years to get these books more professionally translated so we could get them published in the Haitian Creole language and available for purchase by other ministries and individuals. We are thankful for the many hours Hansel Vedrine spent on translating these books from English to Haitian Creole. We then found a Christian publisher that works in Haiti. This is a prime example of being the body of Christ in unity with another Christian ministry whose desire is to raise up disciples of Jesus Christ!

Halo Learning worked with IVP on the particulars of publishing *Discipleship Essentials* and *Leadership Essentials* in the Haitian Creole language. These books are now available for purchase at [www.halolearning.org](http://www.halolearning.org)

## Don't Fear, PRAY!

In a time of more unknowns than we have ever experienced before in America, I believe our first response that makes sense as Christians is to pray. But in praying, I want us to keep a perspective that does not just worry about ourselves, our families, and our jobs. God calls us to look outwardly and be drastically different from the world. In this time, we must demonstrate our faith and be a light to those in our environment. At the same time as our American COVID crisis, Haiti is also experiencing COVID now. Unfortunately, as you may expect, their healthcare system is not prepared for this pandemic and reports are already coming out of doctors and nurses not showing up for work due to fear of getting the virus because they don't have the proper equipment. In a place where people hospitalized may wait over a year to get a simple foot surgery or only eat when family brings them food, the unknown outcome of COVID's effect in Haiti is frightening. Leading up to this crisis, since the fall of 2019, there has been even more chaos in the country because of their government's actions and lack of action. Gangs have been building up and currently are controlling the larger cities. There has been a significant increase in kidnappings and even after a ransom is paid, they are just killing the vic-

tim. These victims/targets are not just the wealthier people in Haiti, they are not discriminating anymore and are taking and hurting anyone. A lot of businesses have had to shut down long before COVID came to Haiti. Now businesses are closed, and people are encouraged to stay quarantined which will be difficult when facilities, water, markets are shared and a staple to life in Haiti. Our brother in Christ, Tony, was on his way to the airport when his flight was cancelled due to the Canadian borders closing. We are asking you, as the Body of Christ, to pray with us for the things affecting Haiti. The corruption, COVID-19, and our friend, Tony, stuck in Haiti are all things we are asking prayer for. We really appreciate it. As a board, we would also like to have an opportunity to pray or talk with you through anything you need prayers for or just to speak some truth to keep you focused on Christ. If you have any prayer requests or would like to talk with a board member via email/phone, email us at [edtcsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:edtcsecretary@gmail.com).

Blessings to you, brothers and sisters,

Sam





## Upcoming Mission Trip Opportunities

Date	Leaders		Contact Information
TBD	TBD	This could be you or your organization	<a href="mailto:ebenezerdttc08@gmail.com">ebenezerdttc08@gmail.com</a>

## Discipleship Immersion Trips

Through the years we have led Vision Trips to Ebenezer DTC to see what God is doing through EDTC and our ministry partners. That is on hold due to the virus but will continue when the threat is over. These trips fully encompass the discipleship immersion approach of this short term trip to Haiti. We want teams to feel immersed in the discipleship culture at Ebenezer DTC and be empowered and encouraged to live as Christ's disciples when they return home. This experience will encourage spiritual growth and challenge teams to use the gifts God has given them to serve His Kingdom in Haiti and in their home state. We are flexible and open to all teams if you or your church has a group of up to ten people that would like to engage in this impactful trip with Ebenezer DTC. If you are interested, check out our website at [ebenezerdttc.org](http://ebenezerdttc.org) for more details or contact us via email at [ebenezerdttc08@gmail.com](mailto:ebenezerdttc08@gmail.com).

## By God's Grace

As Paul wrote ... "Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 1:3

Our daily routine has been interrupted with stay at home orders, layoffs have occurred, and household budgets are tight... yet God's work still goes on!

Ebenezer DTC runs a tight ship and has a budget of \$10,000 per month when running both the discipleship and leadership classes. The budget is used for course materials, food, staff salaries, utilities, stipends for Pastors and local missions in Haiti.

At the current time regular monthly individual donations received to cover this budget amount to about \$2,000 per month. By the grace of God the budget has still been met every month even though the recurring monthly donations fall short of the monthly budget. Coverage for the short fall has come in the form of generous one-time individual dona-

tions, church donations and various fundraisers. During this time, we have been reminded that we need to rely on God's provision in all things. It is not always easy but our God is a faithful God!

We are very thankful for the donors who have supported and continue to support the mission of Ebenezer DTC. All we are asking is that you prayerfully consider whether or not becoming a monthly donor is something that God has laid on your heart.

If we could get to the point where the recurring monthly donations covered the monthly budget for operating expenses then all the monies from the other sources (one time donations and various fundraisers) could be used by Ebenezer in additional ways to have an impact in furthering God's Kingdom.

Are you are feeling led to become a partner with Ebenezer DTC? If so please visit our website at <https://ebenezerdttc.org/get-involved> and scroll to the bottom of the page to set up your donation.

Thanks and God bless,  
Don

## We're Still Expanding

We are excited that, even though, we have had to cancel classes, we still have projects that our staff is able to work on. Pictured is the new kitchen wall.



Picture of the new bathroom.



# Ebenezer Discipleship Training Center

US Mailing Address:  
PO Box 473  
Hudsonville MI 49426

Nate Yonker, President

Lynda Varner, Vice President

Don Haynes, Treasurer

Samantha Fruehling, Secretary

Brenda Yonker, Director of Communications

Sandy Arrasmith, Director of Haitian Harvest

*"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](http://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.

## *Featured in Haitian Harvest: Haitian Coffee*

Did you know that we not only have a new website but that we have a new store? We are constantly adding new items and specials to our website store. You can order and pay online and/or select shipping or local pickup. Go to <http://www.ebenezerdtc.org> and under the "more" tab find our store. Don't use internet? No problem. You can purchase our products at the Red Door in Allendale or call Sandy Arrasmith at 616-299-2481 to place your order. Know of a retail outlet that would be willing to sell our products? How about a farmer's market or flea marketer? We pay a

commission to those willing to display our products alongside theirs. Contact Sandy at the above number or email at [edtchaitianharvest@gmail.com](mailto:edtchaitianharvest@gmail.com). Follow us on Facebook to see all of the latest updates and products at @HaitianHarvestInitiative. If you're already following us, thank you! We have just placed an order that will be leaving Haiti soon. We covet your prayers that the order will be able to leave Haiti and sail through customs and shipping. We still have a limited amount of some hot specials on the

original dark ground roast coffee, 3 for \$25 (normally \$12 each) and the clear vanilla, 2 for \$10.(normally \$8 each) Order today!

Sandy



Please contact Nate Yonker, Brenda Yonker, or Lynda Varner to volunteer!