

THE INTERNATIONAL VILLAGE OF HOPE

A 501.c.3 Non-Profit Organization

A non-denominational Christian organization dedicated to helping the children of Haiti
6252 Commercial Way PMB 163 Weeki Wachee, FL 34613

Website www.tivoh.org

September 2008

Dear Friends in Christ,

The summer months in Haiti were quiet (compared to the problems earlier in the year) until tropical depression, tropical storm, hurricane Fay moved across the island of Hispanola where both Haiti and the Dominican Republic are located. News agencies reported 13 deaths from flooding and mudslides. We have heard nothing to date from Pastor Gasnel if there was any damage or problems at the schools but are going on the assumption that “no news” is “good news” and that all is ok. As we write this, however, another storm named Gustav is forming in the Caribbean and apparently has Haiti in its sights. Please pray, with us, for the protection of the Haitian people.

SCHOOL STARTS: *The summer has drawn to an end and both the Marechal and HOS Christian Schools restarted this month. Everything is in place and we are expecting over 400 children on opening day. I am sure that excitement is in the air as the adventure of a new school year begins for the children lucky enough to be able to attend school.*

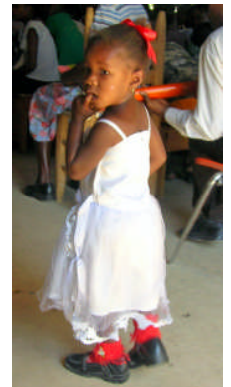
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: *The Vacation Bible School (VBS) was again a success as in past years. The crafts and other supplies left behind by the March mission team came in handy and were readily used by the children. An added benefit of the schools is that the children are also fed while at the school insuring they receive some nourishment during the long summer.*

FEEDING THE THOUSAND: *Once again we are asking for your extra donations to sponsor a special Christmas meal for the children, teachers and parents during the Christmas season. This tradition was initially started by Carol Herget in 1998 and has become an event that is looked forward to every year. The meal generally consists of chicken, rice and beans and is a real treat as any type of meat with a meal is a real rarity for most Haitians and makes this event celebrating the birth of Christ extra, extra special to them. Our goal is to raise \$2,000. If you can help it would be greatly appreciated by all.*



CONTINUED BLESSINGS FROM MARCH MISSION TRIP: *The March mission trip continues to pour forth benefits to the International Village of Hope. Several members from Nativity Church in Florida who went on the recent trip, put together a Power Point presentation utilizing the many photos that were taken. Thus far they have taken the presentation to three local churches and signed up sponsors for five children in our two schools. The local team members plan to take their presentation “on the road” and have scheduled six additional churches to present to in the near future. Pray that their efforts will yield even greater results as our mission certainly needs all the financial help we can get if we are to continue our work into the future.*

Members of Ascension Church in Georgia, many of whom were also on the recent mission trip, sponsored a Haitian Brunch for their congregation. Over \$3,000 was raised in



addition to adding two new children sponsors. Praise the Lord. In this time of deepest need He is providing.

A DVD with many of the pictures taken on the recent mission trip is now available. If you would like a copy, let us know in a note to us and we will send one out to you. A small donation to cover the materials and postage would be appreciated, but is not necessary.

COMMUNICATIONS WITH HAITI IMPROVING: *We have seen a marked improvement in communications with Pastor Gasnel since we replaced his virus infected computer with one donated by one of our supporters. Also, we finally got a battery to him for his digital camera so we should be getting some photos of sponsored children and special events at the schools. As soon as we receive the pictures we mail them out to you who are sponsoring children.*

NEW BOARD MEMBER: *We have a new member of the IVOH board. Her name is JoAnne Boggus and she and her husband, Zell recently moved to the West Central Florida area where several of your board members reside. JoAnne and her husband are members of Nativity Church and they both made the recent mission trip to Haiti with the March group.*

JoAnne is a life long educator who retired several years ago as principal of Fort Lauderdale High School where over one-third of the students were Haitian immigrants. She found their enthusiasm and willingness to learn, coupled with their disbelief of how American-born students took everything for granted, a true inspiration to her. These experiences along with her association with her son's in-laws (who are Haitian) and the work American churches do in Haiti (even though spotty and not reaching nearly enough people) drew her to IVOH and our mission in Haiti.



Initially JoAnne will be coordinating with Michael Gerrish on the content of our web site and assisting with this newsletter. We look forward to having her with us and thank God for bringing her. A picture of JoAnne and her husband, Zell is on the right. It was taken in Haiti on the recent mission trip.

LAMB HOUSE CHILDREN'S HOME: *Sue Witt reports that things are nearly back to normal this summer and she is busy getting the 22 children in her care ready for the new school year. It is a busy time of year and a lot of hustling around and, of course, the children are all excited. Little Amanda, who, if you remember, was taken in by Sue almost two years ago as a starving weeks old baby who lost her mother in childbirth, is now almost two years old. Sue has arranged for a family in Florida to adopt her and Amanda will be leaving in a couple of weeks. Sue is both joyful and sad. She knows that hopefully this will lead to a much better life for little Amanda but it will be a difficult parting as Sue is the only mother Amanda has ever known.*

MISSION TRIP PLANNED FOR JANUARY: *We have tentatively scheduled the next IVOH mission trip to Haiti for January 24th thru 31st, 2009. The mission team will be staying at Christianville. If you are interested in going, please write and let us know and we will then provide you with more details.*

WE NEED YOUR PRAYERS: *We are in the process of applying for a grant from a Georgia foundation to complete three more classrooms at the HOS School. It is the first time we have tried this and are truly amateurs at it so we really need your prayers that this effort will be blessed and that the classrooms will be built so that we can continue to help even more children.*

May our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ continue to bless each of you for the help you are providing our small brothers and sisters in Haiti. You are truly God's instrument in helping their young lives.

IVOH Board of Directors

Rev. Dr. William Roen, Rev. John Knarvik, Ernie Horeis, Lilo Horeis, Thelma Geloneck, JoAnne Boggus, Gary Martin