



THE INTERNATIONAL VILLAGE OF HOPE

A 501.c.3 Non-Profit organization founded by Carol Herget
A non-denominational Christian organization dedicated to helping the children of Haiti
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Dear Friends in Christ,

Another year has gone by so very fast and the joyous time of year when we celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ is fast approaching. Pastor Gasnel has written a letter to all of our supporters from his home in Haiti. It is in English although that is not his first language. The unedited text of his letter follows:

Dear Friends,

After all the hurricanes, came that black day at Petionville, on November 7, where a School building with 3 floors collapsed where about 100 people died.

The Kidnapping is still there even though you don't hear complaining about. The Gasoline is a little bit down but the propane still high. So people can't stop cutting trees to make charcoal.

MARECHAL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL: (September 2000 – September 2008) 8 years yet since Marechal Christian School is established in the area to provide good education to the needy people. Needy, I mean it because the reality shows it. We provide them meals, books, Christmas gifts and to all of parents and the school staff a special meal in December. This coming December 19, we expect feeding like 550-600 people since we 353 kids plus parents and School staff.



Here is our New Restroom building after the first one was collapsed last September

We already have to post graduate promotion who now go to Leogane in what we call High School. Marechal Christian School does great impacts on the community by giving them opportunity to have their kids in such a school with a high level Christian education. Thervene Ansley, an orphan had difficulty to survive, IVOH did help him. Now not only him, I claim for help for many of them to keep going to Leogane because they need to pay either their tuition or the tap-tap fees. We are looking for scholarship for 4 young people in the church.

HEROES OF SAVANNAH SCHOOL: At HOS, four classes functioning in spite of 3 classrooms that build.



We divided one to have another. This is divided Room (shown at right)

Question always asked about how we cook at



HOS. We cook on iron stove with charcoal until we can build a kitchen facilities where we can use propane stove. We need to build somewhere to keep our school stuffs. Now we put everything we have in two different houses because we can't let them in the classes since they don't either have doors or windows.

HOS has 116 kids this year – 4 teachers - 1 cook – 1 guardian - 1 principal – 1 household person. Christmas party at HOS is for December 12,

PRAYERS: Marechal Christian School for 3 new classrooms, HOS 3 new classrooms.

THANKS: Those who contribute for our Christmas parties, supporters, Marechal Christian School and HOS wish you Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

(End of letter)

Just a few quick notes: 1)Both our Marechal and HOS Schools are single story cement block structures with little chance of collapse as did the three story school structure in Petionville (which reportedly was of cement block construction with no reinforcing steel and had suffered damage from the recent rains) that Pastor Gasnel refers to in his letter. We have one two story building at Marechal which is the kitchen/dining room with a classroom on the second story. It is of concrete block construction with steel reinforcement. 2) The new restroom facility at Marechal was necessary as the old one was damaged by earth shifting due to the recent rains and floods. 3) The upcoming dinner referred to is the annual Christmas celebration which has been held for the children, their parents and the teachers for the last several years at both our schools. At this time small gifts are also given to each child. Thus far we have raised about half the money required for the dinner and hopefully will obtain the rest through a special appeal at Nativity Church and Church of the Ascension, two of our continuing major supporters.

HAITIAN UPDATES: *The last June graduating class (which was the second class to finish their schooling since the school began) had 30 students. All 30 took the Haitian Achievement Test (a requirement for a diploma) and 21 passed. The remaining 9 will repeat the sixth grade and be tested again next year.*

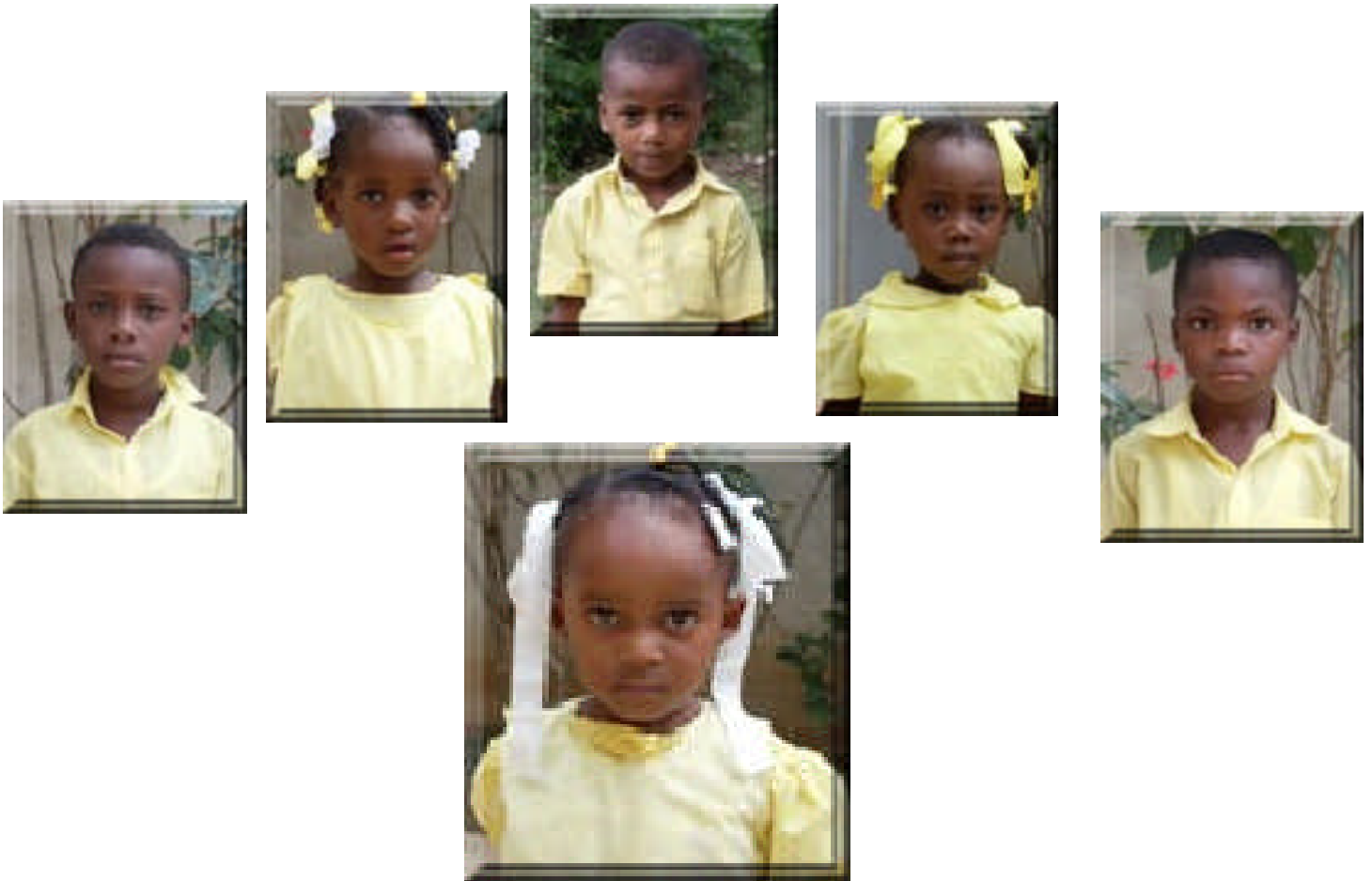
Pastor Gasnel reports that the price of food staple continues to increase at a rapid rate. Last year a 40 pound bag of rice cost \$20.77 while the current price (just a year later) is \$40.90. This will be a problem in the coming year as we continue to try and provide a hot meal for each child each day.

Our Vacation Bible School at Marechal last summer had 275 attendees. The theme of the school was John 14:15, Obey the Lord's commandments.

GRANT REQUEST DENIED: *Our request for a grant to build three additional classrooms at the HOS School was regrettably denied. The reason given was it did not meet the established criteria of the foundation we applied to. This was obviously a let down as we still only have classrooms through the third grade at the HOS school and there will no classroom for the children finishing the third grade this spring to go on and continue their education. Unfortunately we just do not have the money to build the additional classrooms (estimated at about \$25,000 to \$30,000) at this time. Anyone having any ideas as to where we might get this type of funding for the little children in Haiti, please let us know. Please keep praying that somehow God will show us the way to build these rooms before the next school year starts.*

NATIVITY CHURCH JUNKTIQUE SALE A BLESSING: *A recent fundraising "Junktique" sale at Nativity Church in Florida has been a true blessing to our mission. As a result of the sale and the efforts of many of the church members, a total of \$3,920 was given to the International Village of Hope. Thank you, thank you, thank you Nativity.*

MISSION TRIP PLANNED FOR JANUARY: Pastor Bill Roen of Ascension Church in Savannah has finalized plans for the next International Village of Hope Mission trip. It will be led by Pastor Roen and will from January 24th through January 31st of next year. The mission team will meet in Miami and fly to Haiti as a group. The cost per person is approximately \$500 to \$600 for round trip air fare plus \$280 for food, lodging and transportation in Haiti. If you are interested or would like further information, please contact Pastor Bill Roen as quickly as possible as he wants to finalize the team that will be going and complete the final planning for the trip. He can be contacted at 912-232-4151 or at his email address – billroen@yahoo.com.



The children, teachers and staff of our schools in Haiti thank all of our loyal supporter for making their lives better and providing them a hope for the future that wouldn't exist without you. They wish each and every one of you a very Blessed and Joyful Christmas and may you and your families enjoy abundant happiness in the coming year.

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