

# HOPE

## Has Come...

December 2006

Dear Friends,

With Christmas drawing near, we remember the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. The most amazing picture of HOPE. In the midst of a dark world, at just the right moment, GOD sent HOPE. Through this baby, who grew to be a man, the WAY was made for mankind to experience a true relationship with God. His death brought freedom from sin and the gift of eternal life. As we enjoy this holiday season, our prayer is that you have experienced the HOPE of Christ- the security of knowing that HE is your Savior- "an ever-present help in time of trouble".

We also want to take a moment and thank you once again for your continued support of HOPE Mission International. This fall marked our first anniversary. It is amazing to think of all that has transpired since our first meeting. We have developed a clear mission, established an Advisory Council, traveled to Haiti twice and have seen God supply time and time again!

***Thank you for playing an active role in bringing HOPE to the people of Pestel***

In October, Wilfrid and Elisabeth traveled to Pestel. Our goal was to conduct a series of important meeting with local pastors, businessmen, and contractors. It is never easy to arrange meetings, especially in remote regions where transportation and communication are sketchy. Praise God- everyone was where we needed them to be when we needed to see them. The information we shared was well received and many partnerships were established. The local pastors were especially encouraging. Time and time again they shared how their prayers had been answered. The HOPE Community Library has brought them HOPE! HOPE of a better future for the children in Pestel. HOPE for greater economic and educational opportunities. HOPE that many will choose a relationship with Christ as a result of seeing our love.

One of our first visits while in Pestel was to a local public school. A special gift enabled us to paint the entire school! As we visited each classroom, the children stood and thanked us. What an opportunity for these students to see love and care expressed to them. We pray that this simple gift of paint will bear much fruit in their lives. Before we left, we held a Celebration Service for the community- to thank God for the library project and the HOPE it will bring. It was an amazing time of worship and testimony of God's goodness.

As this year draws to a close, we are busy making plans for the coming one. Our Advisory Council has challenged us to begin the foundation of the building next summer. There is much to do in preparation- our land in Pestel is being cleared, contractors are being hired, travel arrangements need to be made, building plans need to be finalized. Please pray for all of us- for wisdom and peace as we move forward. Please also pray that God will supply the \$20,000 we need to begin the foundation phase of the project. We look forward to sharing more with you in the coming months- a full newsletter should arrive in January!

*~May the HOPE of Christ's birth fill you with JOY~*

*Elisabeth Hamburg and Wilfrid Decossard for HOPE Mission International*