



HOPE Mission International

Helping Other People for Eternity

November 2009

Dear Faithful Supporters and Friends,

Detours! This was the word that kept coming to my mind as we made our way to Pestel, Haiti this July. There had been confusion at the airport regarding our rental car and if one was available to us. This caused us to have to wait until the problem was cleared up. A bus accident also delayed our journey. As we drove through one town, motorcycles were flashing their lights at us. We failed to heed their signals and discovered the road was blocked by a barricade set up to protect motorists during the construction of a new bridge. Washed out roads also forced us to find alternate routes. It seemed that we were encountering nothing but detours in our effort to reach Pestel!

This got me thinking. The last year has felt like a huge detour for HOPE Mission. We have been in the process of submitting our tax-exempt application, in hopes of receiving federal recognition as a non-profit organization. There were moments where I wondered if we would ever get approval. I questioned God's call and if we had heard Him correctly. It challenged us to seek God's face in prayer. We were reminded to continue doing what we knew we had heard from Him and to trust Him with the timing. The time of silence and detours were used by God to shape us and teach us to depend increasingly on Him. In June, right on God's perfect schedule, we received our federal approval for tax-exempt status as a 501©(3) non-profit organization. This was an incredible answer to prayer! We are thankful for the period of waiting because it deepened our faith! We appreciate all of you who joined us in praying for this to be granted. We believe that it will open the doors to greater things for HOPE. ~ Elisabeth Hamburg

In July, Wilfrid and Elisabeth traveled to Pestel to meet with our contractor and local staff. It is always amazing to watch how God perfectly orchestrates these meetings. Wilfrid was able to connect with each contractor in a timely way and to negotiate the needed work to move the library project forward. We are grateful for the financial gifts that have been given towards building the Community Library. It was incredible to walk through the building and to see all the hard work come to fruition. The first floor is covered by a roof, the rooms are walled in, and the bathroom floors are poured!



View of back study rooms



The HOPE Community Library



Office walls being finished

HOPE Community Library: Project Update

The roof was poured and all the rough work for plumbing and electric has been done. Walls are being prepared to be smoothed. The bathroom floors have been poured- did you know we'll have two bathrooms complete with showers? The doors and windows are being constructed and will be installed soon. Our prayer is that we will be ready to paint the first floor by next July. We'd love to take a work team down to complete this task. We already have 4-6 people considering joining the team! Would you consider joining us too?



Revival Meeting- Worship



Many youth attended the Revival Meetings



Area churches shared special music

Opportunities for Outreach

We were able to meet daily in the building for a community revival service. For eight days, the local evangelical churches worked together to hold a time of worship and challenge. Each evening, over 250 people attended! We would sit in the last row, just amazed as people continued to fill the makeshift benches on cinder blocks. What a time of worship it was! Many believers attended and it was awesome to worship in spirit and truth. Unbelievers attended as well- including the youth soccer team that we have been assisting and allowing to use our property for practices. Even a local Voodoo witch doctor attended and some prominent Voodoo followers! The Word of God was preached powerfully! We are excited that 30 believers continue to meet weekly in our building for Bible Studies! God is using this building as a tool to challenge hearts!



We were able to distribute funds to various churches and schools throughout our community. Soccer uniforms were given to the local youth soccer team that plays on our field. Our four sponsored children all received funding to pay for their next school year.

We are looking for 10 people to agree to sponsor some exceptionally needy children. These children attend a local Baptist church and are struggling to stay in school due to finances. For \$20/month, they will be able to attend school and have their educational needs met. You would even be able to come to Pestel and meet your sponsored child. Please indicate on the reply insert if you are interested and we will provide you with additional information.



2010 Summer Trip Planned

We would love for you to join us in Pestel next summer! A team is forming for July 17-24th. Our goal is to finish the first floor so that it is ready to be used. We also would like to provide leadership training for the local church leaders, a VBS outreach and perhaps English classes. If you are interested in more information, contact Elisabeth Hamburg (elisabethanne@hotmail.com or 860-861-2314) During these tough economic times, we covet your prayers and are grateful for your gifts.

Wilfrid Decossard and Elisabeth Hamburg

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