



# HOPE Mission International

*Helping Other People for Eternity*

November, 2008

It seems in recent months, Haiti has made the news often. Changes in government, riots due to lack of food, hurricane disasters, school collapse leaving many children dead. With each incident, I'm asked if this is near our work in Pestel or if people I know are affected. With relief, the impact in Pestel has been less intense than in other areas throughout Haiti. But if you have spent time with Haitians and people who love Haiti, you realize what an interconnected community it really is. Rarely are there strangers in Haiti. Haitians feel each other's pain and hardship as if it was their own. They understand completely, because they too have experienced the same loss, the same hunger and the same uncertainty. So yes, if you were to ask us, do we know someone affected by these tragedies, we would say yes- Haiti, a country we love and are burdened for, is hurting.

I don't understand why God continues to allow such devastating hardship in this small country with a population just under 9 million. Why do these people continue to suffer? Why do the believers there, who are seeking to honor God, continue to endure sickness, hunger and frustration? Recently, I was reading in 2 Corinthians 1:8-11, 21-22 where Paul speaks of suffering:

*"We think you ought to know, dear brothers and sisters, about the trouble we went through in the province of Asia. We were crushed and overwhelmed beyond our ability to endure, and we thought we would never live through it. In fact, we expected to die. But as a result, we stopped relying on ourselves and learned to rely only on God, who raises the dead. And he did rescue us from mortal danger, and he will rescue us again. We have placed our confidence in him, and he will continue to rescue us. And you are helping us by praying for us. Then many people will give thanks because God has graciously answered so many prayers for our safety... It is God who enables us, along with you, to stand firm for Christ. He has commissioned us, and he has identified us as his own by placing the Holy Spirit in our hearts as the first installment that guarantees everything he has promised us."*

When asked, I know that my Haitian brothers and sisters would share how the suffering they have experienced has strengthened their faith. It gives them remarkable circumstances to live out their faith in the communities in which they live. What would discourage and turn many away from Christ, only deepens their trust. Just as Paul acknowledged the help of the Corinthians through their faithful prayers, I know that our Haitian family would echo him. Your continued support and prayers lets them know that they are not alone and that God is still providing for their needs. On their behalf, we thank you!

*Elisabeth*



# HOPE Community Library: Project Update

In July, Wilfrid and his family had the opportunity to visit Pestel to check on the progress on the HOPE Community Library. It was exciting to see that the first floor foundation is complete as well as the outer and inner walls! Praise God- last summer we were digging trenches for the foundation! Sadly, we are now at a standstill as we await the funds to put on the roof. We currently need \$20,000 to pour the cement ceiling. The cement roof must be poured and completed in one step. In recent months, lumber and sand has been purchased towards the roof. We are also near completion of a water reservoir in preparation for pouring the roof. It is hard for the community members to understand the delay in the building project. We believe God has called us to create this outreach in Pestel and we know in HIS perfect time everything will be supplied. Would you like to play a part in completing this step?



The Main Library Room



The Library: Foundation and Walls Complete



Inside Rooms

## Opportunities for Outreach

Despite delays, HOPE Mission has been able to participate in a number of outreaches throughout Pestel this year. While Wilfrid visited this summer, he was able to meet with 44 students and coaches from the local Catholic school who often use our property for soccer practice. Wilfrid challenged them to believe that “Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and by believing they may have eternal life in His name.” Each of the high school boys was given sneakers. Later in the week, Wilfrid drove by and saw the team praying before they began their practice. We believe that seeds were planted in their hearts. We praise God for good relations within the community that allow us to reach out like this.



Three children are currently being sponsored through HOPE. We were excited to share gifts from the States with them as well as hear updates on how they are doing. Each of these little ones is enrolled in a local school and learning about the Lord through the local church in Pestel. Gifts of t-shirts, sandals, school supplies, clothes and food were also distributed throughout the community. There were also many opportunities to provide medical care and counseling to community members.



One of the requests we receive most often from the pastors and church leaders in Pestel is for more leadership and spiritual training. We had attempted to organize a leadership conference for them but due to scheduling conflicts with our chosen speaker, it was not possible this year. We were able to use a special gift from a local church to send four of the local church leaders to a Pastor’s Conference in Les Cayes, hosted by Pastor Mark from Wallingford, CT. It is a blessing to know that the believers in Pestel have a desire to know the Word and to be effective ministers of the gospel. It is just another confirmation in our hearts of how important it is for the HOPE Community Library to be completed so that it can provide resources for the local churches and community at large.

## Summer Trip Planned

We would love for you to join us in Pestel this summer! A team is forming for June or July. We plan to work on construction efforts, children’s outreach, spend time with local believers- perhaps even conduct a medical clinic. If you are interested in more information, contact Elisabeth Hamburg (elisabethanne@hotmail.com or 860-861-2314) At this holiday time, we are most thankful for your prayers and gifts!

*Wilfrid and Elisabeth for HOPE*

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