

Hope for Caribbean Kids, Inc.



Imagine the most breathtakingly beautiful mountain top paradise—rich with green trees, tropical plants—surrounded by neighboring mountains and a beautiful seashore. Then, imagine this paradise in the midst of abject poverty and deprivation. This describes the setting of the land purchased by Hope for Caribbean Kids, Inc. on which an elementary school will be constructed to serve children in the Baie d'Orange Marre Blanche community in Haiti. Richard and Iva Presberry of Jefferson



City recently returned from a 7-day mission trip to Haiti. They were accompanied by Jon DeSha, also from Jefferson City. He is a soccer coach at Columbia College in Columbia, Missouri. Joining them were two Haitian translators (Pastor Wisny Exima and Yaguel Nerat) and Pastor JeanThony Perime in blue.

The team commuted more than 30 miles daily from Jacmel to the top of the mountain. Because of the rugged, winding rock and stone covered road which changed to foot paths of up and down jagged turns on clay grounds, it took as much as 5 hours one way on some days.

The Crisis

Tucked inside this oasis is a community of a few thousand of the most loving and impoverished people in Haiti. In 1995 they started a school for children pre-school age through sixth grade. The school was suspended from 2000 to 2003 because



so few parents were able to pay the \$30.00 per year tuition and they could not pay the teachers the \$6.00 per day salaries required by the government. Children are encouraged to come to school even if they cannot pay, but they often become discouraged and drop out.

They lost several teachers who needed to look for other opportunities to feed themselves and care for their own families. Currently, they have six teachers who work without getting paid months at a time for teaching the two hundred fifty children who are enrolled—down from 300.

In a special meeting with the teachers, community education committee (school board of educa-



tion) and the school director, Pastor JeanThony Perime, they poured out their hearts concerning the physical condition of the children. They described themselves as a very poor village. Frequently the children arrive at school weak and lethargic because they are not eating regularly. Children are known to lose consciousness due to severe hunger. Few children receive a meal each day at home. There is no feeding program at the school. When a child is sick, parents who can afford to pay must walk the child 3 1/2 hours for health care. They reported that a young pregnant mother who was nearing the time to deliver her baby tried walking the 3 1/2 hours to the clinic but died in route.

OASIS
of
HOPE

Haiti Mission Trip
June 18-24, 2012

Summer 2012

Update

A Little Fun Helps Ease the Pain

The team's visit was warmly received by the children, their parents and the community. Jon DeSha introduced them to soccer—a craze in their country. Yet, some of the children had never held a soccer ball.



School is held in a storage house next to their Assembly of God Church (Assemblée de Dieu Corail la-mothe commune Belle Anse). The only light comes from the open door or cracks in the walls to light the small chalk boards. Wooden benches from the church are carried into the rut-covered dirt floor classroom. When enrollment is up some classes are taught in the church.

Soccer activities were held daily. The temperature was in the 50s and 60s due to the altitude. Clouds were ground contact which is also typical for that altitude. It rained almost daily.

A Challenge

On Thursday during a church service attended by 300-400 people, Iva Presberry delivered a spiritual message of love, encouragement and challenge. They were reminded of a poor widow woman in 2 Kings 4:1-7 who thought she was out of options, but was able to use the little oil she had to turn



her financial situation around. They were challenged to do all they can to support their teachers and to prepare for the construction and maintenance of their new school. They were told to unite, help one another, have faith and pray for the success of the school construction program and for God to touch the hearts of people to give.

An oasis of hope is promising, as Hope for Caribbean Kids, Inc. has already begun to look into ways to help them qualify for school food through two organizations in Haiti that are set up to do that. After the service there was a food, clothing and supplies distribution.

The week ended with a ticket drawing led by Jon DeSha to distribute items donated by area schools. The children received 42 soccer jerseys, 18 soccer balls, 20 or more medals, balloons and loads of joy. The parents beamed with pride to see their children engaged in these activities.

The people were very excited as the team's truck departed. The children, in their jerseys, and with their medals, balls and balloons lined both sides of the road doing a march and chant with synchronized turns as they celebrated the end of a great week. When they turned, the view of the fronts of their shirts were seen. Other turns revealed views of the numbers on backs of the shirts. Their marching and chanting filled the team's hearts with joy to play such a small part in the start of an oasis of hope. in the midst of poverty.

Contact Us!

To learn more contact

Richard or Iva Presberry
Hope for Caribbean Kids, Inc.
101 Riverwood Drive
Jefferson City, MO 65109

(573) 635-4127

Visit the website:
www.hope4caribbeankids.org

or

Email:
hope4kids@mchsi.com

Soccer is the craze in Haiti. Yet, some of the children had never held a soccer ball.

Hold This Date:

November 9 & 10,
2012

BBQ/Roasted
Chicken Dinner
Fundraiser

Tax-exempt 501(c)3
Organization

Missouri State Employees
Charitable Campaign
Recipient #9010

Incorporated 2003