March-April 2022 Newsletter



Looking Back Over 2021: The Annual Report!

2021 was a very different and sometimes difficult year due to the COVID precautions, the gang wars, the blockage of the road into Portau-Prince, the assassination of Haiti President Jovenel in July, and continual political unrest and instability of the economy and nation. But even so, by God's grace, the mission, the church, the construction, the school, and life-in-general have gone on amid the turmoil! Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

I. Zion Church – Haiti

The church has used social distancing, face masks, and sanitizer for every service. These measures continue to this day as ordered by the government. However, we are one of the few still obeying these orders.

The choir is functioning with all the safety measures in place. We have sung a few times in church with our masks on, of course.

Sunday school continues to function; we have 6 Sunday school classes. No special events such as the Christmas concerts, VBS, or Seminars were held this year due to all the unrest and problems in Haiti and our area.

We have had a few individuals accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior this year. Praise God!

We continue to have Hospitality after services served in napkins and with gloved hands: Kool-Aid or coffee and bread to those who desire it. We continue the twice-weekly Bible Studies. The men's group has been placed on hold due the situation in the area. The women's group continues to meet on Wednesdays at 4 or 4:30 PM. The children's group and the youth group both have been put on hold since the parents don't want to send their children in the afternoons due to the community instability.

Sunday morning services have 150-300 in attendance.

We continue to assist many people and members with funds for medicines, Dr. visits, education, food, etc.

We assisted 6 youth in higher education, such as high school and university.

II. Primary School

We have had 3 preschool classes (a total of 70 preschoolers) and 9 elementary classes (1st-6th) with 283 students, resulting in a total of 353 students. The number of students has decreased because of so many other small schools opening in our area. Also, the political instability has forced some families to not return to our area due to it being a hot spot.

The 2nd second graders have now started in music classes with recorders. They are so excited. We decided to permit the students in 3rd grade to decide whether they want to take 2nd year Recorder or 1st year Embroidery. These classes are being held during the regular school day. Both classes operate at the same time for 2-3 hours once a week. The students are excited about their choices and are beginning to advance.

Meanwhile, besides the academics, we continue the practical hands-on classes: 1st grade – paper art; 2nd grade – plastic canvas lacing; 3rd grade girls – basic sewing; boys – shop with wood; 4th grade – cooking; 5th grade – crochet; and 6th grade – string art. Mary Jane teaches the crochet and shop classes weekly and fills in as needed on the other classes.

All 4th graders go into the afternoon trade school classes or Saturday music classes. Of course, drum and violin are the most popular music classes with them. Sewing and cooking are the most popular for in trade school.

III. Trade School

We have had many students enrolled this year in Sewing, Tailoring, Embroidery, Welding & Ironwork, Cooking & Baking, Business, and Music: Keyboard, Guitar (Ukulele, Classic, and Bass), Drums & Percussion, Violin, Saxophone, Clarinet, and Trumpet classes.

Our students continue to do excellently in their governmental exams every summer. Our graduates and current students are already finding positions in their trades or creating their own businesses. It is exciting to be a part of their progress and success.

We have 11 previous graduates teaching in the trade school. And 6 of them are also graduates of the primary school. Our office staff members are also graduates of the trade school.

Mary Jane has been rewriting the entire cooking program and creating/compiling new cooking textbooks. Also, she has been redoing several music curriculums. Andris still teaches as need in welding, cooking, and other classes, including math, geometry, and other basic life skills. Mary Jane continues to teach as needed in the cooking classes.

Our Mission: To train a generation of young men and women to change their families, communities, and nation with the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Word and Action.

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The Annual Report (cont.)

IV. Entrepreneurship Project

We have helped others to establish home-based businesses, selling foods and grocery supplies. The men's coop project continues to enable them in building their businesses. Now, the women's group has also started a monthly co-op to help establish or grow existing businesses.

V. Major Improvements

We have purchased a Nissan Pathfinder for the mission to have a means of transportation when necessary.

The Fall Benefit raised funds for the operational budget of the mission and 3 major construction projects: welding the school roof, adding the 2nd floor of the cooking school, and adding the church extension. They are all currently in progress.

We have installed a small solar system for the church and trade school office. We will be upgrading it to a 10,000W invertor that can be used for the church also.

We hope to also upgrade the guesthouse and apt. invertor from the 2500W to a 10,000W which will enable the fans and even refrigeration.

The internet connections and wiring were redone for better connections in all 5 locations.

VI. Upcoming Activities & Teams

In 2021, we had no visitors due to COVID and the insecurity, but we will be receiving visitors again as soon as the country opens up. Visit us online with your team information. We would love to schedule you in.

VII. Future Construction Plans/Ideas

Constructing the wall between the clinic and LHM for security and safety. (\$15,000)

The outdoor sitting area desperately needs to be reconstructed before it collapses. When it is repaired, we will also expand it since this is where are students assemble prior to chapel services. We also do Bible studies here. The parents of the Primary School use this space as a waiting area, and this area has many other uses. (\$13,000) Meanwhile, the prices of construction materials are skyrocketing.

We also need to finish the other half of the entrance road in the campus. (\$13,000)

In the future, we still hope to build a small library and cyber space for our students and those in the community. (There is none available within 5-7 miles.) We would try to stock it with books in French, Creole, and English. We would have internet and some computers on site for research and homework, and 1 or 2 printers. This would be a place where local students of all ages could come to study and do research with good lighting, tables, and chairs present. We would staff the library, and there would be strict rules for participating in the library center and loaning books.

One day, we would also like to construct a lab building for the primary school that would have a science lab and a computer lab.

And eventually, we would like to run double sessions of trade school classes: one in the morning and one in the afternoon.

VIII. Special Current Needs List

*20 new Netbooks with Windows 10 for business classes (the ones we have for the upcoming September classes are 10 years old). We believe education is accomplished better when everyone has the materials needed in their classroom to do the hands-on projects.

- *Working, clean used laptops to be used by our youth to help them in their schooling.
- * New laptops to be used in the offices and ministry
- * 6 more storage cabinets for classes to be purchased in Haiti (\$350 each) and 4 file cabinets (\$400 each).
- * New and used musical instruments (especially trumpets, saxophones, cornets, clarinets, flutes, etc.)
- *School supplies (geometrical instruments, glitter, construction paper, preschool puzzles, preschool playsets, toys, etc.)
- *Sewing fabric, notions, etc. and embroidery floss and kits
- *Whatever else the Lord lays on your heart.

We cherish your prayers for strength, favor, and endurance for Andris, Mary Jane, and the staff of LHM. Please continue to pray for the safety and protection of the Prime Minister and the people of Haiti. And pray for the students, that they will be able to continue their education without fear and interruption. Thank you for a successful and prosperous 2021 in spite of all the issues in Haiti and the world. We are blessed, and we love you all.

-Mary Jane & Andris



Would You Like to Sponsor a Student at Living Hope Ministries in Haiti?

Living Hope student sponsorship is so important because it provides the children with a daily hot nutritious meal, textbooks, and school supplies. It also provides a substantial part of the teacher's salaries. There are currently 190 sponsored students out of the 290 currently enrolled. Our prayer is for full sponsorship of all 1st - 6th graders. 100% of our graduating 6th graders pass the government exams and go onto a local high school. Help support the next generation in Haiti with a Christian education and vocational training. Would you be willing to help sponsor one child at \$40 a month?

For more information, contact Mark Gunderson at <u>markleegund@gmail.com</u> or call/text at 248-521-9240.

And The Music Plays On

Haitian Christians are beautiful singers – even without instruments. The first time my wife Cathy, me, and two of our teenage daughters visited the LHM mission in 2008, we heard singing in the church, singing in the church class rooms – singing just about everywhere. And while we had no idea what was sung (in Creole), we did not need to understand it. You could feel it. David said in Psalm 34:1 "His praise will be continually on my lips." I think this included praise through music.

In 2008, our mission group from Northwest Presbyterian Church in Dublin, Ohio brought with us guitars and keyboards, with the express purpose of teaching many of the Haitian youth group how to play those instruments. We taught every day of the week, and at the end of the week held a praise and worship concert at the mission for the youth group and others. Our group repeated the "music and arts" workshop the next year, but not again in 2010 due to the earthquake.

What started out as very rudimentary has turned into professional and highly accomplished. Joe, then a student, learned to play piano in 2008 with our group, and he now is the church worship leader. He plays piano, flute, and other instruments. The mission has drum classes, piano classes, guitar classes, and boasts a flourishing music program for the youth. Many people have donated musical instruments over the years, including and especially Mary Jane's brother, Bob, who finds used instruments and regularly sends them down to Haiti.

While no one needs a musical instrument to praise God, it sure sounds a whole lot sweeter. --- Stacy Lane

Cathy and Stacy Lane and their family have been faithful friends and supporters of LHM for many years. They have been to the mission several times and continue to actively serve the ministry.









An interesting FACT about Living Hope Ministries in Haiti, Inc.

Did you know that if you search the Internet for Living Hope Ministries, there are at least four (4) other organizations in Haiti that use the phrase "Living Hope" in their name? And <u>many</u> more worldwide? So, if you are looking for us on the web, we are www.livinghopehaiti.org. Be sure to use: <u>.org.</u> (not .com)

Learn More About Haiti: Due to the unrest in Haiti in recent months and years, it has been difficult for Mary Jane and Andris to travel in and out of Haiti to come and share with your church, Bible Study, or other group, or even to come to the Fall Benefit. But other members of the LHM Board would be happy to fill in for them in this regard. No meeting is too small or too large. Please write to LHM at PO Box 3578, Dublin, OH 43016-0290 or email to <u>livinghopeministries94@gmail.com</u> to request a visit.

Current Fund-Raising Initiatives:

Two Projects:

1.) Shoring up and expanding the meeting area between the side of church and the primary school.

2.) Finishing the entrance road.

Thank you ahead of time for your generous giving to enable us to accomplish these projects.

- How to Donate Gifts of Hope for LHM
 1) Electronic giving online at www.livinghopehaiti.org
 a. Direct payments from a Checking or Savings account
 (one-time or recurring)
 b. Credit Card payments (one-time or recurring)
 2) Checks by mail made payable to Living Hope
 Ministries in Haiti.
 Giving categories: Please note a giving category in the
 memo field if you desire (see examples below):
 Church/Community Project
 Youth University Fund
 Student Sponsorship (include Student's <u>number</u>)
 Trade School
 Pre-School
- Operating Expenses
- Construction Projects

Visit Haiti on a Mission Trip

We are praying for stability to return to the nation of Haiti. When it does, we look forward to welcoming you to Haiti for a mission trip. If you are considering a visit, let us know! We would love to have you. There are lots of exciting things happening at LHM!

Please contact Mary Jane and Andris directly at: MJJolibois14@gmail.com or skype phone #614-602-2802.

This newsletter is a publication of Living Hope Ministries in Haiti (LHM), P.O. Box 3578, Dublin OH 43016-0290 www.LivingHopeHaiti.org

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Living Hope Ministries in Haiti P.O. Box 3578 Dublin, Ohio 43016-0290 Place Stamp Here

Our Mission

To train a generation of young men and women to change their families, communities, and nation with the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Word and Action.



Donations

Please send checks to this Ohio address:

Living Hope Ministries in Haiti P.O. Box 3578 Dublin, OH 43016-0290

 $(\underline{Do not}$ send cash or checks directly to Haiti.)

For online electronic giving, go to:

www.livinghopehaiti.org/donation

Sponsor Packages

For single boxes, cards, and letters to Haiti only (**do not** enclose checks or cash).

Send to:

Mary Jane & Andris Jolibois Living Hope Ministries C/O Agape Flights (Acct # 16278) 100 Airport Ave. Venice, FL 34285

Do not send money to this address.

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<u>Thank-You</u> to everyone who contributes to and/or prays for LHM. You are a blessing to us, and you are reaching the people of Haiti with Christ's Love in Action.