



Living Hope Ministries in Haiti

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2025 Newsletter



THE WILL OF GOD WILL NOT TAKE YOU WHERE THE LOVE OF GOD WILL NOT PROTECT YOU

The will of God will never take you where the grace of God cannot keep you, where the arms of God cannot support you, where the riches of God cannot supply your needs, where the power of God cannot endow you.
The will of God will never take you where the Spirit of God cannot work through you, where the wisdom of God cannot teach you, where the army of God cannot protect you, where the hands of God cannot mold you.
The will of God will never take you where the love of God cannot enfold you, where the mercies of God cannot sustain you, where the peace of God cannot calm your fears, where the authority of God cannot overrule for you.
The will of God will never take you where the comfort of God cannot dry your tears, where the Word of God cannot feed you, where the miracles of God cannot be done for you, where the omnipresence of God cannot find you.
Everything happens for a purpose. We may not see the wisdom of it all now, but trust and believe in the Lord that everything is for the best. ~Author unknown~ From Holy Bible.org

The 2024 Annual Report

Living Hope Ministries (LHM) celebrated 30 years of ministry this year, God is good! We are thankful for all the opportunities and projects God has called us to accomplish over the past 30 years. And we are looking forward to the next 30 years of doing God's ministry and being flexible in His calling.

Haiti's situation has not improved this year. We are still having gang wars, road blockages, continual political unrest, and instability. As they have been announcing since February 2024, 80% of Port-au-Prince is gang controlled. They still never talk about the gang activity throughout the country. But we can attest that the gangs control our area also. It has been 3 years since I have done my own grocery shopping, or left the mission to do mission business, etc., due to limited access and safety to go anywhere. There have been several times this year when our fuel (gas, diesel, and propane) has been almost out or totally out. We have seen great food shortages; we have gone 4 months between getting certain items. Many times during the first several months of 2024, we had road blocks and major gang activity towards Port-au-Prince, including, at times, gang wars and activity in our immediate area. Often, our entire area is blocked; the only way in and out is by foot, generally walking with hands above your heads in front of the gangs with their weapons pulled. We have a couple brave people that go and get us supplies as locally as possible, and usually they hand carry them in. Since May, our county seat (Gressier) has been gang-controlled with roads blocked, with no one passing through. We have had 2 husbands of our staff go missing in that area. Therefore, we moved one staff member and her daughter (who lived near the gang area) into the mission compound for safety and protection, especially since her husband went missing in May.

By the end of August 2024, about half a million people from four countries (Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela) came to the U.S. under Humanitarian Parole during the former U.S. administration, and 210,000 were Haitian, according to the National Foundation for American Policy. Nearly 211,000 Haitians arrived in the United States via a new parole process in fiscal year (FY) 2024, although the status is not set to be renewed, and many now face the prospect of losing their temporary legal protections. The former U.S. administration also significantly expanded the use of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haitians already in the country, allowing about 300,000 to apply to legally work and avoid deportation for the time being, according to the www.migration.policy. Haitian hospitals, banks, businesses, schools, and missions, etc., have lost many valuable, trained staff due to these "special visas." We lost 12 of our trained staff, in other words, 1/5th of our staff to these visas; so, we have had to train and hire replacement staff.

Follow Living Hope Ministries in Haiti on Instagram (www.instagram.com/livinghopehaiti) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/LivingHopeMinistriesHaiti) for exciting and current videos and photos of activities at LHM.

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.

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

EMAIL:
livinghopeministries94@gmail.com
WEBSITE:
www.LivingHopeHaiti.org

Rev. Hope Boring
Vice President
614-309-4236
shboring@aol.com

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www.LivingHopeHaiti.org

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I. Zion Church – Haiti

We continue safe and healthy distancing of the children and the use of homemade hand sanitizer in the mission. This also helps to keep the misbehaving to a minimum. During the summer (and times when school can't function), our church attendance drops to 80-150. When school is in session, we have 200-300+ weekly in Sunday services.

We continue to hold Sunday Church services, Biweekly Bible Studies, and the weekly women's group, but we still have Sunday School and extra children and youth activities on hold due to the gang activities in our area. We haven't been able to have any special events (such as the Christmas concerts, VBS, or Seminars) due to all the unrest and problems in our local area. We hold church service at 8 am and then have hospitality (bread, juice, or coffee). Many of the children and youth are hungry and need the bread and juice. We have had four weddings in the church this year and have done marriage counselling with them prior to the wedding ceremonies.

The choir is continuing on as much as possible after losing 3 of their main people and gaining some new members.

The twice-weekly interactive Bible Studies have at least 30-40 people of all ages in attendance; we always make sure people can get home before dark safely.

The women's group has grown to around 20-30 members. The women's co-op continues to enable each woman to have a business or grow an existing business. Merline is leading the group, and they are studying new life in Christ lessons.

We continued to assist many people and members with funds for medicines, Dr. visits, education, food, and housing, etc. The need has increased even more with the rising prices and lack of access to many things.

We have been assisting at least 12 youth in higher education in high school and university.

II. Primary School

The 2024 school year has been a very tough year for students, families, and staff due to the increase in local gang activity, wars, and barricades. Some families have left the area for safety; others, depending on the daily situation, decide whether or not to send their students. We have had to close the school periodically because of the gang activity, unrest, and other problems. Due to the continued political instability and gang influence, our area is considered a "hot spot," and some families have not returned. We have had several teachers stay overnight at the mission for safety during the gang wars and activity. However, for the most part, we have remained open and vigilant in providing excellent and safe education for our students.

All the vocational classes and hands-on classes are being taught now by the teachers and/or the office staff and are held 2 twice weekly during the school day. All the 2nd second graders are in music classes with recorders. They love it. The 3rd graders then choose either 2nd year Recorder or 1st year Embroidery. We love seeing the students learning and advancing in all areas.

Besides the regular academics, the practical hands-on classes continue: 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 taught the crochet and shop classes weekly and filled in as needed on the other classes through April, and since then the teachers and staff continue those classes.

All 4th, 5th, and 6th graders attend the afternoon trade school classes or Saturday music classes. Of course, drums and violin are the most popular music classes. And sewing and cooking are the most popular in the trade school.

Andris is supervising and teaching in all classes as needed; he is also doing weekly teacher training on Fridays 12-2pm.

III. Trade School

All the trade school classes opened on time, but we are forced to have shorter days due to students traveling to and from classes. There are some unable to safely make it to their classes; therefore, we also encourage online WhatsApp class information and work. In 2024, we had 6 Sewing and Tailoring classes, 2 Embroidery classes, 1 Welding & Ironwork class, 3 Cooking & Baking classes, 4 Business classes, and 2 Technique Design classes for all 2nd year students. All music classes are offered for 3 years: Keyboard, Guitar (Ukulele, Classic, and Bass), Drums & Percussion, Violin, Saxophone, Clarinet, and Trumpet.

Again, our students were excellent in their governmental exams. Many of our graduates and current students have already found positions in their trades or are creating their own businesses. It is really exciting to be a part of their progress and success.

We have 14 graduate students teaching in the trade school. All office staff are graduates of our trade school.

Andris still teaches as needed in any and all of the classes, including math, geometry, and other basic life skills, and continues to oversee the entire mission. Mary Jane taught as needed in the cooking classes, embroidery classes, and worked in administration until mid-April.

IV. Other things

Dec 1st 2023, Sister Cam, from Mariani 4, walked in with her 3 live-in staff and orphanage children (18) ranging from 3 to 26 years old. They left their home to find somewhere safe to stay while their area was being evacuated due to lots of gang activity. They continue to live in the guesthouse during this difficult time. They are all attending our schools and are happy. Their staff now cooks the children's breakfast and supper in the guesthouse on the propane stove.

Mary Jane had to fly to the USA to help her mother who broke 4 ribs in April and still needs Mary Jane's assistance. So, Mary Jane is doing all her administrative tasks for the mission from the States. There are no flights back to Haiti due to the instability and insecurity until at least the end of March, and it will depend on the situation then. She is doing speaking engagements while here. She has visited two churches in Michigan, four in Ohio, and three in Oklahoma. Mary Jane was a victim of personal identity theft and fraud in Jan 2025, so she has had to change all her personal information. Her new cell phone is: 614-519-4460 and Email is: MaryJane-Andris@outlook.com. She is also (for now) locked out of her personal Facebook acct. So, if you would like to schedule any speaking engagements, please contact Mary Jane directly.

Student sponsorship is a very important way to support Living Hope.

We always have students that need to be sponsored – by a family, a group, a couple, or an individual. If you chose to sponsor, you will be assigned a student. You can also partner with one of our preschool classes or one of our trade school classes. Student sponsorship is so important because it provides the children with a daily hot and nutritious meal, textbooks, and school supplies. It also provides a substantial part of the teachers' salaries. And you have the added blessing of having the opportunity to build a relationship with your student if you like. The suggested donation to sponsor one child is \$40/month.

IV. Other things (continued)

Two of the nursing students we have been supporting for four years have passed their government licensing exam in December 2024 and graduated January 2025. The other two nursing students are now in their 4th and final year.

V. Major Improvements

We continue to maintain and continue repairs as needed to the grounds and buildings.

VI. Upcoming Activities and Teams

We will receive visitors again as soon as the country is safe and more stable. We have not had visitors in 2024 due to the insecurity. Please continue to follow us online for updates. Let us know your team information; we would love to schedule you in when conditions allow.

IX. Future Construction Plans/Ideas

As soon as the local area improves, we will begin the "Bridging the Community" project with the startup funds we have received for the 1st phase of this much needed project. The funds are all being held for this important project; however, we cannot safely get supplies and deliveries in the mission because of all the local gang activities.

God has given Andris and Mary Jane the vision to start a medical clinic in the mountains to the southwest, about a 40-minute walk from the mission, in an area that has never had a medical facility. We were approached by the community with a request to begin a clinic. We have used some of our personal funds to begin purchasing the land and putting up a simple fence.

"As of April 2024, 31 more hospitals and medical facilities have stopped functioning in Haiti and over 80% of trained medical staff has left Haiti, due to politics and insecurity," Haiti News. This new area has remained accessible to supplies and possibilities. Our students who have been trained or are in training to be nurses will help work in the clinic. Mary Jane and a committee will help to oversee this clinic project.

VII. Prayer Needs

Please continue to pray for the students and staff of LHM for safety, protection, provisions, and that they can continue their education without fear and interruptions. We cherish your prayers for strength, favor, and endurance for Andris, Mary Jane, and the staff of LHM. Please also pray for the safety and protection of the people of Haiti and the few missionaries left in Haiti. Pray for the forgiveness of the leaders, gangs, and all people in Haiti, and that God will change the situation of Haiti in His way and will.

Thank you so much for all your prayers, encouragement, and continuing love for us and the children, youth, and adults of Haiti.

Thanks for a successful and prosperous year 2024 in spite of all the issues of Haiti and the world.

Always remember: That God will never lead you to a place that He can't care for you.

Love & Prayers, Mary Jane & Andris



Learn More About Haiti: Mary Jane is currently back in Ohio helping to care for her Mom. She would be more than happy to come and share with your church, Bible Study, or other group. No meeting is too small or too large. Please contact Mary Jane directly by email at MaryJane-Andris@outlook.com or by phone at 614-519-4460.

You can also email to livinghopeministries94@gmail.com to request a visit.

Zoom gatherings for your church or group are also available upon request.

Current Fund-Raising Initiatives:

Two Projects:

- 1.) Build safe bridges and drainage canals on the road outside the mission.
- 2.) Provide for the operational costs: supplies and materials for classes, salaries, building and yard upkeep, animals, etc.

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 ww.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 number)
- Trade School
- Pre-School
- Operating Expenses

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:

MaryJane-Andris@outlook.com

or by phone at 614-519-4460



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P.O. Box 3578
Dublin, Ohio 43016-0290

Place
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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

(Do not) send cash or checks directly to Haiti.)

For **online electronic giving**, go to:

www.livinghopehaiti.org/donation

Sponsor Packages

Please **do not** send any boxes or letters at this time. Traveling into Port-au-Prince to pick up packages/mail is still very dangerous. Therefore, Mary Jane and Andris are unable to receive things at this time. Thank you for understanding.

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Living Hope Ministries in Haiti, Inc. (LHM) is a 501(c)3 Tax-Exempt Organization and a member of ECA (Evangelical Church Alliance)

***Thank-You 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.***