



Living Hope Ministries in Haiti

October-November 2022 Newsletter



A Time for Giving Thanks

Dear Friends of Living Hope Ministries in Haiti,

It has been quite a year. A couple of years, actually, when you take Covid into consideration. It's been a while since things seemed "normal," but we have always been under God's gracious care. And He has blessed us in ways that we could never even imagine. In the fall of 2020, when Covid-19 shut almost everything down, we had the first virtual benefit. And Mary Jane's and Andris' permanent home in Haiti was finished and furnished through the generous donations of many of you. Some of you even picked out items from the wish list and sent donations so that those items could be purchased in Haiti. In 2021, we started out thinking we would go back to the in-person benefit, but it quickly became apparent that Mary Jane and Andris would not be able to travel. So, we went back to virtual, and we raised funds for the preschool, trade schools, and daily operations. That brings us to 2022, and we are in a different world of upheaval and gang violence that sometimes seems to have no end in sight. It would be easy to focus on the current chaotic situation in Haiti and fall into despair. But God has again provided for the mission through your generosity. Funds have been raised to keep the mission running for now and to complete the wall. We are reminded in 1 Thessalonians 16-18 that we are to:

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

So please keep praying with us and thanking Him for His many blessings.

Dear God,

You are the creator of everything, from the smallest particle to the vastness of the universe, and everything contained in it belongs to you.

You are all-knowing, and nothing happens that is outside of your knowledge.

You are sovereign over everything, and nothing happens that is outside of your control.

You are all-powerful, and nothing happens that is outside of your will.

You are gracious, loving, and faithful. And you care for us.

Thank you, Lord, for your protection and provision. As we wait for life to return to a more normal way, thank you for giving us patience and peace in our hearts as we wait for your purposes to be achieved. Thank you for the gift of time and opportunities to turn our energy toward the things that sometimes go neglected in the busy-ness that fills many of our days.

And thank you for your love that embraces all of us as we go out to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ, whether we are on the ground in Haiti, praying at home, or giving of our resources to purchase food and supplies for the mission, build walls, or repair structures on the campus of LHM. Whatever our part in the great commission of sharing the Gospel, thank you, Lord, for enabling and equipping us to do it. We rejoice in You.

Amen

Follow Living Hope Ministries in Haiti on Instagram and Facebook 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.

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Thank you if you are getting your LHM Newsletter by email!

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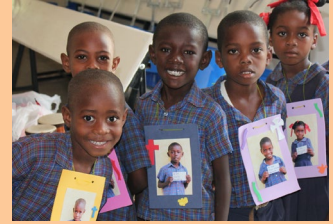
Meet Mark Gunderson

He is the coordinator for student sponsorships, and he may just hold the record for the most trips to Living Hope Ministries in Haiti! (Besides Mary Jane, of course.)

My name is Mark Gunderson and I'm currently serving as a Living Hope board member and the Student Sponsorship Coordinator. My relationship with Mary Jane and Andris began in 2008 when I became our church's (Zion Lutheran Church, Ann Arbor, MI) advocate for Living Hope and officially joined the Living Hope Board. It's been a very rewarding and spiritually fulfilling experience to serve our Lord and global partners in this capacity. I organized our church's first mission trip to Living Hope in 2009 with no idea what to expect. I was a complete bobble-head planning and leading my first global mission trip. But with Mary Jane's and Andris's steady and calm presence, it worked out just fine as our team spontaneously put together a 3-day teacher training conference. It was an eye-opening experience that began a decade-long ministry partnership with Mary Jane & Andris and their staff. On Zion's return mission trips from 2011-2018 (9 total), it felt like I was visiting family. Mary Jane and Andris became my Christian sister and brother.

Our mission teams, numbering between six and 18, including many friends-of-Zion, participated in a wide variety of projects and activities over the years, including: photographing and measuring all the students for the sponsorship program; painting the inside of the newly completed church; installing a zipline over the soccer field; creating photo necklaces for each student; building a new roof over the 3rd grade classroom; visiting the University of Michigan sponsored Nursing school; cleaning and organizing the storage rooms; bringing & teaching ukuleles, trumpets, flutes and drums; painting the pre-school tables; leading a 3-day teacher training seminar; testing the on-site well water; teaching BBQ to the Cooking class; leading Sunday youth group team building activities; singing and playing instruments for church service; playing soccer at recess; teaching dental hygiene; leading MANY craft projects geared to each grade level; helping with MANY home maintenance type projects (replacing toilets, hanging shelves, fixing screen doors, etc.); and playing Farkle in evenings to wind-down. We also had the opportunity to see some of the beautiful Haitian countryside with trips into the mountains, to the beach, and a visit to the resort town, Jacmel. Mary Jane and Andris made all our team members feel like family, and they loved sharing their home and ministry with us.

I am sad I have not been able to return to visit since 2018, due to caring for aging parents, COVID, and now the political unrest. I still long to return to see my sisters and brothers-in-Christ and to see a much-transformed campus. I stay connected with Zoom board meetings, and occasional calls to Mary Jane. The task of taking all the photos and measurements of the students in support of the sponsorship program has now fallen onto Mary Jane. But as with all her other activities, she carries on with a servant's heart. I've witnessed Mary Jane's and Andris's unshakable faithfulness and bottomless energy to carry out their mission and ministry, sometimes in the face of extreme difficulties. It is this reason that I have come to view my visits and support of Living Hope as a way to re-calibrate my own world view on what is really important and to live in the love and trust in our Lord, Jesus Christ.



Student sponsorship is very important way to support Living Hope.

We always have students that need to be sponsored – by a family, 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.

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

The Haiti Update ... Hi Everyone,

We really appreciate all your thoughts, prayers, and support. We continue to focus on what we can do, not what we can't. God is always faithful. We are still unable to open the schools due to the political climate and the gang activities and threats, so we continue working on projects that have needed to be done, but there was never time. Sunday school, Church, and bi-weekly Bible studies are going well.

We send someone to get us local groceries every 7-10 days. Availability is limited and things are pricey, but we are always thankful for what we do get. Bottled water is rare and prices have tripled. We ran out of diesel in late Oct. as we were dismissing the people from church, and have been unable to get fuel. As of this past Friday, some fuel deliveries to gas stations have resumed, but we have not yet been able to get it in our area safely. The gangs and political forces continue to control the fuel, streets, and activities. We turned off the refrigerator and freezer last week. We finally had 3 hours of city power on one day, the first in a month. Our inverter at the house is acting up so we are having quiet evenings. We still have solar at the school, so we charge our phones and rechargeable light bulbs there during the day and bring them back to the house at night.

We have not had internet since the cables were cut and the electricity went off, so we rely on our phones. Everyone carries 2 phones in case one stops working. Despite days, and even weeks, of the phone services being inconsistent, we have still been blessed to be able to keep in touch.

We have many downed trees from the recent storms. Many of the staff have helped with the tree clean up and are making charcoal with the downed trees. This process has been interesting and productive as we work together to cut and haul the branches and logs to make the charcoal. Those who help get some of the finished product for cooking their meals at home. This has kept the staff busy and given us all something to cook with as well.

We chose not to let the current situation in Haiti dictate our attitudes or thoughts. We continue to look to God in the midst of these difficulties. We know and are assured of His mercy, His grace, His protection, and His provision. We constantly feel the steadfast peace of God and know the Lord will intervene in His perfect timing.

Please continue to pray for the forgiveness of the leaders of Haiti, the gangs, and others involved in the problems of Haiti according to 1 Timothy 2:1-2. Also, for the children, youth, and people of Haiti, as well as the missionaries and foreigners, continue to pray for God's divine peace, protection, and deliverance.
— Love you all. Mary Jane & Andris

This year, Craig Boggs' church in Oklahoma held their 3rd Annual Barbeque Cook Off and Craft Sale – a fun and delicious way to raise funds for the mission.

Tamara Howes' church in Michigan did a clothespin/envelope drive to raise funds to support the trade schools.
If your church or organization would like to hold a fundraiser, please contact us for ideas!

HOW TO DONATE TO LIVING HOPE MINISTRIES IN HAITI

Donate online at the **WEBSITE**: www.livinghopehaiti.org. Click on DONATE to get started.

Donate on **FACEBOOK**: <http://www.facebook.com/LivingHopeMinistriesHaiti>. Click the LEARN MORE button at the right side of the page.

Write a **CHECK** and mail it to: Living Hope Ministries in Haiti; PO Box 3578; Dublin, OH 43016-0920. Write the project you are donating toward in the memo space.

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 livinghopeministries94@gmail.com to request a visit.

Current Fund-Raising Initiatives:

Two Projects:

- 1.) Expanding the Gathering Center
- 2.) Providing for Operational Costs

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 number)
- 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.



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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

(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.

Board Members

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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.***