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Rebuilding Hope 2020: Solar Power at Thomazeau! *by Ken Bever*

God has blessed our Thomazeau Hope Center with a huge natural resource – the sun! To take advantage of this great energy source, we have dreamed for years of a solar electric system to reduce the need of our large diesel generator. This past March, God answered our prayers! A 7-kilowatt system is now in place thanks to a number of generous contributors:

- SolarWorld: a donation of solar panels
- AEE Solar: Engineering design work
- JD Solar Solutions: panel racks, inverters, and peripheral equipment
- US Air Force: free jet shipping

An incredible volunteer team of installers from Connecticut, Ohio, and Tennessee came in March to make this system a reality. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Jim and Jodi Dean who

have steered this project, and we are so thankful for our installation crew – Mark McCullough, William Anderson, Peter Scanlon, Damon Weiss, Bob and Lorraine King.

The system currently provides power for three deep-water pumps, two cistern pumps, the orphanage kitchen and dining hall, and the new orphanage dormitory. Solar energy is stored in 24 huge batteries, each weighing over 100 pounds. A small 15-kilowatt Kohler power generator is on standby to turn on automatically during times of peak usage to keep the batteries from fully discharging. Future efforts will transition additional buildings from the old generator system to the new solar system producing significant cost savings.



Solar panels are installed on the roof of the new Thomazeau orphanage dormitory



Solar panels providing power for the orphanage dining hall (above); Children of Thomazeau orphanage benefitting from the new power (right)



From Camper to Gardener!



Mission teams, donors, and strategic partners enabled sponsored children to gain new skills this summer at Camp Hope. Non-profit partners Care of Creation and Hope Seeds provided training and seeds for our campers to learn how to construct sack gardens for sustainable gardening and agricultural training.

Brittany Ederer, one of Care of Creation's Outreach Specialists, taught classes at Camp Hope with the assistance of translator Oxy Vanosky and trained our mentors to build sack gardens with the campers. Brittany remarked, "Our relationship with creation includes the food we eat, which connects us to the plants, soil, water, and nutrient cycles around us. We discussed the importance of protecting the soil from erosion as central to tending and keeping a garden, as well as giving back to the

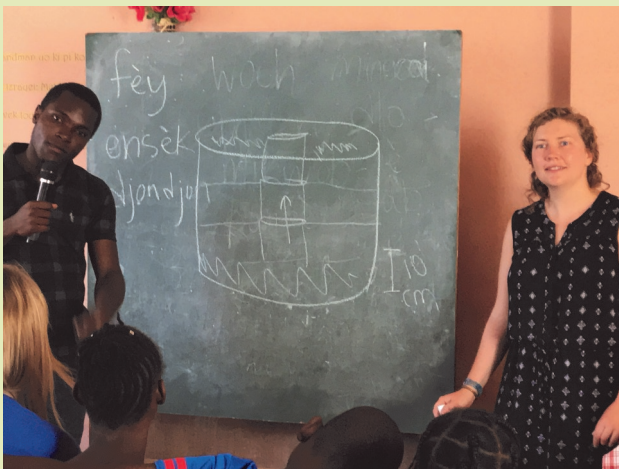


Holes intentionally made in the side of the sack allow for multiple tiers of vegetables to grow in the same amount of space.

soil by creating compost. In our activity time we built eight sack gardens together. A well-cared for garden will produce abundantly, and over time, the healing of the soil will lead to a healthier ecosystem."

The sack gardens are made with large gunny sacks filled with rocks in the center core for stability. Quality fill dirt is placed along the sides and top of the sacks where seeds are then planted, mulched with plant material, and watered. At the end of camp, all teens were given a sack and some seed to recreate the garden outside their homes.

The long-term goal is to provide curriculum and resources in Haitian Creole to train and assist our Haitian leaders and staff who will work with our children to build gardens, grow healthy food, and tend to God's creation.



Changing Children's Lives

Every penny counts! For the past few years, the students at the Westbury Christian School in Houston, TX, have collected coins and put them in specially designed water bottles to help the orphanages in Haiti and Honduras. Steve Hawley, an educator and coach at Westbury has led this effort since 2010. Their goal has been to remind us all how blessed we are and to focus on the verse in James 1:27 to care for orphans.

Their generosity has blessed our orphanage children over the years. Here are just a few ways:

- New mattresses for each child
- Field trip to take all 84 children to the beach and eat at a restaurant
- New shelves in each bedroom to store their clothes and backpacks
- Fans for each bedroom
- Paved basketball court

We are deeply grateful to each student and for their commitment to make a difference in the lives of the children in Haiti!

Students Miranda and Brody hold their coin collection bottles. They, along with Coach Hawley and their teachers, were our special guests at our Rebuilding Hope breakfast event in Houston this year.



Christmas is Coming!

Matchbox cars, tiny dolls, toothbrushes and balls! For children who count a bowl of rice & beans as a valued resource, this box full of toys and basic hygiene items are true gifts to be treasured!

For the past 16 years, churches from across the country have participated in HFHC's Christmas Joy Box Program. This year, our goal was met and exceeded with 32 congregations collectively packing over 2,600 boxes! Now, in addition to every sponsored student receiving a gift, we will also be able to give a joy box to the non-sponsored children who are hoping they would get one too.

HFHC humbly and gratefully thanks the congregations and coordinators of this project around the country for showing the love of Christ in a tangible way!



Carolyn Hughey receives a Joy Box from Mary Gill to send to a little girl (Church of Christ at Tusculum - Nashville, TN)



We are grateful for our partnership with Missionary Flights International which transports all boxes into Haiti - making sure they get there in time for Christmas!

New School Kitchens at the Top of a Mountain

HFHC has two schools located in the mountain communities of Robert and Brajirois. The only way to reach these communities is by a 4-wheel drive vehicle, a motorcycle, a donkey, or on foot. For many years, the principals have requested a school lunch program for the children. Since most families rely on their crops for food, they really struggle with hunger when the dry season hits.

When asked how hunger is affecting the children's ability to learn, the principals reply, "The children will put their heads on their desk, usually around 10:30 or 11:00. They sometimes fall asleep and the younger ones will cry. Sometimes, we just have to send them home because they are too hungry to stay at school."

Thanks to the generosity of many supporters, construction crews have been hard at work all summer to build school kitchens for these two schools. When school began in September, 233 children are now being served a hot nutritious meal each school day for lunch! If you are interested in helping expand HFHC's School Lunch Program, please consider making a donation to the Food Fund.



New school kitchen at the Brajirois Christian Elementary School

The Transformational Power of Water



Water is an essential element of life. In rural parts of Haiti, including the Thomazeau region, water is much less abundant. Without clean water wells, schoolchildren and their families settle for contaminated water for drinking, cooking, and bathing.

Hope for Haiti's Children (HFHC) has partnered with Healing Hands International (HHI) to help tackle this need for clean water. With your prayers and financial support, HHI was able to dig a deep community water well at HFHC's Thomazeau Hope Center. This community water system, powered by solar energy, pumps up to 1,000 gallons into a large tank every day.

Hundreds of adults and children living in this mountainous region can access

the water through one of multiple spigots sheltered under an awning at the Hope Center. Most come early in the morning to fill their water containers for their families. A separate water trough provides for families' donkeys and other animals so they no longer have to huddle around and attempt to drink from the runoff.

In addition to this well and the one already existing at the Hope Center, HHI dug a third well, thanks to funds raised by Bellevue church of Christ's Walk4Water efforts. This solar-powered well provides running water for the bathroom in the new orphanage dormitory, the church baptistry, and the brand-new, 24-stall shower house for Camp Hope. No longer will campers have to use a bucket of water

and plastic cup to bathe.

This third well also houses a pump that fills two 1,000-gallon PVC tanks which sit at the top of the Hope Center's 30-foot-high water tower. With the help of retired engineers Mark McCullough (Cincinnati, OH) and William Anderson (Pegram TN), the new solar energy system powers the pump which automatically turns on and shuts off – preventing the tanks from running dry. Now the families surrounding the Thomazeau Hope Center will no longer worry about searching for clean water every day. The community is seeing Christ's love in action and being drawn to learn more about the true Water of Life!



Let's
Go to
Camp!



Summer camp brings back wonderful memories for many Americans. This past summer, 220 sponsored teenagers enjoyed HFHC's Christian Leadership Youth Camp held at both Global Outreach and Camp Hope facilities. During these weeks of camp, teens heard insightful messages from ministers and mentors, learned about sustainable gardening, built relationships with others, enjoyed tie-dyeing a camp t-shirt, played fun group games, and performed engaging skits. The camps also included Bible memorization, peer-nominated leadership awards, and small group Bible discussion sessions.

The goal of these camps is to develop tomorrow's leaders and build strong bonds among our youth in Haiti. Most campers showed a yearning for additional spiritual insights and knowledge. Surveys taken at the end of camp showed that 30% of campers came to camp already baptized believers and that 76% of unbaptized campers wanted to study more with a minister or mentor when they returned home.

HFHC's Camp Hope facilities hosted two weeks of camp, and the water tower, shower house, and security wall were completed just before the first camp week began in June. This completed Phase 2 of the 4-phase Rebuilding Hope capital efforts for Camp Hope. Phase 3 construction plans includes building eight cabins (four for boys and four for girls) so campers will no longer have to sleep in the Thomazeau Christian School classrooms. Thanks to all HFHC sponsors and Rebuilding Hope partners who make HFHC's Christian Leadership Youth Camps possible so teens can be trained to become outstanding leaders of tomorrow.



Gifts In Memoriam

Merzilia Beauvil

Jophiana Joseph

Bud Belew

Stan and Lynne Brantley

Herschel W. Belew, Jr.

*Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cruze
Jimmy and Betty Pritchard*

Michael Bonine

Preston & Ann Hill

Clara Bradshaw

Clarence & Wilma Moore

Tom Bunkley

Janel Hopper

Joan P. Capps

Judy Lepadatu

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Preston & Ann Hill

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Florence Leblanc**

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Tom & Sandy Besso

Ross Smith

Dale Bever

Thomas & Lisa Bever

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Darrin & Cheryl Ruddy

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Jini John

Libu Varkey

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Robert Welborn

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Carrie, Zach, & Chloe Maness

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Molly Reeder

Jim and Stephanie McKinney

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A gift can be made in memory of a loved one or to honor someone special.

Enclosed is my gift of _____

Your Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

This gift is made to honor _____

or

This gift is in memory of _____

Please send an acknowledgement letter to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Projects to Consider

Each year we become aware of school and orphanage needs, facility repairs and improvements, needs for nourishment and spiritual outreach. Please prayerfully consider donating funds to provide for one of the needs below:

1

Water Coolers

Two of our schools have requested water coolers for the children to drink from during the day.
(\$150 each)



2

School Kitchen

The school at Pageste has started a school lunch program with food prepared in ladies' homes, but need a kitchen built adjacent to the school.
(\$10,000)



3

School Benches

Children sit together on benches which serve as their desks. All 10 schools are in need of new school benches.
(\$125 each)



4

Well Repair

The well at the Pageste Christian Elementary has broken and is in need of repair.
(\$1,500)



5

Storage Cabinet

Nine schools need large lockable storage cabinets to protect their supplies.
(\$500 each)



Hope
for Haiti's
Children

ORPHAN CARE SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 4, 2018

Can your church help us care for the orphaned children in Haiti?

Join us on November 4th for Orphan Care Sunday! By hosting a simple meal or potluck, your church can raise money to care for our orphaned children and fund vital orphanage improvement projects. Information and video are available at:

OrphanCareSunday.org



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**A Special
Thanks**



**to our
Facebook
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