

Joyful Moments from
the Past 25 Years (p.1-2)

Come and See (p.3)

25 Years Bringing Hope to Haiti's
Children (p.4-5)

Key Events Timeline (p.4-5)

Unimaginable Devastation
Leads to Promising Future (p.6-7)

HFHC's Response to the Pandemic (p.8)

Joyful Moments from the Past 25 Years by Ken and Rhonda Bever

As we reflect over the past 25 years, our lives have been so richly blessed. This ministry has allowed us a “front-row seat” to witness the Spirit of God working through His people. We want to share a few of these joyous times from our experience.

Join in the Praise at Delmas!

It is LOUD. It is JOYFUL. It is EXUBERANT. The worship songs that reverberate off the concrete walls come from the HEART. The PASSION coming from the congregation is CONTAGIOUS. How could this song leader and unemployed accountant, Jambon Severe, be praising God at the top of his lungs – and everyone around us with him? We couldn't help but join in the torrent of praise, using our English words for those songs with familiar tunes. And how could 300+ members of the Delmas 28 Eglise du Christ squeeze into an 1,800 sq. ft. room without air conditioning? How blessed we've been to partner with this Spirit-filled group since our first trip in 1995, who were already reaching out to the poor despite their own poverty.



Hear a 2004 recording of Jambon Severe leading worship at Delmas. Scan the QR code to the left with your phone's camera. Point the camera at the QR code, and the link will appear at the top of your phone screen.



Jambon Severe leading worship at
Delmas Eglise du Christ



Julie Georges meeting her sponsored child for the first time

Parenn Meets Sponsored Child

What joy to witness the excitement in a sponsor's face as they prepare to meet their sponsored child. The photo on their fridge is about to become a real, live boy or girl which they can shower with love and gifts of affection. In Haitian culture, a child's sponsor is their “parenn” (godparent) – who prays for them and cares about all aspects of their life, including their spiritual future. When the meeting time arrives, the huge smile on the child's face as they get to greet and thank their *parenn* is priceless.



hope for haiti's children[®]



Children playing with balloons
inspires first logo

A Simple Balloon

The remote village of Pageste was the inspiration for the artwork of our first HFHC logo, created by LeaAnne Cogswell using a 1995 trip photo. Evidently, this was the first time the children had ever seen or played with a balloon. As we began to bat the brightly-colored balloons upward, screams of delight filled the air! More and more children wanted to be included in the fun and tried to keep the balloons airborne. When one would finally land on a cactus needle—creating a loud “pop” — applause and more screams of delight would follow!

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

In June 1999, our first Christian Leadership Camp was held in a downtown Port-au-Prince basketball gymnasium with a gigantic hole in the middle of the roof. This made the 3-legged race a bit more of a challenge after it rained, as our teens had to navigate through the water on center court! Our sponsored teens are always thrilled to be invited to come to camp. They have such fun playing together, studying and memorizing God’s Word, and understanding God’s plan as it relates to their personal lives.

Jeantyard Elmera, senior minister for the Delmas congregation and HFHC-Haiti President usually closes out the last evening with a gospel message and an appeal for our teens to put their faith in Jesus and submit to baptism. This decision might be a costly one, since some teens come from families who are antagonistic to Christianity. In July 2016, during the song “Mwen te deside pou m swiv Lesevè” (I Have Decided to Follow Jesus), we were praying for several who had earlier indicated they were seriously considering this important step. What joy to see the first young man come forward, followed by 29 others! We didn’t have baptismal garments, but Jeantyard just said, “Hold my wallet,” took off his shoes and socks, waded into the pool, and baptized each one!



Jeantyard baptizing at camp

There are so many more stories. We hope that these few have provided a glimpse into the joy which we have witnessed. We want to thank all of you – our sponsors, financial partners, volunteers, and prayer warriors – who have joined us during these past 25 years in working side-by-side with our Haitian brothers and sisters. Together, we believe our investment in the lives of these young people will keep Hope for Haiti’s Children strong for many years ahead.



Jeantyard Elmera and Gueston Pacius with the first sponsored children

Come and See: The Beginning of HFHC by Julie Georges

In 1995, five of us from the Connecticut Valley Church of Christ set out for a visit to the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere -- Haiti. We went because Ken and Rhonda Bever had a "chance" encounter with Jeantyard Elmera after a trip they had made the previous year to help at an orphanage in northern Haiti. Though now a U.S. citizen, Jeantyard was born and educated through his high school years in Haiti. After leaving a government job, he received training in the Bible and became a full-time gospel preacher, church planter, and speaker on the World Radio program in Port-au-Prince. Jeantyard had met with our congregation and inspired us to "Come and see!" Below is my journal entry as we landed in Port-au-Prince:

"My first experience with Haitian need occurred when we walked out of the airport. A large barbed wire fence separated those with baggage from those with problems. As we stood inside the fenced area, a woman with an obviously sick child called to us asking for money. Cari, Rhonda and I stared at each other and glanced at our fourteen 100 lb. boxes. We wanted to help—it was the whole point of our trip. Should we give her money? Paralysis set in—we didn't give her anything. She was hardly deterred and confronted us more directly as we left the safe haven of the fence. Our hearts were crushing under the observance of her obvious need, and the sight of the multitudes who were making their way toward us with similar plights. People were shouting Ken Bever's name—clearly printed on every one of our boxes. The multitudes were pressing us—paralysis evolved into active avoidance. The people grabbed our arms, called to us, shoved their problems into our faces and begged us. We ran away, tried to rationally explain in broken English why we could not help them in that moment, and invited them to church. We finally left the airport with a young boy hanging on to the car through an open window as our truck was moving. He finally let go."

We soon learned God was up to something in Haiti. We spent the week travelling to fledgling church schools with our Haitian counterparts. We saw Godly men who could help us navigate this wild place and in whom we could put our full trust. Jeantyard, who lived in Haiti, but whose U.S. citizenship could take him away from this difficult life. Jambon Severe -- whose faith and gift as a worship leader was incredible. Gueston Pacius -- a former Catholic priest who was teaching the children of Cite Soleil, the poorest slum in the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. At the end of our week we had paperwork for 50 children to be sponsored in an organization now called Hope for Haiti's Children.



Rhonda, Ken, Jeantyard, and Julie on their first visit to Haiti



Jambon Severe and Jeantyard Elmera

Unimaginable Devastation Leads to Promising Future



School Before the Earthquake



Earthquake: Completely Destroyed



Today: Rebuilt School and Church

The Earthquake

At 4:53pm on January 12, 2010, a massive 7.0 magnitude earthquake shook the earth beneath the capital city of Port-au-Prince. Afterward, the landscape and the lives of three million people were changed forever. Over 300,000 lives were lost in an instant, resulting in a population of grieving families and orphaned children. Approximately 1 million homes were destroyed, forcing people to live on the streets, in tents, or in the rubble that remained. Hope for Haiti's Children's three-story school located in the heart of Port-au-Prince crumbled to the ground, killing 36 nursing students and one doctor who were conducting training inside. Hope began to fade...to this day, this earthquake remains the greatest natural disaster in recorded history in the Western Hemisphere.

The Response

In the days and months that followed, Hope for Haiti's Children responded by sending \$1.1 million in emergency relief funds to assist with food, water, clothing, housing, school reconstruction, and medical care. The crisis prompted our Board of Directors to adopt a long-term plan entitled Rebuilding Hope 2020 with the goal of providing a sustainable infrastructure to restore families, strengthen schools, and develop leaders. Rebuilding Hope 2020 had three primary objectives:

1. **Nurture** outstanding leaders by building and strengthening two locally-operated **Christian orphanages**
2. **Educate** outstanding leaders by building and strengthening ten locally-operated **Christian schools**
3. **Train** outstanding leaders by providing vocational programs and **Christian leadership camps**



The Opportunity

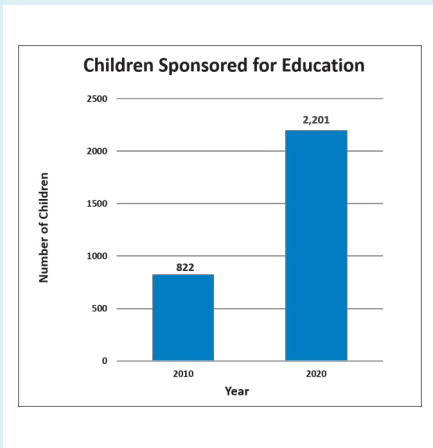
Prior to the earthquake, HFHC had acquired 21 acres of land and built a mission house in Thomazeau, Haiti. As we continued to look at the ongoing needs of the Haitian people, it became very clear that this land had a purpose far beyond what was initially imagined. As we prayerfully addressed challenges, solutions emerged, and the Thomazeau Hope Center soon became a beacon of Hope.

Challenge	Solution
Thousands of children were left orphaned after the earthquake	Opened a second orphanage at the Thomazeau Hope Center for 12 children and added 24 more children to the Cazeau Christian Orphanage in Port-au-Prince
Hundreds of children in the Thomazeau community had nowhere to attend school	Built a school at the Thomazeau Hope Center which now educates 400 children from Kindergarten to 8 th grade
Rented summer camp facilities	Built facilities and now operates Camp Hope for teenagers during the summer

The Growth

We would have never dreamed how God would bless the work in the years since the earthquake, but the growth has been more than we could have asked or imagined.

In the ten years since the devastating earthquake, our Rebuilding Hope 2020 partners have helped us fund \$5 million of projects to build two homes for orphaned children, educate children in 10 Christian schools in southern and central Haiti, start school lunch programs, and fund the construction of a leadership training camp at our Thomazeau Hope Center. For the children we have been able to reach, the change in their lives has been truly significant.



Two Orphanages, Ten Schools



Thomazeau Orphanage



Cazeau Orphanage



Cite Soleil



Delmas



Dubuisson



Mirebalais



Pageste



Cazeau



Hinche



Brajirois



Robert



Thomazeau



Thomazeau Hope Center

What's Next

Project Hope 2030 is our new 10-year strategic plan to continue to nurture, educate, and train poverty-bound Haitian children so they can have the opportunities to become leaders in their homes, churches, and communities. As we reflect on the blessings of the past 25 years and ask God for direction for the future, we rest assured that the Lord will direct our steps as He has in the past.





Hope for Haiti's Children
12020 Southwick Lane
Cincinnati, OH 45241
1-866-314-9330

U.S. Staff

Ken Bever, *Founder/President*
Tonya Hunt, *Vice President*
Jennifer Anthony, *Finance Manager*
Charlayne Boyd, *Office Manager*
Dina Clyde, *IT/Website Consultant*
Steve Cooner, *Development Director*
Amy Hughes, *Sponsorship Manager*
Meredith Hutchens, *Camp Coordinator/Media*
Jennifer Rice, *Gift Processing Coordinator*
Melissa St. Clair, *Office Assistant*
Jonah Turner, *Communications Coordinator*

Haiti NGO Operational Team

Jeantyard Elmera, *President*
Jean Baptiste Chery, *Vice President*
Natacha Dormevil, *Thomazeau Orphanage Administrator*
Marieshelle Jean-Pierre, *Finance Administrator*
Evenson Johnny Laine, *Operations Assistant*
Roolite Religeaux, *Spiritual Development Trainer*
Ducalie Thomas, *Sponsorship Coordinator*
Sonia Toussaint, *Cazeau Orphanage Administrator*

Board of Directors

Kent Blake - Germantown, TN
Cedric Boyd - West Chester, OH
Jenya Comfort, Statesville, NC
Peggy Cruze - West Chester, OH
Doug Freede - Sugar Land, TX
Julie Georges - Bridgeport, CT
Bruce Zupa - Nashville, TN



HFHC's Response to the Pandemic

The first case of COVID-19 at the end of March brought all travel to Haiti to a halt and forced schools, churches, and most businesses to close. By September, the number of cases identified was slightly above 8,300 for Haiti's 11.4 million people, but many believe that number is much higher. In addition, hospitals are poorly equipped to provide care for the severely ill. We remain grateful that *no children, staff members, or administrators in our schools* have tested positive.

With children staying home, we had reports of many going hungry since they depend on the lunch that they receive at school each day. In response, we distributed rice and beans on a regular basis to all 2,201 of our sponsored children in all ten schools. This emergency relief was joyfully received and served as a reminder to our children and families that they are not forgotten, and that God provides.

In mid-August schools reopened to complete the 2019-2020 school year on October 9th. In November, they will start the 2020-2021 school year.

The future is uncertain for all of us during this pandemic, and we so appreciate each of you who stand beside us as we endeavor to help the hungry and hurting that God has placed in our care.



CORONAVIRUS
Keep Your Distance
Stay at least 2 meters from each other