



## *20 Years of Ministry* – So glad we accepted the invitation to “Come and See”!

by Ken Bever

This year marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hope for Haiti’s Children. The ministry started in 1995 with an invitation by a government health official turned full-time minister, Jeantyard Elmera, to “come and see” the opportunities in the southern and central part of Haiti. Four of us from our newly-formed Connecticut congregation accepted his invite.

What we witnessed was truly amazing! We saw an incredible outreach effort to reach the poorest of the poor already underway by the Christians at the Delmas 28 Eglise du Christ in Port-au-Prince. This congregation did not own their own building, had a \$200/week budget, and only 30% of the members had employment. We viewed them as extremely poor. Yet these Christians took to heart the words of Jesus, “It is

more blessed to give than to receive”, especially as they saw the needs of the children around them. This congregation was attempting to build a Christian school in the seaside slum of Cite Soleil. They had received free property from the mayor to build on and had received a grant from the Choctaw Church of Christ to build a facility, but they needed to find sponsors to cover each child’s tuition and educational expenses. They desired our help to take on the U.S. side of a sponsorship ministry.

We reported back to our congregation what we had seen and asked for volunteers to stay after church if they were interested in helping find sponsors for the 13 children whose pictures and information we had brought back with



*Jeantyard Elmera and Ken Bever during the “Come and See” Haiti trip in 1995*

us (11 pictured below). **Thirty** of our congregation’s 80 members stayed, all 13 children were sponsored that day, and Hope for Haiti’s Children was launched!

We praise God for how he has continued to bless this ministry – bringing the necessary partners and resources to allow us to now sponsor 1,378 children in 10 Christian schools, support 84 children in two orphanages, and operate a Hope Center outreach facility. We look forward to the next 20 years!



*First children enrolled in HFHC’s child sponsorship ministry*







# HOPE CENTER PAVILION COMPLETED!

## Joint American-Haitian effort raises the roof!

As an integral part of HFHC's Rebuilding Hope 2020 initiative, the Thomazeau Hope Center multi-purpose classroom and pavilion area was designed in June of 2012 to house the Thomazeau Christian Elementary School, the Thomazeau Church of Christ, HFHC's after-school training programs, and future assemblies at summer camps. Step-by-step and prayer-by-prayer, God opened the doors to make this dream become a reality.

In September 2012 — thanks to Rebuilding Hope 2020 partners and a grant from the Center Hill Church of Christ — a school office, two classrooms (preschool and kindergarten) and an outdoor latrine were

built. This launched the Thomazeau school and served as the meeting place for the new Thomazeau congregation.

By September 2014, two more classrooms were added. However, training sessions, church services, and Vacation Bible Schools were overflowing. ***A pavilion was needed!***

In February 2015, with the help of Dr. Don Henderson and many U.S. volunteers, wood and roofing supplies were purchased and trusses were pre-cut. The lumber was palletized and transported from Cincinnati to a U.S. Air Force base in South Carolina awaiting the next mission flight to Haiti.



*Concrete floor poured a bucket at a time*



*Houston-Haitian joint team which assembled and raised the pavilion in 5 days!*

By March 7, thanks to our Rebuilding Hope partners, the project was now 100% funded and the Air Force flew the pallets to Haiti! The pallets were met with a work team of 12 from Houston, led by Thom Besso, which partnered with 14 Haitian men and women to assemble and lift 26 trusses (400 lbs. each) to the top of the pavilion by hand in high winds. Through the incredible teamwork and exhausting physical labor of this amazing team, the 4,000 square foot pavilion roof was completed in 5 days!

The next Sunday, the church began using this new covered assembly area and a mission team from Crowleys Ridge College conducted a Vacation Bible School for 150 children the next week. What a blessing this facility will be for years to come!

We praise God for His help in bringing all the resources required together and thank everyone who played a part in turning this dream into a reality.



## IN MEMORIUM

### Joshua Alcorn

*Kenneth & Pamela Ellis  
Dave & Shaun Talaber*

### Omar Barbour

*Kenneth & Pamela Ellis  
Maria Ficker  
Jill Horn*

*Doug & Carolyn Hughey*

### Michael Bonine

*Preston & Ann Hill  
Mary Onstead*

### Jean Chery

*Glenn & Jennifer Anthony  
Ken & Rhonda Bever  
Rich & Dina Clyde  
Charles & Amy Hughes  
Tonya Hunt  
Dave & Shaun Talaber*

### Mr. Ivy Duke

*Hollis & Nancy Tackitt*

### Frank Comfort

*Phil & Colleen Anzalone  
Ken & Rhonda Bever  
Georgiana Braley  
Thomas & Rena Brown*

*Marilyn Czekaj*

*David & Marsha Darrah*

*Patrick & Anita Dignan*

*Mike Dougan*

*William & Shirley Essee*

*Jim Fair*

*Robert & Elizabeth Galloway*

*Marvin & Diann Graham*

*Paul & Diann Huston*

*Richard Kostica*

*Jeff & Carolyn Maness*

*Dr. Mary Nauman*

*Scott & Kelsie Powell*

*Terron Queer*

*Edward & Lori Sarkel*

*Kenneth Secrest*

### Frank Comfort, cont.

*Carter Smith*

*Ken & Jan Stevenson*

*Nyla & Michael Thilman*

*Timothy Trafecanty*

*Sarah Alice Warner*

*Wilma Watts*

### Dale Conner

*Steve & Susan Barker*

*Mark & Kim Clark*

*Charlie & Peggy Cruze*

*Kenneth & Pamela Ellis*

*David & Jill Evans*

*Jeff & Debbie Giles*

*Tonya Hunt*

*Jack & Tari Kennamer*

*Jean Mitchell*

*Tommy & Jane Raulston*

*Jim & Cindy Skinner*

*Dave & Shaun Talaber*

*Eddie & Joyce Varney*

### Gladys Gilliland

*Pence & Janis Dacus*

### Rick Greidanus

*Gordon Dickson*

### Myrle Hall

*Karla Storrs*

### Allen Henderson

*Northeast Church of Christ*

### Merle Hoover

*Betty Hoover*

### Mr. & Mrs. William C. Jones

*Donna Sue Jones*

### Barbara Kleine

*Doug & Carolyn Hughey*

### Robert Knox

*Billie & Gerald Brasher*

### Dennis & Lynn Lacoss

*Patricia Lacoss-Arnold*

### Linette Manus

*Yves-Rose & Rene Barbot*

### Glen Nichols

*Jean Nichols*

### Mary-Rhine St. Fleur

*Larisa Albrecht*

*David Alexander*

### Mary-Rhine St. Fleur, cont.

*Michael & Janice Bergeron*

*Dare Family Services, INC.*

*James & Jodi Dean*

*Raymond & Susan Durete*

*Jennifer & Eric Foley*

*John & Bonnie Geysen*

*Herga Harvey*

*Opal Hine*

*Kenneth King*

*Wanda & Kenneth King*

*Carole Lietz*

*Manchester Church of Christ*

*Anthony & Gladys Melakian*

*Mike & Lynn Paden*

*Francis & Barbara Rohan*

*Leroy Washington*

*Karan Wilson*

### Gwen Swann

*Steve & Carol Manley*

### James White

*Linda Williams*

## IN HONOR OF

### Melvin Aguilar

*Richard Cobb*

### Gary & Marialyn Barnard, Ashley

### & Adam Means, Brandi Barnard,

### Cone Scott, Valerie Barnard,

### Daniel & Renea Stevens

*George & Bonnie Barnard*

### The Baxter Family

*Michelle Baxter*

### Bryce & Jennifer Baxter

*LaVonne Baxter*

### Hannah Baxter

*Jennifer & Bryce Baxter*

*LaVonne Baxter*

### LaVonne Baxter

*Jennifer & Bryce Baxter*

### Michelle Baxter

*Jennifer & Bryce Baxter*

*LaVonne Baxter*

### Thom & Sandy Besso

*Ross Smith*

*Tony Shelton*

### Ken & Rhonda Bever

*Ron & Doris Bever*

### Ron & Doris Bever

*Derek Hailey*

### Mark Borgerding

*Janice Bowman*

### Richard Cobb

*James Webster*

### Peggy Cruze

*University Church of Christ*

### Ken Fargnoli

*Charles & Laura Murad*

### Charley & Linda Heard

*Mark & Leslie McCullough*

### The Higgs Family

*Amy Olson*

### Tonya Hunt

*Deborah Miller*

### Tommy Hutchens

*Glenn & Jennifer Anthony*

### Cianne Knowles, Cailey Proctor and Lily Staton

*John Stanton*

### Dennis & Lynn Lacoss

*Martha Wersch*

*Richard & Barbara Lacoss*

### Jan McBee

*Judy West*

### Bob Neiman

*Paul & Mary Ann Tucker*

### Billy & Laura Obuchowski

*LaVonne Baxter*

*Jennifer & Bryce Baxter*

### Michael & Serena Quinn

*Tracey McKenna*

### The Schroeder Family

*Jack & Tari Kennamer*

### Sister Martha Ann

*Mary Jean Davidge*

### Stephen Smith

*Ian & Ali Smith*

### Hillary & Joe Stoker (Joe Paul & Sophie), Bobby & Whitney Martin

### (Easton),

### & Chase Giles

*Jeff & Debbie Giles*

### Argean Vokes

*Brent Vokes*

## Haiti...I Can't Wait to Go Back! *by Steve Cooner*

This past January, I had the opportunity to take my first trip to Haiti. Having started in my new position as HFHC Development Director in December of 2014, it made sense that a trip would be required to fully understand our work. I was thankful to be part of HFHC's annual child care clinic mission trip, which provided me with the opportunity to see a great deal in a short period of time.

When we started out towards the clinic on our first day, my eyes were opened to the sights around me: the widespread poverty, the hungry faces of both the young and the old, and the difficult conditions in which most of the people are forced to live.

Interviewing the sponsored children at the clinic was a very moving experience. Many of these children had to travel a great distance to be there. Yet, they

were clean; many of the girls had the colorful braids in their hair; and all were wearing their finest clothes. Not until later on did I understand how important this clinic is to them and to their future. Not once did I see a child misbehave.

I also spent time with the children at our two Christian orphanages. My visits brought the message home to me as to just what Hope for Haiti's Children does to improve the life of these children and the difference this is making in these children's lives. These orphaned children are being cared for and loved by Haitian Christian caretakers, while many in this country have no place to live, much less nourishing food or clean water.

The week just flew by. I never would have guessed that a trip like this would have made such an impact on my life. When everyone was saying, "You just



*Steve visits the Cazeau Christian Orphanage for the first time*

have to see it for yourself" — was that ever true. I can't wait to get back and see those sweet children again.



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[www.hopeforhaitischildren.org](http://www.hopeforhaitischildren.org)

# 2015 ORPHAN CARE SUNDAY

November 15<sup>th</sup>

Join Us!

*Churches,  
families, & groups:  
Share together in a  
simple meal,  
remembering  
God's heart  
for the  
orphaned child.*

For more info, please visit:  
[OrphanCareSunday.org](http://OrphanCareSunday.org)

## School Uplift! — Helping HFHC Schools In Need

When you think of the word “school”, what comes to mind? In Haiti, the word school takes on an entirely different meaning than we might define in the United States. Gravel floors, blackboards, no air conditioning or electricity, and crowded conditions are where these young children go and flourish. HFHC-sponsored children attend school in less than ideal conditions but are so grateful for the opportunity to get an education and break the cycle of poverty.

HFHC's School Uplift! ministry brings focus to the needs of our partner schools so that the environment is as conducive as possible for learning. The children in the 5th grade classroom (pictured right) located in the mountain village of Robert sit shoulder to shoulder in this crowded classroom with a dirt floor. A concrete floor (\$3,000) is currently on the top of the capital needs of this school. All of our schools need desk benches (\$125/ea) and chalkboards (\$200/ea). Larger capital projects include building a kindergarten classroom at the Pageste Christian School (\$10,000) and replacing a worn metal roof at the



*Students sit in their crowded classroom*

Dubuisson Christian Elementary School (\$8,000). If you, your congregation, or organization would be interested in “lifting up” one of our schools this year, please call our office or send an email to [uplift@hopeforhaitischildren.org](mailto:uplift@hopeforhaitischildren.org).