

Living Hope Ministries in Haiti

January - February 2021 Newsletter



The LHM 2020 Annual Report: Reflecting on the Past and Anticipating the Future

2020 was interesting, unique, challenging, and tragic worldwide due to the pandemic. Haiti struggled, along with the world, in pandemic issues while suffering many others on the home front. Political and civil unrest continued and escalated across Haiti. Haitian prices escalated at steady rate all year resulting in high inflation. Next, the Haitian government ordered deflation of the US currency exchange rate at a precipitous amount, literally overnight. As a result of this combined and substantial volatility, many of our normal operations, special projects, and original plans changed.

I. Zion Church – Haiti

- From March through July, the government ordered home confinement and the closure of schools and churches due to COVID. As a result, we videotaped church services without congregation members present, posting them to YouTube for members and others. In August, our church doors opened, but temperature checks, sanitizer, social distancing, and masks were required. These measures continue today by government order. We are one of a few facilities in our area still obeying orders.
- Our choir continues, functioning with all safety measures in place. We sang a few times in church with masks in place.
- Sunday school continues. However, preschool, kindergarten, and the 1st and 2nd grades aren't required to attend. We still have 7 Sunday school classes.
- All special events, such as Christmas Concerts, VBS, and Seminars were cancelled for the year.
- We had several individuals accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior this year during services.
- We continue Hospitality after services, serving in napkins with our gloved hands: Kool-Aid or coffee, and bread were available to those who desired it.
- We continue twice weekly Bible Studies. The men's group meets every Sunday night, and the women's group every Wednesday evening. The children's group of 40+ and the youth group of 6-12+ meet every Sunday evening.
- Sunday morning services continue with 150-300 in attendance.
- We continue to assist many people and members with funds for medicines, Dr. visits, education, food, etc.
- We assisted 8 youth in higher education such as high school and university.

II. Primary School

- 2019-2020 was a very difficult, hit-and-miss school year due to the mandated closure. However, we paid teachers and staff every month. 100% of our graduating 6th graders enrolled and attend local high schools, but are limited by COVID and unrest.
- Our 2019-2020 school year ended in October. It was a very fragile, stress-filled year because of COVID and the unrest. But we tried our best to continue to be a model. We kept school open whenever possible to give the students a complete education. We had 5 preschool classes and 9 elementary classes (1st-6th grades) in 2019-2020.
- A new 2020-2021 school year opened in November 2020 and continues today. It has 3 preschool classes and 10 elementary classes (1st – 6th). 80% of our teachers returned to work.
- In November, all the 2nd second graders started in music classes with Recorders. They are so excited! This was previously offered to 3rd graders. It operates 3 hours a week, divided into 2 days.
- The new program for 3rd graders is Violin. Every student chooses to learn Violin or Embroidery. Both classes operate at the same time for 2-3 hours once a week. The students are excited about their choice, and are advancing.
- We purchased 29 new violins with cases from a fellow missionary here in Haiti for \$70 or \$75 each. Our goal is always to have enough instruments or supplies for each student to participate in the class at the same time. This year we have 22 third graders in the Violin class.

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

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getting your
LHM Newsletter by
email!

You are helping us to be
good stewards of your
donations and utilize
them in the best
possible ways.

For more information,
please contact:
Fritz Adams Crisler
crisler@mich.com

SAVE THE DATE:
Circumstances permitting,
the next **Fall Benefit
Dinner and Silent Auction**
will be held on **October 9,
2021** at Der Dutchman in
Plain City, Ohio. Stay
tuned for updates as we
see how 2021 unfolds!

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.

This newsletter is a publication of Living Hope Ministries in Haiti (LHM), P.O. Box 3578, Dublin OH 43016-0290

www.LivingHopeHaiti.org

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The 2020 Annual Report (continued)

II. Primary School, continued

- The other 3rd graders are in Embroidery with Mary Jane and one of their 3rd grade teachers (Marie Joséé, also the 1st-year sewing teacher for the trade school). We are learning how to hem and make basic stitches, doing projects at least monthly. Students are always excited to see their handiwork.
- Meanwhile, we continue our practical hands-on classes: 1st grade: paper art; 2nd grade: plastic canvas lacing; 3rd-grade girls: basic sewing; 3rd-grade boys: shop with wood; 4th grade: cooking; 5th grade: crochet; 6th grade: string art. Mary Jane teaches the crochet and string art classes weekly, and fills in as needed on the other classes.

III. Trade School

- We have 350+ students enrolled this year in Sewing, Tailoring, Embroidery, Welding & Ironwork, Cooking & Baking, Business, and Music (Keyboard, Guitar, Drums, Violin, Saxophone, Trumpet, and Vocal) classes.
- Our students continue to excel on their government exams every summer. We have raised the standard again with the government exams from CAP to BAP, adding Technical Drawing, also. Our graduates and current students are already finding positions in their trades or creating their own businesses. It is really exciting to be a part of their progress and success.
- We have 11 previous graduate students teaching in the trade school. 6 of them are also graduates of the primary school. All office staff are graduates of the trade school.
- Andris continues to teach special math classes to Welding and Cooking students, and letter writing, etc., to all the classes, as well as anything else, as needed. Mary Jane is teaching Embroidery 3 days a week, along with nutrition classes to the Cooking classes, and whatever else is needed.
- We hired Mr. Abakuk as the Director of the Music Program. The music classes added Violin to their options in 2020. In 2021, Saxophone, Trumpet, and Vocal have been added. We are blessed and see many more exciting changes and additions for the future of the music classes.

IV. Entrepreneurship project

- We have helped others to establish home-based businesses, selling foods and grocery supplies. The men's coop project continues to help establish or grow existing businesses.

V. Visitors: We have had no visitors due to Covid and the political/civil unrest.

VI. Upcoming activities and teams: We will receive visitors again as soon as the country opens up. Please check our website to learn how to submit your team information. We would love to schedule your visit!

VII. Thanks to your generosity in our Fall 2020 **Make a Home in Haiti** fundraiser, we finished the exterior and interior construction of Mary Jane's and Andris' apartment. However, we are waiting to finish purchasing items in the city, delayed due to present insecurities related to political/civil unrest.

VIII. We are discussing the purchase of a mission vehicle.

IX. Future Construction Plans/Ideas/Dreams

- Our dream is to build a music building on the front corner of the mission near the gate. It would house the music classes, instruments, and offices.
- Another dream is to build a small library and cyber space for our students and the community. There are none available within 5-7 miles. We would stock it with books in French, Creole, and English. We would have internet, computers for research and homework, and 1-2 printers. This would be a place for local students of all ages to come and do research, and study with lights, tables, and chairs present.
- We would staff the library, having strict rules for loaning books, and for participating in the library center.
- We would like to construct a science lab building and a computer lab for our primary students.

Sponsor a Student



Student sponsorship is so important because it provides the children with a hot nutritious meal daily, textbooks, and school supplies. Would you be willing to help sponsor one child at \$30 a month which is only \$1 a day or possibly even two children a month at \$2 a day? There are currently 200+ sponsored students out of the 350+ currently enrolled.

Our prayer is for 100% sponsorship. Thank you for your assistance in growing up the next generation in Haiti with a Christian education and vocational training.

For more information, contact Mark Gunderson at MLGondo@comcast.net or call/text at 248-521-9240.



2020 Annual Report (continued)

IX. Future Construction Plans/Ideas/Dreams, continued

- We would like to run double sessions of trade school classes: one in the morning and one in the afternoon.
- We dream about building a new room for additional office space during the week. This space would double as a children's and youth's room at the front corner of the church.

X. Special Current needs list

- 20 new Netbooks with Windows 10 for upcoming September business classes (our current ones are 10 years old). We have a total of 37 1st and 2nd year students, and 56 Saturday computer students. Our educational efforts would benefit greatly from these additions.
- Working, clean used laptops for our youth, helping them in their schooling.
- New laptops for offices and ministry.
- 4 more storage cabinets for classes. To be purchased in Haiti, \$300 each.
- New and used musical instruments: especially 61-key keyboards, guitars, drum sets, violins, saxophones, cornets, clarinets, and flutes.
- School supplies: geometry instruments, glitter, construction paper, preschool puzzles, preschool playsets, and toys.
- Sewing fabric and notions. Embroidery floss and kits.
- Whatever else the Lord lays on your heart.

We thank you and cherish your prayers for strength, favor, and endurance for Andris, Mary Jane, and the staff of LHM. Please continue to pray for the safety and protection of our President, Prime Minister, Government, and the people of Haiti. Please pray also for all the safety and protection our students, and pray that they will be able to continue their education without fear and interruption.

Thank you for your generous and faithful financial support, resulting in a year of success and prosperity for LHM in 2020. You have blessed us in the midst of your own formidable personal challenges and hardships, and the issues of Haiti and the world.

We love you all and pray for you! Mary Jane & Andris

To see the amazing progress on the apartment, click the link below or copy it into your browser:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5JqYk2piwg4>

Follow us on Facebook: www.Facebook.com/LivingHopeMinistriesinHaiti/
or on Instagram: www.instagram.com/livinghopehaiti

Learn More About Haiti: If you would like Mary Jane or Andris to come and share with your church, Bible Study, or other group, please contact Fritz Adams Crisler at crisler@mich.com or call (734) 761-7171. No meeting is too small or too large. Mary Jane and Andris are generally in the States for speaking engagements in the fall and in the spring.



How to Donate Gifts of Hope for LHM

1) **Electronic giving online** at www.livinghopehaiti.org

- Direct payments from a Checking or Savings account (one-time or recurring), or
- 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):

- Preschool/Primary/Trade School
- Church/Community Project
- Student Sponsorship (include Student's number)
- General

Visit Haiti on a Mission Trip

If you are thinking about coming to Haiti on a mission trip, let us know! We would love to have you.

There are lots of exciting things happening here at LHM!

Please contact Mary Jane and Andris directly at

lh-m-haiti@hotmail.com or skype phone #614-602-2802 in Haiti.

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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:

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

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

www.livinghopehaiti.org/donation

Sponsor Packages

Please send sponsor boxes, cards, and letters to:

Mary Jane & Andris Jolibois
Living Hope Ministries
C/O Agape Flights (Acct # 16278)
100 Airport Ave.
Venice, FL 34285

Do not send cash or checks to this address.

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Thank-You to everyone who contributes to or prays for LHM.
You are a blessing to us, and you are reaching the people of Haiti with Christ's love in Action.