

Living Hope Ministries

December 2015 Newsletter

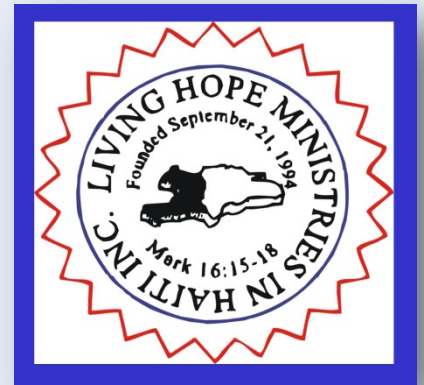
My Understanding of Christmas in Haiti

I want to start off by saying – people have opinions and different experiences but I can only speak from what I have experienced and been told by the Haitian people I have worked with and ministered to over the years.

Andris has informed me that yes, before I came to Haiti in 1986, things had been very different and much of what has been written or portrayed about Christmas was true before the fall of Baby Doc. Most Haitians celebrated a festive Christmas with tree branches decorated for their Christmas trees, houses were cleaned and given a fresh coat of paint. The families would purchase new linens and items for their homes. Christmas eve, the children would polish the shoes and fill them with straw/ grass as a stocking for Santa (Tonton Nwel) to come and fill the shoes and around them with gifts. Also, the people would party in the streets all night long; including the children. Then they would go to bed and rise late on Christmas day.

I have always worked with the less prosperous rural people for my 29 years of experience. Most of the Haitian Christians will spend Christmas Eve in prayer services at least till midnight. Then more services most all day Christmas day. Many of the children of the Christians go roaming about on their own if they are not also participating in the church services. Family time and even Christmas celebrations among the local Christians are looked down upon and considered ungodly and pagan only. Therefore many of the local churches don't even sing Christmas carols. Some working people use the holiday to visit friends or relatives, if possible.

Our Christmas here at Living Hope Ministries is an example for our students, staff and communities. We begin by having the students in daily chapel and church services sing and learn new Christmas carols. As we explain to others, we are celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ over 2000 years ago as a baby. If he was not born, then He could not be our Saviour. He couldn't have died upon the cross for our sins and rose from the grave and then ascended into Heaven to prepare a place for us. Therefore, we make this a moment to share the Gospel at every turn. The youth get the privilege of putting up the Church Christmas tree. Oh my, it is a delight to watch them as they have never had this chance before. This time they got it upside first, then took it apart and put it together right side up. They have a time of team



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

**Please consider
getting your LHM
newsletter by email.**

Thank you!

For more information
contact:
Cathystacy@aol.com



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.

My Understanding of Christmas in Haiti cont.

building and fellowship over their Christmas tree. The other church decorations (nativity sets, lights...) are added by the church members. Oh how fun it is to see the children and adults discover the decorations and their meanings.

We usually have a Christmas Eve service lasting an hour or so with Christmas carols, readings of the Birth of Jesus Christ, fellowship and maybe refreshments. We encourage our children, youth and adults to spend family time on Christmas day, but many will come by the mission and just want to hang out. This is a haven for them.

Generally, if we can, we have tried to at least put some small gift together for each child (a toothbrush, soap, toothpaste, a toy, or whatever we can find at the mission. This year we will not be doing this until after Christmas as we have a family making up a small ziplock gift bag for each child that will be here after Christmas. We also generally give a small gift to our staff and teachers for Christmas. ~Mary Jane Jolibois

Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year!

Early Education at Living Hope

I had the blessed opportunity to spend 8 days this November working with the Early Education Teachers at Living Hope. It was a full and busy week. This is not the first time I worked with this group of teachers, however it was the first time I had the opportunity to take the knowledge and skills we have worked on in past leadership conferences and use them in the classroom. It may seem to you and I that classroom planning and management should be second nature to a teacher, however that isn't always the case. The week proved to be as equally challenging as it did rewarding.

Spending a full day observing each classroom of 3, 4, and 5 year olds, as well as the Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade classes allowed us all to see where the strength and weaknesses were of each of the teachers. We spent a day working together on lesson plans and classroom activities. It was clear that many of the teachers were not using the time with children to the greatest effectiveness. There are so many teachers that love to teach. It is apparent that when given the vision and the expectation of what using their gifts looks like they have the potential to really excel. The next few days I was able

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 170+ sponsored students out of the 550+ currently enrolled. Our prayer is 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 **734-996-2435**.

Early Education at Living Hope cont.

to spend with the teachers and children working in classrooms. Taking the skills and the lessons we learned, we were able to do hands on work in the classroom. It became evident as we actively worked with the materials and the lesson plans that further development is needed. The Lord has blessed Living Hope with several teachers that really love what they do and are working hard to make the changes in the way they teach.

Haiti is and will continue to be on the verge of change. The way change will happen is if the youth of Haiti are taught to work hard and fear the Lord. This begins and ends with their teachers. Living Hope is working to change the way children are taught. The Gospel is going forth on a daily basis. As an administrator myself in a



Preschool, I am confident the challenges that are set before Living Hope are not impossible to overcome. Faithful prayer for the hearts of the teachers to have a desire to work at their best to lay the foundation of education that will lead Haiti to changes is one of the most important things we can be doing. On a more hands-on note, if, as you are praying for the school, teachers, and children of Living Hope, you feel a call to be involved further, please contact me. ~Kelly Arehart

Current fund raising initiative: \$15,000 needed for the Professional School building emergency stabilization project.

Mailing Address

(For single boxes & personal correspondence to Haiti).

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

Please send \$2.50/pound to the new Dublin address to help cover customs and local shipping fees.

How to Donate – Gifts of Hope for LHM

****Your Donations will be receipted quarterly.**

- 1) Electronic Giving Online at www.livinghopehaiti.org
 - a. Direct payments from a Checking or Savings account (one-time or recurring), or
 - b. Credit Card payments (one-time or recurring)
- 2) Check by mail, made payable to Living Hope Ministries in Haiti. Please note a giving category in the memo field, if you desire. (See below).

Giving categories:

- Entrepreneurship Project
- Primary/Trade School
- Church/Community Projects
- Student Sponsorship (please include child name and number)

Visit Haiti on a Missions 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!



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

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Mailing Address for Funds:

(New Address)

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Dublin, OH 43016-0290

*Please send funds to the OHIO address only please

Our Mission

To train a generation of young men
and women to change their
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Word and Action.



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A 501(c)3 Tax-Exempt Organization & A member of ECA (Evangelical Church Alliance)

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