



Living Hope Ministries in Haiti

January-February 2024 Newsletter



The LHM 2023 Annual Report

Just when you think Haiti has had enough, the situation worsens: increase in gang wars, road blockages, continual political unrest, and instability. Our fuel: gas, diesel, and propane is almost out. We have food shortages and limited access to go anywhere. Our entire area is blocked; the only way in and out is by foot, generally walking with hands above your head in front of the gangs with their weapons pulled. We have a couple brave people that go and get us supplies as locally as possible and usually hand carry them in.

They have said that over 150,000 Haitians have left the country this year on the Biden program. For example, the general hospital in Port-au-Prince has published that over 80% of their employees have left. Banks stated that over 40% of their employees have left. It seems that every office and business in Haiti has lost vital personnel.

I. Zion Church – Haiti

We continue to use homemade hand sanitizer and assure a safe and healthy distancing of the children in the church services. Actually, this even helps to keep the misbehaving to a minimum! During the summer (and times when school can't function), our attendance drops to 100-200. When school is in session, we have 200-300+ weekly in Sunday services.

The last 6 months of 2023 we felt it necessary to cancel Sunday school due to the gang activities in our area. We haven't been able to have any special events (such as the Christmas concerts, VBS, or Seminars) due to all the unrest and problems in our local area. We have church service at 8am and then have hospitality (bread, juice, or coffee). Many of the children and youth are hungry and need the bread and juice. Also, in the last 6 months of 2023, we held baptism classes after the church service. On Dec. 30th, we baptized 6 people as they confessed their faith in Jesus Christ. We also had a wedding and 2 child presentations in 2023.

The choir was functioning well, but the last 6 months, we had to place it on hold since it was too dangerous for the choir director to be here and try to head home through the gang areas.

We have had 2 adults accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior this year. Several others have returned to faith and have begun to attend church here.

We continue the twice-weekly interactive Bible Studies with 20-30 people of all ages in attendance. We have had to change the times to 3 or 3:30 pm so people can get home before dark safely.

The women's group has between 12-18 members and meets on Wednesdays at 3 or 3:30 PM. The women's co-op continues to enable each woman to have a business or grow an existing business. We continue to study the women of the Bible. We see many women of the Bible either start out bad and turn their lives around, or start well and end bad. So, we are trying to learn from their stories and nurture healthy, growing relationships with the Lord Jesus Christ.

We have continued to assist many people and members with funds for medicines, Dr. visits, education, food, and housing, etc. The need has increased even more with the rising prices and lack of access to many things.

We have been assisting 12 youth in higher education in high school and university.

II. Primary School

The 2023-24 school year has already been a tough year for students, families, and staff. Due to the increase of local gang activity and barricades, some families have left the area for safety. Others, depending on the daily situation, decide whether or not to send their students. Also, we have had to close the school periodically due to local unrest and problems. The political instability has motivated some families to leave our area due to it being a hot spot.

Follow Living Hope Ministries in Haiti on Instagram (www.instagram.com/livinghopehaiti) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/LivingHopeMinistriesHaiti) for exciting and current videos and photos of activities at LHM.

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.

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Thank you if you are getting your LHM Newsletter by email!

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www.LivingHopeHaiti.org

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The LHM 2023 Annual Report (continued)

All the 2nd second graders are in music classes with recorders, and they love it. The 3rd graders then choose either 2nd year Recorder or 1st year Embroidery. These classes are being held during their regular school day. Both classes operate at the same time for 2-3 hours once a week. We see the students learning and advancing.

Besides the regular academics, we continue the practical hands-on classes: 1st grade – paper art; 2nd grade – plastic canvas lacing; 3rd grade girls – basic sewing; boys – shop with wood; 4th grade – cooking; 5th grade – crochet; and 6th grade – string art. Mary Jane teaches the crochet and shop classes weekly and fills in as needed on the other classes.

All 4th graders go into the afternoon trade school classes or Saturday music classes. Of course, drum and violin are the most popular music classes with the 4th graders. Sewing and cooking are the most popular with the 4th graders in the trade school.

Berline, the school director, flew to the USA to visit family and vacation for a period of time. Her trip to the airport went through several different gang areas; she often had to walk in front of armed gangs.

III. Trade School

All the trade school classes have opened on time, but we are forced to have shorter days due to students traveling in to come to classes. Some are unable to safely make it to their classes. We have 6 Sewing and Tailoring classes, 2 Embroidery classes, 2 Welding & Ironwork classes, 3 Cooking & Baking classes, 3 Business classes, and 1 Technique Design class for all 2nd year students. All music classes are offered for 3 years: Keyboard, Guitar (Ukulele, Classic, and Bass), Drums & Percussion, Violin, Saxophone, Clarinet, and Trumpet.

Again, our students did an excellent job in their governmental exams. Many of our graduates and current students have already found positions in their trades or are creating their own businesses. It is really exciting to be a part of their progress and success.

We have 15 graduate students teaching in the trade school. All office staff are graduates of the trade school. Also, Mary Jane & Abukuk have been working together to update and improve the music curriculums. Andris still teaches as needed in the welding, cooking, and other classes, including math, geometry, and other basic life skills. And he oversees the entire mission. Mary Jane continues to teach as needed in the cooking and embroidery classes and works in administration.

IV. Other things

The 1st of Dec., sister Cam from Mariani 4 walked in with her 3 live-in staff and orphanage children (18) ranging from 3 to 26 yrs. old. They were forced leave to find somewhere to safely stay while their area was being evacuated due to lots of gang activity. We immediately put them up and cleaned up the guesthouse for them to use during this difficult time for them. They have adapted well, and our staff has been helping out with preparing food for them 3 times a day.

V. Major Improvements

We added a primary school cement sidewalk and place for the students to stand for flag ceremony instead of the muddy paths and areas. We finished the mission perimeter wall. Wow! It really changed the appearance of the entrance of the mission. We also constructed the Gathering Center, and what a blessing it truly is! It is used for the primary school cafeteria, the waiting area for parents, for the office, and students waiting for their classes. It is also the place for trade school devotions, Bible Studies, and womens' meetings, etc.

VI. Upcoming Activities and Teams

We will receive visitors again as soon as the country is safe and more stable. We have had no visitors in 2023 due to the insecurity. But visit us online for updates. Let us know your team information; we would love to schedule you in when conditions allow.

VII. Future Construction Plans/Ideas

As soon as the local area improves we will begin the "Bridging the Community" project with the startup funds we have receive for the 1st phase of this much needed project.

Our dream projects are to construct a small library and cyber space for our students and those is the community. There are none available within 5-7 miles. We would try to stock it with books in French, Creole, and English. We would have internet hook-up and some computers on site for research and homework, with 1-2 printers present. This would be a place for the local students of all ages to come and do research and study with lights, tables, and chairs present. We would staff the library, and there would be strict rules for participating in the library center and loaning books out. Also, eventually, we would like to construct a science lab building and a computer lab for our primary students. We would also like to run double sessions of trade school classes: one in the mornings and one in the afternoons.

Please continue to pray for the students and staff of LHM for safety, protection, provisions, and that they can continue their education without fear and interruptions. We cherish your prayers for strength, favor, and endurance for Andris, Mary Jane, and the staff of LHM. Please also pray for the safety and protection of the Prime Minister and the people of Haiti. Pray for the forgiveness of the leaders, gangs, and all people in Haiti, and that God will change the situation of Haiti in His way and will.

Thank you so much for all your prayers, encouragement, and continuing love for us and the children, youth, and adults of Haiti. Thanks for

Student sponsorship is a very important way to support Living Hope.

We always have students that need to be sponsored – by a family, a couple, or an individual. If you chose to sponsor, you will be assigned a student. You can also partner with one of our preschool classes or one of our trade school classes.

Student sponsorship is so important because it provides the children with a daily hot and nutritious meal, textbooks, and school supplies. It also provides a substantial part of the teachers' salaries. And you have the added blessing of having the opportunity to build a relationship with your student if you like. The suggested donation to sponsor one child is \$40/month.

Connecting your KIDS to our KIDS at Living Hope Ministries

Whether in a Vacation Bible School setting, Summer Sunday School, or even during the regular church service “minute for missions” time, we believe that raising kids’ awareness of God’s work around the world is important. And we think that any of these could be an excellent way for kids to learn about helping and supporting their young brothers and sisters in Christ in other parts of the world.

At Living Hope Ministries in Haiti, we are working on a program that will include short videos and activities aimed at introducing our kids to yours. It can be used as an addition to your regular VBS program or in Sunday School or church! We can provide materials for 1 day or up to 4 and even 5 days. We can even tailor a program to your needs and interests. It’s all still on the drawing board, but this will give you an idea of what we are thinking about:

Day 1: Overview and Welcome Video about the mission (aprox. 2 mins.) and printable pdf pamphlet about Living Hope Ministries to send home with each student.

Day 2: A Day in the Life of a Preschooler Video (aprox. 2 mins.) and printable pdf coloring page with Creole words/phrases for “Bible,” “Jesus loves me,” and words for boy, girl, dog, church, school, etc.

Day 3: A Day in the Life of a Primary School Student Video (aprox. 2 mins.) and printable pdf activity page of finding a route to the school and/or matching a Creole word to a picture (review of words learned in day 2).

Day 4: A Day in the Life of the Sunday School Video (aprox. 2 mins.) and Sing-along teaching Jesus Loves Me (or other familiar song) in Creole and in English and printable pdf page of song lyrics in Creole and English.

Day 5: A Wrap-Up Video of Student Interviews and A Thank-You from Andris & Mary Jane (aprox. 2 mins.)

Let us know if you would like to receive more information about this program. We will be happy to work with you! Contact Deanna Breeding at dhbread@aol.com.



Women’s Group in the Gathering Center



Kids playing with the puppies



Happy preschooler



3rd & 4th graders play recorders

Learn More About Haiti: Due to the unrest in Haiti in recent months and years, it has been difficult for Mary Jane and Andris to travel in and out of Haiti to come and share with your church, Bible Study, or other group, or even to come to the Fall Benefit. But other members of the LHM Board would be happy to fill in for them in this regard. No meeting is too small or too large. Please write to LHM at PO Box 3578, Dublin, OH 43016-0290 or email to livinghopeministries94@gmail.com to request a visit.

Zoom gatherings for your church or group are available upon request.

Current Fund-Raising Initiatives:

Two Projects:

- 1.) Build safe bridges and drainage canals on the road outside the mission.
- 2.) Provide for the operational costs: supplies and materials for classes, salaries, building and yard upkeep, animals, etc.

Thank you ahead of time for your generous giving to enable us to accomplish these projects.

How to Donate Gifts of Hope for LHM

- 1) **Electronic giving online** at www.livinghopehaiti.org
 - a. Direct payments from a Checking or Savings account (one-time or recurring)
 - b. 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):

 - Church/Community Project
 - Youth University Fund
 - Student Sponsorship (include Student’s number)
 - Trade School
 - Pre-School
 - Operating Expenses
 - Construction Projects

Visit Haiti on a Mission Trip

We are praying for stability to return to the nation of Haiti. When it does, we look forward to welcoming you to Haiti for a mission trip. If you are considering a visit, let us know! We would love to have you. There are lots of exciting things happening at LHM!

Please contact Mary Jane and Andris directly at:
MJJolibois14@gmail.com
or skype phone #614-602-2802.



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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 this Ohio address:

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

(Do not) send cash or checks directly to Haiti.)

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

www.livinghopehaiti.org/donation

Sponsor Packages

Please **do not** send any boxes or letters at this time. Traveling into Port-au-Prince to pick up packages/mail is still very dangerous. Therefore, Mary Jane and Andris are unable to receive things at this time. Thank you for understanding.

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Living Hope Ministries in Haiti, Inc. (LHM) is a 501(c)3 Tax-Exempt Organization and a member of ECA (Evangelical Church Alliance)

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