

Living Hope Ministries in Haiti

May - July 2021 Newsletter



LHM Haiti Update, sent Monday, July 12, 2021

The Political Situation: We awoke Wed., July 7th to the news that our president in Haiti had been assassinated in his home at 1:00 AM and his wife Martine was critically wounded. This news has taken a while to digest.

After the assassination, the country placed curfews and martial law into effect. Therefore, the trade school and church activities were put on hold. We did have a small church service with 30 in attendance Sunday morning. We continue to watch, listen, and assess the situation closely.

Our area continues to be blocked by gang activity most of the time; therefore, we are staying put. However, some supplies are difficult to obtain due to delivery vehicles not being able to get through. But the gang activity that continues to prevail throughout the country has been a little quieter after Wednesday.

Our Apartment: We began moving into our new apt on July 2nd. It is a continual process of moving things up and into place. It is such a joy and privilege to have this new home. It is very peaceful inside (and not cluttered)! We are still waiting for some things to be finished, but the laborers can't make it out to our area to finish up the kitchen area, screens, inverter wiring, etc. (See the YouTube link on page 3 for a new video tour.)

COVID: COVID remains, and the number of cases being reported over the past month has risen. No vaccines yet in Haiti. Therefore, we continue to take all the necessary precautions: Masks, sanitizer, and social distancing throughout the mission.

The New Vehicle: As you may know, in June we put new tires on the Nissan and have ordered the upholstery work to be done. In July, we are having the murky headlights replaced and the broken A/C repaired. Afterwards, we will have the cracked windshield replaced, and repaint the body since it is very dull and dry looking.

The Trade School: We continue to run the trade school as much as possible in accordance with the governmental decrees. So last week we were closed Wednesday to Saturday. Today we opened, but the number of students was minimal. There were high winds most of the day, so the students were sent home by 2PM.

The Mission Campus: We have added and are adding solar yard lights due to the lack of electricity and the security problems. In May, we repaired the one outer section of the wall that was in great danger of collapsing due to water washout.

The Primary School: In July and August, we will begin to order school supplies for the upcoming school year in Sept.

Andris & Mary Jane: We are both doing well, just frustrated with our country at times. Andris continues to supervise all the mission activities. He continues to research and update information for all the school programs (trade and primary). Andris also continues to prepare all the Bible studies and Sunday messages for the church. Mary Jane continues to update and revise the cooking school textbooks as well as all the other programs and curriculums for the various classes.

Overall, it is a very unsettling and frustrating time in Haiti. But we always sense the ever-present peace of the Lord. God is bigger than all the problems and more capable than any man. So, we stand steadfast in Jesus Christ. Please continue to pray for the mission and all of Haiti.

Love & Prayers to all, Andris & Mary Jane

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

Living Hope Ministries
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Dublin, OH 43016-0290

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

For more information, please contact us at:
livinghopeministries94@gmail.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.

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What's Happening on the Home Front?

God Willing, the Fall Fundraiser at Der Dutchman Is Back!

This year we will be back at Der Dutchman Restaurant in Plain City, Ohio for the Annual Fall Fundraiser and Dinner on October 9, 2021. So, mark your calendars! There will be a few changes, and we will have a great night of Haiti updates, delicious food, fellowship, and the rest will be announced (including an on-line virtual component) in the next newsletter.

So "stay tuned..." and don't forget:

SAVE THE DATE... October 9, 2021... SAVE THE DATE... October 9, 2021... SAVE THE DATE... October 9, 2021

And Last Spring, the MWEN WALK Fundraiser Went Virtual!

For years, the Fall benefit has been a great way to gather, learn, enjoy fellowship, and raise money for the general needs of the mission campus and operations. But a few years ago, we decided to create an event that is focused on specifically increasing awareness about our students' needs and our school. That is why the MWEN WALK was started! And last Spring, we decided to do it virtually too, so that many more of our supporters could participate.

The word "mwen" in Haitian Creole means "my" or "mine." The walk was created as a family event to bring families together for a day to walk in the spirit of hope and love and to learn about how to become involved with Living Hope Ministries in Haiti by sponsoring a student. It is "my" walk to help support "my sponsored student" at Living Hope. And by participating in the walk in Columbus, Ohio, or anywhere we choose to do our walk, we show our commitment to providing and education, food, relationships, and the Gospel to the students through sponsorships.

Sponsoring a student has many benefits – both for sponsors and their student(s). Some of our supporters have been sponsoring students for over 10 years, and some have just started since the recent Mwen Walk '21 event. In either case, we hope you are enjoying your additional family member(s)!

Sponsors provide funds and have the opportunity to correspond with and send care packages to their students. Every fall, we send your student's photo, clothing and shoe sizes, and information about their hobbies and favorite subjects in school to help you get to know them. We know how precious it is when your student receives a letter and/or giftbox from you. For many, these are the only gifts they receive all year. They treasure everything they receive from you. Your financial support helps all the students at Living Hope, by providing salaries for the teachers and administrators, a daily hot meal, and school supplies. Sponsorship support provides approximately 90% of all on-going school expenses. Most of the students' families provide about 10% of their tuition to ensure a level of commitment to their child's schooling.

But the challenges of the recent years have led to an increase in the cost of all things in Haiti. In addition, the Haitian government has artificially increased the value of the local Haitian currency vis-à-vis the US dollar. This, unfortunately, has reduced the buying power of each US dollar provided in support of Living Hope.

So, in April of this year, the Living Hope Board voted to increase the recommended monthly sponsorship support from \$30/month to \$40/month starting in January 2022. The previous \$30/month requested support has been in place since 2008, and we have not asked for an increase in 13 years.

If you are not able to increase your support by \$10/month, we understand and still appreciate your current level of support. But if you are able and willing, we would appreciate an increase in your support to \$40/month starting in January 2022. We would certainly welcome it if you're willing to increase your support before January.

God Bless you and thank you for all you do to support these children! – The LHM Board

For sponsorship information, contact Mark Gunderson at markleegund@gmail.com or call/text at 248-521-9240.

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What's Happening at the LHM Mission?

Things are hopping at LHM. We were able to get a new piano and a new vehicle, the kids are still busy and adorable, and you have to see the apartment – it is amazing! Thanks to our supporters for helping to make it happen. You can see a recent video tour on YouTube at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sH0wfgK5zYs>.

The school has functioned as allowed by the government. The younger students, embroidery, and recorder students only came in to pick up instructions and assignments twice monthly (with no on-site classes). We were able to purchase a used 1999 Nissan Pathfinder in very good condition. The mechanics said that this is one of the best motors, it's in excellent condition, and the frame has no rust. This is the first vehicle we have had at the mission since 2005. Andris and I were feeling it was time to get a vehicle for the mission for any emergencies. Sometimes over the past year, we have needed to get somewhere, and no drivers were available for hire.

The generator repair man informed us that in spite of the generator being built to stand outside, we need to put a cover over it to protect the control panel from the hot sun. We have been trimming many trees and working in the yard. We have added several solar yard (street) lights. We are hopeful one day we will have power 24/7. But currently, we haven't had even 10 hours of electricity in the past month. We use the generator for classes, office work, and refrigeration as needed, and it is limited.

(Excerpts are from Mary Jane's June update letter to the LHM Board.)



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.

Current Fund-Raising Initiatives:

Three Projects:

- 1.) Expansion of the cooking school.
- 2.) A room extension on the front of the church to add space for youth and childrens' ministries on Sundays and office overflow during the week.
- 3.) Shoring up and expanding the meeting area between the side of church and the primary school.

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), or
 - 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)
- Primary/Trade School

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:
lhm-haiti@hotmail.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

For single boxes, cards, and letters to Haiti only (**do not** enclose checks or cash).

Send to:

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

Do not send money 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.