

# A Haiti Herald



August 2006

The Newsletter of Hearts and Hands for Haiti

## We Live By Faith

**W**ith the 2-year anniversary of Hurricane Jeanne coming up in September, I wanted to write a glowing report of the transformation within the hard hit community of Sous Raille where Hearts and Hands for Haiti focused relief efforts.

Just this past week a Haitian friend sent an e-mail reporting today's results of Jeanne from numerous members of the Sous Raille community. These were not the reports I wanted to read! Life continues to be very difficult. Most of the gardens have not recovered as they were covered in debris and rocks. Most all the livestock has died. Merchandise intended for market washed away making restarting their small businesses almost impossible.

Yet with all these difficulties, the reports stated, "I continue to believe in God" or "We live by faith in God" or "Keep me in your prayers". Yes, life in this community in Haiti continues to be hard, yet their faith in God continues to be strengthened and renewed.

Some of the ways God met them in their time of need are as follows:

- Several relief agencies and ministries came to assist.
- Tents were distributed as temporary shelter for many families.
- Hearts and Hands for Haiti (HHH) built 32 homes.
- Other groups built some homes as well.
- Eight days after the flood, HHH helped arrange a memorial service for the families with lost loved ones. It was a beginning for healing.

- HHH distributed food donated by another agency.
- Over 300 patients were seen by a wonderful Haitian-American medical team.
- A well was drilled, offering many families clean drinking water.
- The main irrigation canal was dredged.

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strengthened and renewed.*

- A new church building is situated on high ground - a safe haven for neighbors, bringing relief to their fears of when heavy rains fall again.

The community church in Sous Raille began in the year 2000 with 4 children, 2 teens and 1 adult. About 60 people were attending in the fall of 2004 when the hurricane hit. Twelve people from this group died. After the flood, the church met for more than a year under the branches of a mango tree to worship. Eventually, land was purchased on the side of a large, dry and rocky hill. Construction of a large church building began last year.

Though only 2/3's of the roof is complete, the congregation continues to grow and worship the Lord. At the lower end of the church property, there are large mango trees and a well tended garden. The church shares mangoes with the children at the

home and bananas and okra with those in need. Presently there are 130 people worshipers on a typical Sunday.

This past spring a large crusade was organized. Approximately 1,500 people packed the church and hillside each evening. Mangoes were sold to purchase fuel for the generator for the services. In June, Pastor Olius Merilus was installed as pastor. I have had the privilege to worship there several times over the past few years. What a wonderful and blessed time of worship.

Last fall I met 3-year-old Alandie, the newest member of our Children's Training and Nutrition Center, a precious and sweet little girl. "Why did you accept someone so young?" I asked Pere. Pere explained, "During hurricane Jeanne, Alandie held on with determination to the shoulders of her pregnant mother who held onto a tree as racing waters rushed by all night. Alandie's siblings died in the flood. Her parents were eager for Alandie to enroll in the children's home hoping the leadership and presence of other children would bring

healing from the emotional stress and trauma of the flood. Their prayer was for help to bring long-term stability to Alandie.

Presently in Sous Raille, there are no

schools. Adults walk many miles to attend literacy classes. Community leaders are prayerfully considering how to use the church structure for educational purposes.

As you may have noticed, though the changes are not as dramatic as I

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**Matching Funds Opportunity!**  
See Below for Details

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**We Live By Faith ...** (Continued from front)

would like to report – I trust you have sensed from me, there is hope. Conditions are improving a little at a time. Within the lives of these dear people, perhaps the biggest change has come spiritually, for they continue to say “I believe in God” –

“we live by faith in God”. And, as they have requested, let’s remember to keep them in our prayers.

by Stan Wiebe



**Giving Thanks!**

- We have been offered a **\$5,000.00 matching grant** for any new money we receive for Hearts and Hands for Haiti. This is a great opportunity to have your donation matched – either as a new donor or as a regular donor giving above your regular amount.
- This month, three of our communities, Pacot, Tarasse and Poteaux will be conducting a week long **Bible camp** for the children.
- We are grateful for the success of the **Haiti Card Project**. You can still order cards – all proceeds go to the school preparation fund.
- We are very grateful to report the safe arrival of **Shestayna, daughter of Cherismond & Sherlie Delva**. Cherismond is the founder and director of Tarasse Community School. This is extra special news as they lost their first child during labor and delivery last year.
- Construction is under way for the **new Vocational School** at Poteaux. We plan to offer more vocational classes in early 2007.
- Jeremiah Dorsaint, Director of the Pacot school, reports that 12 of his 13 sixth graders have **successfully completed primary**

**school** by passing the government exams.

- What a joy it was to host **Jean Pere Nadieul** during his recent visit to the States. We are grateful for the opportunities he had to share with various groups.

**Please Pray For ...**

- Continued **emotional healing and provision** for the community of Sous Raille as they recover from the effects of Hurricane Jeanne in September 2004.
- Our **school students** as they return to school in early September. The Children’s Training and Nutrition Center will have more youth in high school this year and costs continue to increase. We need sponsors for youth at the home at \$25.00 per month and school students at \$15.00 per month. We are also planning to increase the number of days we feed the school students each month.
- **Electricians** that are needed to assist in the construction of our vocational school later this year.

**Upcoming Events**

- A small group from Christ Covenant Church will be going to Haiti from **September 14-18**. A pastors conference is planned for Saturday, September 16.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HEARTS AND HANDS FOR HAITI, CONTACT:**

stan@heartsandhandsforhaiti.org  
patty@heartsandhandsforhaiti.org  
Wk. Ph: 919-755-1903  
Hm. Ph: 919-836-1929

**OR VISIT:**

www.heartsandhandsforhaiti.org

**HHH Tax deductible donations can be given to:**

(USA)

Hearts and Hands for Haiti  
2013 Midwood Drive  
Raleigh, NC 27604

(CANADA)

Treesbank Community Church,  
P.O. Box 112  
Wawanesa, MB R0K 2G0

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- The next team mission venture to Haiti is planned for **October 18-23, 2006**. Please let us know immediately if you are interested.