

God is at Work, Even in the Hard Times

As most of you know, our friends in Haiti have endured much hardship this fall as four hurricanes in a row hit the island.

Hurricane Hanna hit the Gonaives area on Tuesday, September 2 with much rain and twice the amount of water that killed 3,000 people in September 2004. On Saturday, September 6, Hurricane Ike hit the very same region, resulting in very high water once again – this time, uprooting many large trees from the saturated land.

Having experienced the devastation of 2004, people were much more cautious and, thankfully, far fewer lives were lost. To the best of our knowledge, we are sad to report the death of one school child.

As well, many homes, livestock, gardens, irrigation canals, etc. were washed away in the water. It will take a long time to recover – yet, thru all this, God is working among His people.

Second Story Refuge

As the water rose, everyone looked for higher ground. How grateful we are for the second floors that were built onto the vocational school, the boys' home and Pere's house. These three structures became a refuge to over 700 people and many remain there due to



Vocational School - a refuge for about 400

the loss of homes and possessions.

Youth at the Home Eager to Share

Aside from a yard full of water and the overflow of the fish pond, not much damage was done at the children's homes. However, the children at the home were limited to one meal a day for a while as food was very limited and the food prices were extra-ordinarily high.

Despite their own lack, the youth shared of their food with the neighbors who had taken shelter in our buildings. The youth also shared of their clothing with friends and neighbors. Seeing many people walking alongside the road, our girls got a bucket of clean drinking water and handed out cups of water to people passing by. The staff and older youth at the home have also been going into town, assisting churches and people with cleaning mud out of their structures.

We are so grateful for our youth and



Youth from the children's home helping with clean up in the community

their eagerness to share and serve with the love of Christ despite their needs or desires.

Heart of Gratefulness

I vividly remember sitting in the church at our children's home in early June and a very petite, elderly lady standing up and proudly sharing of God's goodness in her life. After the service, Pere shared with me that this dear sister in the Lord had a simple request of him after the service. She wanted to borrow a pickax to make a rut in her mud hut so that when the rain came in thru her leaky roof, the water would run back out of her house. How amazing! She was living in a little, two-room mud hut with her husband, sickly adult son and seven grandchildren - left to them after their mother (her daughter) had died – and all she wanted was to borrow a pickax. As she shared that morning of the Lord's goodness in her life, her face was filled with joy. Now, this

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HHH Financial Goals for Disaster Relief Efforts

- \$17,000 Cash distributed thru seven HHH churches to over 650 families for food and essential items
- \$ 3,000 Available for ongoing relief assistance of food, etc.
- \$20,000 Held for land purchase in Sous Raille and the drilling of another community well
- \$100,000 Being raised for the construction 20 houses @ \$5,000 each, primarily in Sous Raille
- \$140,000 Adjusted total funds desired

We are very grateful for collaboration with other ministries in relief efforts. **HHH has received just over \$100,000** thus far. Donations are still needed to meet a challenge match of \$20,000.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Planning Christmas Gifts? We have some unique ideas!

See insert or visit
www.heartsandhandsforhaiti.org.

A Haiti Herald, October 2008

God at Work ...

(Continued from front)

little old lady has completely lost her leaky house in the recent hurricanes and she is probably still praising the Lord. I sure hope we can build her a new house – one that results from the kind generosity of many here in North America and beyond.

Sous Raille Community

Haiti has been hit hard and rural communities like Sous Raille are suffering once again. Yet in the midst, we see God at work.

Hurricane Jeanne in 2004 hit Haiti harder than any storm had in 50 years. In its waters, many homes in Sous Raille were washed away. A small HHH church in the community lost 12 of its 60 attendees. And safe drinking water was difficult to find. However, with the help of generous donors, HHH supplied 30+ families with the materials to help rebuild

houses on their own land. HHH also helped purchase land on a very dry hillside and a new church structure was built for this small congregation. We were also able to help drill a well.

The storms of 2008 have once again wreaked havoc in this low-lying area. Yet, we rejoice that this church building sheltered about 500 from the storm and it remains a refuge for many.

Presently, the Sous Raille church has an attendance of nearly 200 and is flourishing under the leadership of Pastor Olius who faithfully ministers Christ's love in this community.



Church refuge at Sous Raille

Rebuilding

Our primary relief efforts will be focused on the Sous Raille community where we plan to purchase more land on this dry hillside to build houses.

We truly thank each of you who have shared in this 'time of need'. Your prayers and contributions are an immense blessing.

Please continue to pray as the building of the communities and God's Kingdom continues in Haiti.

Stan Wiebe, HHH Stateside Office

Giving Thanks!

- Relief donations are coming in!
- Despite floods, HHH schools opened in Oct. Returning students are eager to learn.
- HHH's 3rd university student has a sponsor. A gifted teacher, David plans to study education.
- Jean Pere Nadieul's visit to the US included many chances to share about the hurricane crisis and the best ways we can assist.

- Jean Pere and the Wiebe family had a great time visiting Grace & Truth Christian Fellowship in Geneseo, NY (the main support base for Cherismond Delva and the ministry at Tarasse). After many attempts to get up to NY, the local Rochester paper ran an article about HHH the very Sunday morning we spoke! Here's the Raleigh N&O version: <http://www.newsobserver.com/news/story/1230128.html>

Please Pray For ...

- Leaders and churches to be discerning and effective during this time of crisis.
- A consistent lunch program in our schools - and teachers from Gonaives who lost everything.
- People to draw near to the Lord and experience His goodness and grace during this difficult time.
- Our primary, secondary and vocational students to have an opportunity to return to school.

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

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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 172
Wawanese, MB R0K 2G0

Upcoming Events

- November 3rd - 7:30 PM **Monthly Prayer Meeting** held at the Wiebes. *Please join us!!*
- Early December - A **group from IN** plans to do eye exams, as well as renovations at the girls' home.
- Mid-Jan - **Pastors & Leaders Conference**, led by Raleigh's Christ Covenant Church team.