

HAITI NEWSLETTER

November 2005

child hope international

Adversity Building Faith

It has been one of our most challenging seasons yet in Haiti. In the last few months, Susette and Ariana were shot at and nearly abducted at a makeshift roadblock. Ariana and Vienna contracted Malaria. The family of one of our orphans lost their home in Hurricane-spurred food rains. And two dear friends were kidnapped at gunpoint and held hostage for ransom.

"In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed." 1Peter 1:6-7

Praise God! Susette and Ariana escaped unharmed. Ariana and Vienna are now well and fully recovered from Malaria. We found the family a new home and a Christian brother paid for their rent for one year. While we looked for a new home for the family, they lived and worshipped with us at the orphanage and were ministered to daily. And our two kidnapped friends were not only released unharmed, but were also able to share the Gospel with their captors and the FBI agents that later interrogated them. God is good!

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. 2 Chronicles 7:14

In the midst of all of this, there are 30 street children who now live in a safe home where Christ is proclaimed daily as Lord of All. These children have given their hearts to Christ and are daily learning his Word and how to work and serve for the Glory of God. And it is our prayer that these children will one day go out into this troubled nation to share the hope of Jesus Christ.

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 1Peter 2:9

Satan does not like what is going on. He wants these children (and others like them) to live in darkness, to continue to steal, lie and conduct evil deeds. His goal is to kill and destroy. So, when God's people step in, we expect challenges – and praise God when adversity comes.

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. 2Corinthians 12:9-11

One day, after returning home from the orphanage, and as our tap tap (a converted Toyota truck — like a taxi) pulled around the corner, five people were in the middle of the street forming a half circle in front of our house. One man was in the middle of the circle with a white sheet over his head, preparing a cloth bag filled with various items. There was a wild-eyed woman crying out some sort of chant and glancing up in a demonic stare. Others in the group were speaking chants or prayers. Then, the

Houghan (witch doctor), with green and red cape around his neck, marched around holding a rooster by its feet in one hand and a machete in the other. He cried out some Creole words, lifted the machete and with a swift slash, killed the rooster.

As we parked in front of our house, we started to pray – spiritual interference – that their efforts would be thwarted and that Jesus would be exalted in this place. Eyes closed, holding each other's hands, we just prayed. Shortly after our prayers began, the group in the street started to break up, each person leaving one at a time. Then, the Houghan spread the rooster's blood over the ground, and, crouching low to the ground, spanked his machete on the ground, rotated around in circles close to the ground like a spider, as he spun away into a nearby ravine.

It was a very bizarre, creepy sight, to say the least. But in light of our other recent challenges, we viewed it merely as a reminder of where are true battle lies.

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Ephesians 6:12

200 years ago Haiti made an unholy alliance with the devil. That contract continues today as millions in Haiti continue to worship Satan through voodoo. In fact, today, as we write this newsletter, schools and government offices are closed so people can worship Satan as part of a government recognized voodoo holiday.

Haiti faces a big challenge – and it is not the upcoming elections. It is not their dire poverty, disease, affliction or economic plight. These things are mere symptoms of a bigger problem. The bigger problem, as illustrated in the ceremony held in front of our home, is spiritual. As long as the people of Haiti continue to give Satan the recognition and influence they do — and have done so for the past 200 years — they will never overcome the root of the problems they are experiencing now or in the future.

Thank you dear brothers and sisters for continuing to pray for us, but also pray fervently for the people of Haiti. Pray for national repentance, that the people would stand up and renounce voodoo and its stronghold over this nation and proclaim Jesus Christ, who is Lord of All, as Lord of Haiti. It will be the prayers of the faithful that will help usher in the Revival just around the corner. God bless you.

Fellow Servants of the Living God,

Bill & Susette

Welcome Schoenhal Family!



We are very excited to announce that the Schoenhals family from Wichita, Kansas, have joined us as part of our ministry team at Maison de Lumiere Home for Homeless Children. David and Summer Schoenhals, and their four children, Bailey (9), Jasmine (7), Ben (6) and Simon (4), are a welcome addition to our family here. They will be sharing many of the responsibilities training, teaching and managing but will be focusing primarily on helping us develop a transition program for children who graduate out of our program and a vocational training/apprentice program.

Already our children have bonded well with theirs and are having a blast because of the great match of ages and interests.

Please keep them in your prayers as they transition into life in Haiti and deal with the expected challenges ahead.

Please Pray for Our Transportation Needs

We face a big challenge at Maison de Lumiere in transporting both our families and the boys. In the past, we would rely on the tap tap truck of our security guard Tony to get us around. Unfortunately, his vehicle not only breaks down almost daily, but it can no longer hold all of our boys. Just driving the boys to and from school can take two or three trips. And when we



need to go anywhere, that means Tony is not at the home as security. Therefore, it is our prayer that the Lord provide two vehicles - a pick-up truck for both missionary families and a big commercial truck for the boys. Each will cost roughly \$25,000 each and, although this is beyond our means, it is not beyond God's.

Please join us in prayer for a miracle that would bring vehicles that would allow us to be transported safely and to minister and reach out to Haiti for the glory of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Sponsor a Christmas Gift

Would you like to make this a very special Christmas for the children at Maison de Lumiere? You can by sponsoring a Christmas gift for all the boys or a Christmas gift packet for one boy.

Below is a list of the items we would like to get for all the boys to share at the home. If you wanted to purchase one of those items for the boys, just email us at childhopeintl@yahoo.com and we will work with you to get the gift here before Christmas.

Or if you would like to sponsor a Christmas Gift Packet, it would contain a shirt, pair of shorts, tennis shoes, socks, underwear, watch, portable CD player and toothbrush for one boy. You could designate which child you want to receive the gift or let us choose. The cost would be \$100. You can purchase the items and ship or let us purchase. If you decide to let us purchase the gift, you may make the donation through our website (maisondelumiere.org) and designate it for Christmas pack and mention the child's name to receive the gift or say "you choose."

Or, if you would prefer to gift a gift that keeps on giving, you could become a monthly child sponsor for \$25 a month. Many children are still without sponsors and this would be a wonderful gift. We would present a card to them on Christmas Day stating that you are their new sponsor. Just sign-up for sponsorship at our website and in the comment section say "Christmas Gift Sponsorship."

PRAYER REQUESTS

- For the **boys at our orphanage**, that they learn to trust and believe in Christ as Savior and Lord. That they cooperate with the staff and grow to be godly young men.
- For **Haiti's current political situation**, that Haiti's upcoming leadership be professing believers in Jesus Christ and that they would lead the country to ultimate freedom from spiritual bondage.
- For new **Child Sponsors** that will help Maison de Lumiere meet the day-to-day living needs of the children and also allow for medical/dental needs/emergencies, clothing, educational supplies, and other longer term needs.
- For **wisdom and guidance** from the Lord as we seek to grow the home to accommodate more children, add a girl's home and transition some of our boys into life beyond the orphanage.
- For the children and families of **Timothy House**, an orphanage in Haiti that recently went through much turmoil and was shut down. Please stand with us in prayer for the children of the orphanage, the adoptive parents who were in process, the staff, and all those who have suffered as a result of this tragic development.
- The **expansion of the children's home**. That the Lord would move on hearts to help us acquire property to house more needy children, especially girls. We are praying for the 'visionary' types to come alongside us to see this happen. The home we've rented has a lease that expires in May. We will reassess then whether to stay there or move to another piece of property.
- For **Faith and endurance** as we seek to walk in the Spirit and in His will.
- For the **Lord's protection** over our family, especially from illness and attacks by the enemy.

CHILD HOPE INTERNATIONAL is a nonprofit 501 (c) 3 charitable organization. Donations are tax deductible.