



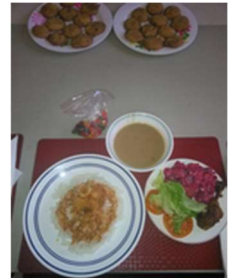
# Helping Haiti's Orphans

## April 2019 Newsletter



*Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! - Luke 24: 5-6*

From all of us at Espere Kay, we hope you had a very Happy Easter! (Bon Fet Pak!) Due to the Catholic influence here, it is common for many Haitians to eat fish, white rice and beats on Good Friday. This was also the case at EK. After dinner, everyone went to Good Friday service at church. We had the blessing of singing with the praise team again this year. What a wonderful night of remembrance of Christ's suffering and death through worship, communion and reading of the Word. On Sunday we went to church again only this time to rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus! After Church the girls made a dinner of rice, white bean sauce, salad and chicken. The table looked beautiful and the food was delicious. After dinner a few of us got together and played Dominoes (a popular Haitian game). As we were playing, we could hear music coming down the street. It was at that moment we realized this was a *rara* group. This is a great example of the ongoing spiritual battle here. We were just finishing our Holy Week celebrations only to hear the sounds of music with roots in Voodoo.



**New Video** *Praise the Lord, all you nations; extol him, all you peoples. 2 For great is his love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord - Psalm 117: 1-2*

We have some exciting news! Four members of FJM, Stevenson being one of them, are in the process of making a new video of the song "Reckless Love" sung in French. Stay tuned! We will include the link when it is ready.



# Rara

*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full – John 10:10*

According to Wikipedia: “Rara is a form of festival music that originated in Haiti, that is used for street processions, typically during Easter Week. The songs are always performed in Haitian Creole and typically celebrate the African ancestry of the Afro-Haitian masses. Vodou (Voodoo) is often implemented through the procession.” Please join with us in praying for the Haitian people to completely turn away from this evil religion and for the Gospel to continue going forth in the power of God. We know He is at work as we are seeing more and more people come to Christ. For example, our church is in the process of expanding to include 300 more seats. Even with two services, everyone can not fit inside. What a great problem to have. Let’s keep it going! All praise to God!



Photos by: Christopher L. Mitchell for LargeUP

# Haiti Teen Challenge

*I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world – John 16:33*

In April, Deb visited Haiti Teen Challenge. It had been a long time since she worked with the girls due to the unrest in Haiti. It was a sweet reunion. The girls were excited to make chocolate cake together. Normally Deb would do a morning devotion with all the girls at the home, but God had another plan. Instead, one of the newer girls led the discussion. She did a great job. Later on, as the cakes were cooling, an opportunity arose for Deb to share her message with just the second-year girls. The discussion was about how to handle discouragement. Since these are the girls who will be graduating from the program soon, it was a perfect opportunity to have a more intimate discussion with them. Deb was able to share personal testimony, answer questions and provide lots of encouragement. She asked the girls to please share what they learned with the newer girls; they were excited to do so. That next Wednesday at church, some of the girls talked about what they had learned in this discussion. So thankful to God for His plan going forth that day for His glory!



# Loving Hands Orphanage Visit

*And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me – Matthew 18:5*

We had a very blessed visit to Loving Hands this month. We were praying to go out for a visit before Easter came and God provided. We had a shortage of gas and diesel in Haiti at the time but the Lord made a way for us to fill our tank so we could go. We brought our friend, Jonathan, with us this month. He helped Deb do a Bible Study with the children about the death and resurrection of Jesus. The children were very attentive to the story. Deb explained what Jesus had done for them on the cross and how they needed to ask Jesus in their hearts to have their sins forgiven. Jonathan explained how a butterfly is a good example of our lives before and after we become a believer in Christ. Before, all we can do is crawl on the ground, but afterwards we can soar to new heights as God's new creation! Story time ended with prayer and an opportunity for the children to invite Jesus into their hearts. All the children prayed. We hope some took the opportunity to truly ask Jesus for His forgiveness. After prayer the children did two projects. One was decorating a cross with their name on it. We made the crosses into a garland and hung it up in the orphanage so the children could look for their cross and remember how Christ died for them. The second project was a drawing of a cross-like figure with butterflies inside. The children enjoyed adding beautiful colors. After Bible study Dave took some of the boys outside to fly a kite (a tradition for children in Haiti at Easter time). There was a great sense of God's presence in all that happened that day. We are so thankful He allowed us to have this time.



## Bible Study and Prayer Requests

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here! – 2 Corinthians 5:17*

Our Bible Study this month began with a discussion about our cell phones. We see the young adults spending a lot of time on them. We wanted to encourage them to think about what they are looking at and listening to, how much time they are spending on them and if they are keeping them in their proper place in their lives. Deb discussed how cell phones can be good and how we can use them to glorify God, for example, by sharing scripture, praying, encouraging others and studying the Bible. Dave then explained what it means to be a new creation through salvation in Christ Jesus. He talked about being filled with the Holy Spirit and how that changes our lives. We challenged them to ask themselves the question, as new creations in Christ, are they using their cell phones in a way that glorifies God?

One of the special moments at Espere Kay over the Easter weekend was watching the Passion of the Christ together. Most of the young adults had already seen it but they were excited to watch it again. We were able to see the movie on Good Friday after we got home from church. This led to a great discussion the following night at Bible Study about what the cross and resurrection means to them. What if Jesus had not risen from the dead? What would that say about their faith? It means Jesus overcame sin and death and so can we through faith in Him. We also discussed what Christ did for us on the cross and why God allowed such terrible things to happen to His Son. Everyone agreed it is because God hates sin but loves us! They asked for scriptures to show them Biblically if what they saw in the movie was true. We provided them with New Testament Gospel accounts as well as Old Testament prophecy (Isaiah 53 for example). We ended the month with a discussion in Galatians 5 and 6 about the battle between flesh and Spirit. As new creations in Christ Jesus, how should we be living? What type of fruit should we be producing?

Please continue to keep the young adults in your prayers as we get closer to the end of the school year. Pray they will study hard and do well on their exams. Pray they continue to want to know more about God and how to live their lives for Christ. Please pray for Haiti and the continued struggles going on here. Please pray for God's wisdom for us, His presence with all of us and His protection around us.

In Christ, Deb and Dave

