

WINTER 2018

## Building a More Effective Child Sponsorship Ministry in Haiti

It's 2:30 in the afternoon at the Child Sponsorship office on the missionary compound in Les Cayes, Haiti and dozens of children are lined up, overflowing the small porch, and pressing in on workers in cramped offices to get their monthly sponsorship funds. Pastors are also coming and going to meet with Child Sponsorship staff in the stifling heat of the close quarters of this repurposed house.

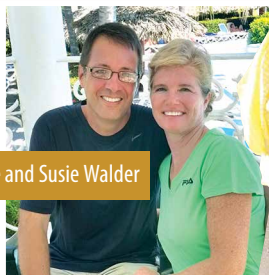
It's a wonderful scene because it represents the 1,158 sponsored Haitian students (and 10,000 more who attend ~126 sponsored schools) who are being given a better chance at life – and more importantly being taught about Christ. But it's a chaotic and

somewhat ineffective process, hindered by an inadequate facility.

The current Child Sponsorship office is 40 years old and was originally built as a modest-sized missionary residence. It served

its purpose at the beginning, but since 2009, our program in Haiti has almost doubled. And in 2014, Bro. Mike and Sis. Susie Walder moved to Haiti to provide in-country administration and oversight for the program, to share the gospel, and to implement God's Word with the students and faculty of the schools.

Over time, Haitian staff have also been added, creating a severely crowded building – especially when the children come.



Mike and Susie Walder

### New Ministry Opportunities

We know our 2,400+ sponsors care about children and understand the importance of this program. Buildings are not the point of child sponsorship – children are. But adequate

And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children. Isaiah 54:13



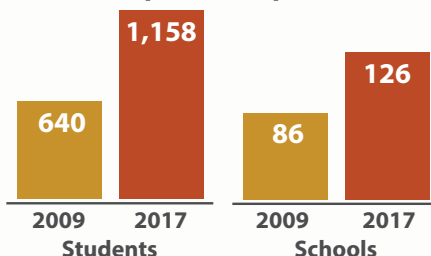
Child Sponsorship office

facilities are essential to make this ministry work. As the Child Sponsorship Committee considers options to improve our office facility in Cayes, **we ask that you support us in prayer for discernment and wisdom to guide how we move forward, so God can be glorified and more souls touched by the gospel.**

continued  
on back



### Child Sponsorship Growth





# Building and Rebuilding

## CONSTRUCTION TEAMS HELP HAITI RECOVER FROM HURRICANE



In the US, we take it for granted that our children will get an education and assemble in a building that provides shelter from the elements. However, in Haiti, many children cannot attend school, and those that do are often in substandard structures, outside in tents or under crude palm branch pavilions. With the construction of a simple roof though, students can attend class regardless of the weather.

Several years ago, a US team built a school roof in Bazelais, Haiti, a picturesque village overlooking the Caribbean Sea and the city of Les Cayes. The children in the community were overjoyed to have a classroom protected from the elements. Sadly, when Hurricane Matthew struck the southern peninsula of Haiti, the school roof was destroyed, along with many other structures. The survivors

were thankful they had escaped alive and set about to rebuild their battered countryside. The Haitians are a resilient people, and with help from US teams, have been rebuilding after the devastating storm.

Bazelais was one of the first places to receive a HarvestCall rebuilding team and their school roof was restored. In some locations, damaged schools and churches have been rebuilt with Haitian labor and HarvestCall supplied material. Some are still on a waiting list for rebuild by HarvestCall construction ministry teams.

Last year, HarvestCall teams worked with Haitian communities to install about 25 school and church roofs. Typically there are about 30 schools on a two to three-year waiting list for roof installation. Hurricane Matthew destroyed many of the school and church roofs already





completed and thereby extended the waiting list.

The HarvestCall teams that install roofs typically have 12 members and five Haitian carpenters. Working side by side, they build and set trusses and install sheet metal panels to complete the roof. Both skilled and unskilled team members are utilized. There is plenty for everyone to do. Typically the female team members assemble and paint desks for the new classrooms while the building roof is under construction. If you are interested in participating on a team, see the work team schedule and team leader contact information on [harvestcall.org](http://harvestcall.org).

Haitian children desire to attend school and recognize the importance of a good education. Their future aspirations are similar to children in the USA. They want to become doctors, nurses, engineers and teachers. The HarvestCall Construction ministry is an opportunity for Haitians and US

volunteers to work together to provide opportunities for the Haitian youth to obtain an education and develop their God-given talents.

With God's blessings and your prayers, support and participation, Haitian children will receive a good education and have the hope of a brighter future. Thousands of children have already benefitted



An improvised soccer field



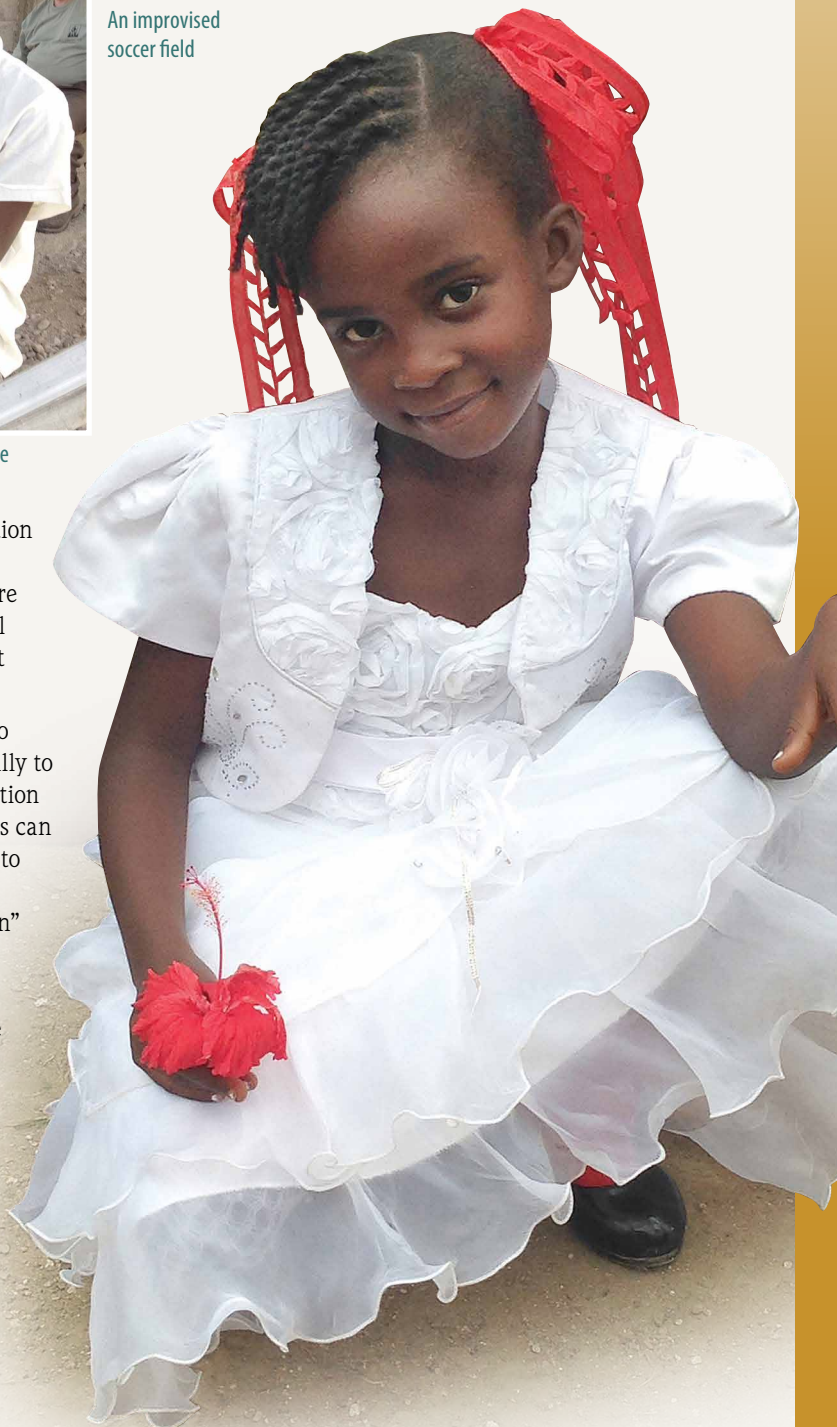
Children are always excited to see construction teams arrive at their village

from the construction ministry in Haiti, and the children are profoundly grateful to have a chance at education.

If you would like to contribute financially to the Haiti Construction Program, donations can be made online or to HarvestCall with "Haiti Construction" in the memo.

For additional information on the Haiti Construction ministry, contact Jon Zeller at [jczeller1972@gmail.com](mailto:jczeller1972@gmail.com).

by Rod Wieland





## The Boundless Love of Christ

by John Huber

Oh the boundless  
love of Jesus, oh the  
glories of his grace,  
Tell the world the  
wondrous story; how he  
saved our ruined race  
Crowned with majesty  
eternal, yet he left his  
kingly throne,  
Came to earth and bore  
our burdens; made our  
anguish all his own

Stephen Ford

Impelled by his boundless love for the Father and for us, Jesus crossed over the demarcation separating immortality from death, taking upon himself flesh and blood. It was his unfathomable love that reached across the boundaries separating light from darkness, and royal priesthood from servanthood. Perhaps the most staggering description of his unbounded love for us is that he washed us in his own blood!

Revelation 1:5

As he prays to the Father in John 17, Jesus expresses the longings and desires of his heart exemplifying evidences of his boundless love for the Father, his neighbor, and his brothers and sisters:

### THAT THEY MIGHT SEE

*And for their sakes **I sanctify myself**, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. John 17:19.* Jesus lived a perfect life of sanctification; the scripture says that he came to be the light of the world, John 8:12. His example demonstrates for us both the importance and the reason for being a light; as we follow his example in obedience, we too long for others to see the Father in our lifestyle and our deeds of compassion.

### THAT THEY MIGHT KNOW

*I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and **that the world may know** that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. John 17:23.* The divine love engendered by the Holy Spirit calls us across the barriers and boundaries of our fears to speak the gospel. The love in our hearts for God and our neighbor leads to a passion and longing for men and women to know truth; to know the Father and his words. "For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them..." "I have many things to say and to judge of you: but he that sent me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I have heard of him." John 8:26, 17:8.

### THAT THEY MAY BELIEVE

*That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: **that the world may believe** that thou hast sent me. John 17:21* In light of the fact that he was the Son of God, the creator of the world, and the redeemer of mankind, Jesus declared that no man can come to him except the father draw him, John 6:44. In love, he earnestly prays that not only will they know, but that they may believe in their heart that he was sent from the Father; that they may believe unto salvation, Romans 1:16. With this example, Jesus demonstrates that prayer is a critical component of love engendered by the Holy Spirit. We are called to plant, water, and to earnestly pray and long for God to draw men and women unto himself; that they may believe.

### THAT THEY MAY GROW

*I in them, and thou in me, **that they may be made perfect** in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. John 17:23.* Christ's commission recorded in the four gospels and Acts is often truncated as "preach the gospel." His commission demands that we not only declare the good news, but that we make disciples by "teaching them all things whatsoever I have commanded you" Matthew 28:20. The boundless love of Christ is multiplied when those who believe grow in their love and obedience of God and his word, and their love for one another.

### THAT THEY MAY GLORIFY

*And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the **love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.** John 17:26* The source, the means, and the ultimate reason for the boundless love of Christ is God; it is about him and his glory! Romans 11:36. Jesus passion that we might see, that we might know, that we might believe, and that we might grow is brought to a climax in his passion for the ever increasing glory of the Father. I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. John 17:4

Oh may the Holy Spirit of God cause a boundless love in us for those the Lord brings in our path; a passion that they may see, that they may know, that they may believe, that they may grow, and that all may redound to the glory of our great God. II Corinthians 4:15

# A Ministry of Healing

Coming to CVE (House of Life and Hope, Magdalena, Sonora, MX) at the age of eight, young Juan had seen and experienced more than any child his age should have to experience. He seemed to be an angry boy. Frequently he would have intense outbursts of anger over things that appeared small. Recently there has been an openness to pursue deeper healing. He stated "I think I am ready to talk about some of my past."

Many times our deepest wounds come through the context of relationships, yet our deepest healing can come through safe, loving and consistent relationships, primarily a deep and abiding relationship with Jesus. John 10:10 says "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

CVE is a ministry dedicated to bringing healing, including spiritual and emotional healing, to wounded children. CVE staff desires them to know Christ as their Savior and to gain capacity and skills to deal with their hurtful pasts. This year, over half of the staff attended training on working with children who have experienced trauma. Trauma can have a significant impact on how they view relationships with God and others, and how they view themselves. One of the principles that has become foundational in their relationships with the children

is "connecting before correcting." It is something that Jesus often modeled.



Any interaction is an opportunity to connect. Be it through play, sharing smiles, high fives, or all three at once!



Staff and children enjoy connecting around the fire after a community dinner

## Renewed to Serve

CVE staff have also made an effort to encourage staff toward a healthy rhythm of work and rest in their ministry to children. One person said, "there is a simple principle in the spiritual life that's just as true as with physics. If a substance pours out of a vessel without anything being

poured into the vessel, that vessel will soon be empty." Jesus modeled being renewed through his relationship with the Father when he went to the mountain alone to spend time with him even when there were many needs around him. (Luke 5:12-16)

by Justin Koch



## Testimonies of Connection and Staff Renewal

Below are a few things that were shared by CVE staff members:

"I have learned the importance of honoring a Sabbath, a day where we take time to stop working and purposely trust Him to work and hold things together while we stop. It's important for us to do things that renew our sense of identity in Jesus, not focus on 'me time'. It's about knowing who you are in Jesus and living/working freely in that."

"Children from difficult backgrounds seem to have a knack for finding their caregivers weaknesses and insecurities. I have found that a solid understanding of how God sees me is essential for the moments when my "buttons are pushed". Spending time in the Word and in his presence renews my perspective of him, myself and the children I serve."

"Compromises and validation have made huge differences in our house. They know they aren't the final authority, but they have the power to respectfully ask for something different and their ideas and feelings aren't dumb, but worth considering."

"In the past year, I have seen an increased ability in my child to work through feelings of shame and to use dialogue to get needs met and resolve issues. I had an experience with my child a couple months ago where he accepted the consequences of his actions. He was facing the shame he felt and actually taking the initiative for reconciliation. When I praised him for that response, he burst into tears. I asked him why he was crying and how he felt, and to my surprise he replied, "Happy!" He was able to feel the beauty of reconciliation. That was a monumental moment!"

Please pray that CVE staff can continue to be vessels for God's grace to flow through them to the children and community they serve. Pray the children can experience deep and lasting healing with the Father.



# Child Sponsorship Ministry

## CONTINUED FROM FRONT

For a couple of years, the Child Sponsorship Committee has been prayerfully considering and evaluating options to remodel the current facility or build a new one in Cayes that can consolidate our two Christian education partners into one location, and expand our ministry opportunities. A remodeled or new facility will house child sponsorship leadership and support staff from MEBSH, HCH (Help a Child in Haiti), and HarvestCall, while also providing a reception area, counseling rooms, training areas, and desperately needed storage space. Child Sponsorship envisions several new ministry opportunities that could be implemented in a remodeled or new facility, including sharing the gospel while students and pastors wait to be served, and using the expanded meeting space to host pastor and teacher training and Bible Studies.

According to Bro. Mike and Sis. Susie, "There is no doubt that the primary focus of Child Sponsorship is to teach salvation and God's Word to the students and faculty of the schools we serve. However, we are convinced that a new facility will greatly enhance our ministry by providing greater opportunities to interact more directly with the students and faculty. It will also



Forming friendships



Learning core subjects



Hearing the gospel

be a blessing for our two child sponsorship partners to work together in one facility, which will improve communication and coordination and make our overall program more effective to advance God's Kingdom."

### Specific Improvements Planned

Whether the decision is made to remodel or build new, the goal is to provide a more effective facility where several specific improvements will be achieved:

- Adequate reception space to accommodate the many children who come to the office
- A reception area that will accommodate sharing the

gospel while students and pastors wait to be served

- Meeting rooms to train Haitian pastors to understand and present the gospel
- Functional office areas for our missionaries and Haitian support staff
- Privacy for individual counseling
- Storage for newly developed Christian curriculum distributed to schools

### Definitive Plans Shared Soon

The Child Sponsorship Committee is in the final stages of its evaluation and has already set aside ~\$160,000 to begin this important initiative, most of which has been provided by general donations to HarvestCall. **We will keep the brotherhood and especially our Haiti student and school sponsors informed as we finalize our direction and determine additional capital needs.**

In the meantime, please be prayerful that the best decisions are made that can build a more effective child sponsorship ministry in Haiti, where our missionaries and staff will be more productive, children will be better served, and more effective gospel teaching and implementation of God's Word will be accomplished.

by Ken Rinkenberger

**STAY CONNECTED** | Prayer support is needed in every part of HarvestCall work. Here are two ways to learn about projects, how to be involved and how to pray specifically.

**E updates** | Get occasional emails with news and info by going to the HarvestCall website ([www.harvestcall.org](http://www.harvestcall.org)) and selecting "Join our email list" on the home page.

**Social Media** | Engage with us on Facebook or Instagram for the most current information.

Facebook.com/harvestcall  
Instagram at acharvestcall



**HELP FINANCIALLY** | Choosing "Where Needed Most" allows us flexibility to direct resources to ministries most in want. However, if you feel moved to support a specific project, just indicate that on the remittance envelope. If specified donations are greater than the need for any designated project, they will be rolled over to the General Fund.

An envelope is provided with appropriate boxes to check. Checks can either be given to your local HarvestCall Representative or mailed to:

**Apostolic Christian HarvestCall**  
**PO Box 3797, West Lafayette, IN 47996**

Or if you wish to donate online, visit the HarvestCall website at:

[www.harvestcall.org/donate](http://www.harvestcall.org/donate)



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