



December, 2012

Dear Friends,

Another Christmas is here and time for a report on the happenings in Haiti and in my life. It has been another busy year. In February a team went to Haiti to work on the children's home and on the school. The children in the home are always the highlight of the trip, loving us from the time we arrive until we all cry as we leave the last day. Included in this team was Cindy Dixon, whose husband Sam died in the earthquake in the Montana Hotel. He was a representative of the Methodist Church, General Board of Global Ministries and was in Haiti to set up a nutrition program for hungry children in Haiti. We all went with Cindy on Sunday to visit the Montana Hotel and share in a memorial service for Sam. In May, Gwen Frazier and I returned to Haiti to visit several sites where reconstruction is happening and to see if we could learn something that would be beneficial to our own community of Michaud.

In July, a team went down to build closets and cabinets to store clothes and other items that are used for the children. Most Haitians do not have a home with any storage space or anything extra to store, so there is not a need for storage space. Mommy Eunide, now has plenty of storage space and can be more organized with the children's "stuff". The mother and sister of Ryan Epps were members of this team. They had not been to Haiti before and like all the rest of us, they fell in love with the children.

The August team finished painting the walls in the school and finished the floors in the school. The November team finished framing out the windows in the school, built storage cabinets in the kitchen space (where every school day dinner is cooked for at least 200 people). Can you imagine cooking for that many people with no conveniences? Needless to say the ladies in the kitchen are very thankful for their cabinets and for the stepstool that lets them get to the top shelf. The July team began a project of square foot gardening on a small scale. Little by little, the school has been completed and the children's home is in good shape. More beds have been built to accommodate the new children who are coming to the Ryan Epps Home. We now have 24 children who call REHC their home. They are loving children and it is a joy to go and share a week with them.

As we round out the year another project has begun. It is the building of the community center. Earlier we had purchased the land, built the wall around the property and installed the gate. The Clayton Rotary paid to have the well dug. Now, begins the construction of the building which will improve the lives of the adults with adult education, English as a second language, skills training and a health care center. The church will be moved here to the larger area serving as a community meeting room (multi-purpose room).



When the church is moved, we will have 2 more rooms in the school to use for class rooms. Since we are increasing the school by one more class each year as the children advance in their grades, these classrooms are much needed. We have about \$70,000 towards the building of the community center and the cost for Phase 1(first floor) of this building is \$120,000. So, if you know of anyone who wants to help with this venture, please send the money to REHC, 929 Mulberry Road, Clayton NC, 27520. Earmarked: Community center. All of the donations will go to the project.

We have been very blessed this year with large and small gifts. Every gift is important and is a blessing from God. We do believe that we have come this far, because God is blessing and directing this work. We have received 3 larger gifts this year that I want to recognize. The Ten Dollar Club of the NC Conference of the Methodist Church blessed us with a grant to be used for a start up church and the Women's Division of the United Methodist Church has blessed us with a grant to pay the salaries for the teachers at the Community center and for the Haitian nurse and to outfit the clinic. A grant from the Duke Endowment to be used for the children's needs has helped to build more beds, put up a safety fence, build the closets and improve the kitchen area where the food for the children is cooked. Many others have helped with hymnals, Bibles, money to purchase rice and beans for distribution in the communities. Clothes have been distributed to several communities. You have helped us to be a blessing to so many people in Haiti. I am so very thankful for every gift you give.

Last year, I was in Haiti at Thanksgiving for the wedding of my sponsored son, Boaz Durame to Louney Elizar. The wedding was beautiful. This year their first child, a son named, Boaz Fils Durame was born on November 1.

In my own family, another great grandchild was born in August. A fine boy named Ethan Zachary is now little brother to Jordan, children of Zack and Jennifer Little. We give thanks for another member of the family. Life goes on, there are weeds to pull in the garden, meetings to attend, family gatherings. I marvel that God has allowed me to live this life full of love from my fellow man, joy in the fellowship I experience at church and the knowledge that God truly loves me. I am so rich and I know it.

In November, I experienced a small slowdown when I had a minor stroke on Sunday morning, November 4. It affected my left arm and leg. The doctors said complete rest for 2 weeks was the best prescription and I followed their orders. It was not easy, but for 2 weeks I stayed home and did nothing. I can report that my arm and leg are back to responding to my commands and I am out and about. Once again, I am so thankful for a great blessing.

My wish is for all of you to know that God truly loves you. That you enjoy every day with family and friends. And that you keep all of us who labor to improve the living conditions of people in Haiti in your prayers, that we will make wise decisions as we labor.

Peace and Joy,

Helen Little