



Patching the bullet holes

It is with great pleasure to update everyone with what has been going on with Practical Compassion lately. Politically, things have quieted down in Haiti politically for the most part, although there are still instances of violence and kidnappings.

Our contact in PaP, Pastor Luc Deratus, who oversees the programs in Cite de Soleil, Thoman, Leogane and Leurboug has had to relocate his family to the US (Miami) due to safety concerns for his family. He makes frequent trips to Haiti to see that all the projects are taken care of.



Bullet holes in roof



School in Cite Soleil

His own church and school building in Cite Soleil took quite a beating during the height of the violence, and was often caught in the cross fire between the gangs and the UN troops rendering bullet holes in the roof of the church and the walls of the school. They are left with the financial burden of repairing the damage.

One major change is that we have started a building project in Pont Sonde with a 10-room school building. Many schools in Haiti are privately run and it has been a common practice



Getting ready for concrete one bucket at a time.

to use a church building during the week for school. This school, which teaches 130 children from pre-k to the sixth grade, has operated this way since it was started nine years ago. It has seven classrooms operating in one open area divided by double-sided chalk boards. Even in that difficult learning environment, the children are receiving an excellent education.



Classroom walls being built

In Haiti, there are National Standardized tests which every student must take and pass to move on after the sixth, ninth and thirteenth grade. We are very proud that we had eleven students at the Pont Sonde school take the test to pass the sixth grade and ALL eleven passed.

This coming year, the government is required schools operate in separate buildings with individual classrooms for each grade level. If the school fails to comply, the students would not be permitted to take the national standardized test and advance to the next grade. So Practical Compassion made a decision to move forward and build the school. It will be a one-level building with ten classrooms, and six bathrooms with FLUSHING toilets. This is a MAJOR improvement from the one outhouse that is on the property now. We also made a decision to have a cement roof so that

future expansion of a second floor could take place if necessary. This project will cost \$43,000 US. As the school nears completion, there will be a need to build school desks, chalk boards, paint the interior and finish the outside walls.

If you want to contribute to this project please send a check or use the PayPal link.

Recently one of those motivational emails came across my desk.....It stated: "For true success, ask yourself these four questions: Why? Why not?, Why not me? And Why not now? (James Allen) I immediately made the correlation to the business world, but it also struck me that those same questions apply to the work we do through Practical Compassion. I am often asked "Why Haiti?" And my answer is "Why not Haiti?" If you look at the country as a whole, I understand why people might ask why? It seems overwhelming and impossible to change anything! It's the poorest country in the western hemisphere, and certainly one of the poorest in the world. But when you realize that there are real people living in incomprehensible conditions, then we each must ask ourselves 'Why not? Why not me? And Why Not Now?'



Practical Compassion offers the opportunity to get involved in several ways. The simplest is to help with an educational scholarship. \$300.00 per year provides the opportunity for a child to attend school, get a hot meal each day, and have a school uniform, shoes and supplies. Not only do you offer hope to a child, but the ripple effect it has on their family is enormous. Donation opportunity is available to help with the school building fund, help with the ongoing food programs, contribute to purchase vitamins for the children, and to help with the teachers salaries.



So to the question "why me?" I will respond with a quote from our founder, George Zimmerman, which seems to sum it up. *"If not me, then who, and if not now, then when?"* So "why me?".....because you can! How often do you have the opportunity to invest so little, and yet get such a life-changing return on your investment? To have the privilege of helping a child receive an education that otherwise would not be PRICELESS. I hope you ask yourself 'Hey, why *not* me?'

Get involved....do it for the long haul. Together, with each of us contributing a little, we *can* make a BIG difference!

Fred Windholz  
President  
Practical Compassion, Inc.

