



If not you, then who?

If not now, then when?

Wednesday, December 23, 2009

Hello again to all of you who are helping the people of Haiti.

Thank you so very much for your gracious and generous end-of-year giving. Please know that your generosity will help the people of Pont Sonde, Haiti in many ways, not the least of which is keeping them alive. Most of your special gifts will be used to buy much needed food to feed the school children for the coming semester. Bless you and thank you so much for caring and doing something about it.



One of the projects that you helped build is the orphanage in Deschapelles. Of course, the first necessity was to purchase the land so we could build. This plot was located and purchased outright. One half of the plot was developed immediately with a security wall and several buildings inside. The other half of the plot was reserved for a school, which is now completed and sits to the right of the original compound.

is another just in front of this one shown here. Each building will withstand hurricanes, having solid foundations, cement block walls, and concrete floors and ceilings. Each is painted in bright colors typical of the Caribbean style. Each house can hold 10 children and has room for a live-in house mother.

Inside the security walls several buildings were placed. Here (right) you see one of the dormitories. There



This building (left) sits just inside the main gate and is the one not visible in the picture above. It is the second of the dormitories to be built, and houses the same number of children as the first dormitory. One is for housing boys and the first for housing the girls.

Of course, there needed to be a shower and toilet facility. That building (right) was built next to the first dormitory.



Water is provided by a gravity fed system of storage tanks fed by an electric well pump. A pump house and generator were also provided. On the next page is a picture of the dining /cooking area and main building which houses administrative personnel, the director and guest housing for visiting missionaries.



The dining and kitchen area (left) seats about 30 children and is used for a Sunday School and prayer room as well. The water supply (right) rests on the roof of the main admin building, and services the entire campus's supply.



Why tell you all of this? Because everyone likes a success story. You see, Practical Compassion was never envisioned to be a foreign landowner or landlord. We always believed that we were called to help others gain solid footing and help them to become independent of foreign controls. After this orphanage was built, we supported it for about three years, taught the staff how to manage the place, how to raise funds to support and operate it and then we got out of the way. Today this orphanage is self-supporting, has raised the funds to build, complete and operate the school that sits on the adjacent lot (boasting 200 students) and pays its own teachers salaries. All of the foreign supplemental support funding is raised through Canadian sources. Schooling is made available to children of the area at an affordable rate for the local economy, orphans are cared for and jobs are created. That looks like success to us, and YOU made it possible.



We worked beside, helped, fed, taught, provided for and loved these children and those who care for them. We became family to the kids and we helped them to their feet. Now they are being cared for and given a chance to survive and grow into productive adults. They will be educated, independent and skilled. They will have a vision for something better than their predecessors had and they will be prepared to lead their own people to a brighter future.

This happens because people like you care.

We continue to work toward helping the indigenous population to find means of achieving a survivable and improved living here in Haiti. Next month, we will share with you another success story that has meant the survival of another community school and the continued employment of teachers as well.

The work goes on, hope continues to be built, people are helped, children are fed and educated and families survive and many find employment. Because you care and give, lives are saved, children and adults get medical care, and futures for many of our Haitian brothers and sisters grow brighter and brighter. You are doing God's own work. For this we thank you and indeed give thanks for you.

Please, if you can, share the story of our work with others and help us to expand our family of supporters. Your personal recommendation will mean a great deal in finding means to help serve the people of Haiti. Again, "Thank you." from us and from them.

Your fellow servants,
Board of Directors, Practical Compassion

George & Suzie Zimmerman