

Happy New Year 2022 from The Emmanuel Baptist Haiti Mission and Child sponsorship team.

It is hard to believe that it has been two years since our last Mission trip to Haiti. So much has happened here, as well as in Haiti since Jan 2020 when we were last there. We really miss the friends we have made and the smiling faces of all our sponsored children.

COVID arrived soon after we landed from our last trip. The school we support had to close their doors for several months since they did not have enough masks and hand sanitizer to help protect and limit the spread. Of course, the fear of a “Voodoo Curse” in Haiti also came into play and many parents kept children home. The staff continued to receive small groups of sponsored children to feed them breakfast and send them home with a healthy lunch and schoolwork. Due to the lack of food, they were so thankful to receive two shipments of barrels containing food, school supplies, essentials, and clothing during the past two years. Thank you to our wonderful Emmanuel family for donations, support, and aid in packing barrels.



The school has struggled for financial support for teachers as well as hiring teachers. There are now approximately 200 students in the FEJ school. When we were there last, we learned of a new pilot project to expand the school from preschool-8 to include grade 9-10. Thanks to a long-term sponsor, one of our

sponsored children Camy was accepted into this program and is due to graduate in June of this year.



Haiti has been dealing with so many tragedies since we were there. Among other things there has been an extreme fuel shortage that has affected their ability to communicate with us. This is something I never even thought of but in Haiti cell towers are fueled by generators powered by gas so without gas the cell signal is down. In addition, the public charges their cell phones and computers using a smaller scale generator, so communication has been restricted. We received our annual Christmas photo of our sponsored children late this year due to this but their thanks and wish for us to enjoy a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year was still felt.

There has been an increased need for space at orphanages all over Haiti due to the increase in poverty. We have two sponsored children at the orphanage (creche) in Kenskoff, Haiti. Our amazing Emmanuel family has also generously donated baby formula, food, diapers, school supplies and essential items to these children. Our donations allowed the staff to stay safe up in the mountains with the children instead being required to travel hours into Port-au-Prince where the gang zone is. On our last trip we purchased a blender for the creche, and they have reported that it was a wonderful blessing when baby food was limited as they were able to blend fresh fruit and vegetables from the garden. It is essential that they have back up supplies of easy to prepare items for when they have no power, which is often. We plan to send more barrels to both the creche and the FEJ school in the Spring.

We do have GREAT news for a family we know well. Our driver while in Haiti, Roberto thanks us for our donation. His wife Guerda was in a gas explosion in March 2021. With financial support from many they quickly evacuated Guerda on an emergency flight to the US Georgia Burn Center. Roberto was soon able to obtain an emergency Visa and went to be with her through her many surgeries and treatments. After 6 months in the US Guerda was well enough to travel home to Haiti with a smile brighter than ever, even through the burns.



Our friends in Haiti have prayed through the assassination of President Moise in July 2021, the 7.2 magnitude earthquake in August 2021 and the kidnappings of missionaries in Sept 2021. Here in Canada, we have few 'big' problems like in Haiti. I often complain about the little things but now remind myself of what my Haitian friends say when I ask how they are.... It is always "By the Grace of God I am well" or "Thanks be to God we are all well". So, I thank God and all our Emmanuel Church Members for all HE does and all you do to show love and support to Haiti.

Thank you,

Your Haiti Mission Team