

REFLECTING ON A YEAR OF BLESSING

BY TIM BRAND EXECUTIVE LEADER

Give Joy to the World, as God has redeemed us through the birth of His son, Jesus! As we finish this calendar year, it is good to reflect on all that God was able to accomplish through us. Starting the year, we had some big, hairy, audacious goals (BHAG) for new programs and to our amazement, God surpassed them all! Here are the things we can rejoice for, as these are all new programs we were able to launch and sustain in 2016:

- Chapel service – A “come as you are” Wednesday afternoon service, held on our campus, that regularly has attendance of 125 people. It is also Haitian led and run, which is wonderful to see as they develop their spiritual gifts.
- (4) Servant-Hearted Leadership Equipping Programs (Jan, March, July, Oct) – The leadership equipping will take 100 people from 10 different communities and walk with them for 2 years, with 4 trainings each year. The overarching theme for the leadership development is to 1) Understand the Heart of God 2) Understand who I am in Christ 3) Instill values of Christian leadership and 4) Provide equipping tools and processes to transform their communities.
- Yellow Iron School of Light Early Childhood Learning Center – We built a school for preschool and kindergarten for 3, 4, and 5 year olds in Thrive for 5. It opened for operation in September 2016.
- Plantain Production – Our 1,200 plantain trees had their first crop in June of 2016. We use this food for our own programs, as well as to sell bunches at cost to women in the community, who in turn sell them at the market.
- P.E.T. Distributions – We assembled, distributed, and maintained 120 P.E.T. wheelchair carts to the North Central Plateau of Haiti (Cap Haitian to Hinche).
- Hydroponics Greenhouse – We developed a model hydroponics greenhouse, capable of producing up to 400 pounds of vegetables per month. This is serving as a model for future production in other areas of Haiti.
- Agronomy Technical School – We have rolled out an agronomy technical school for the area, teaching 10 students every four months, an in-depth physical and educational training on agronomy.
- Chaplain Community Ministry – In April, we were able to bring on a chaplain, who visits homes doing work with the family and talking about Jesus. By the grace of God, we had 75 people give their lives to Christ and over 35 recommit their lives to Christ.

Celebrate with us during this Christmas season, as all of these programs give us a tool to share the Good News of Jesus’ birth to save us all. May peace be with you.



Preschooler flag raising before class



P.E.T. distribution in Hinche



MH4H Agronomy Technical School graduation ceremony



Servant-Hearted Leadership Conference



Banana distribution for market



Christian Heiden and his team with the new greenhouse

CELEBRATING SOMETHING CONCRETE

BY LIZ CLARKE HOSPITALITY COORDINATOR, HAITI

The caution tape slides easy around the pillars of the equipping center. The neighbor kids are helping Vince and Rick blow up balloons but the ladies and I think more will burst than will survive. It can easily happen on the rough concrete with its random sharp corners. We hurry to tie the balloons to a string we'll use as a banner for the Do Something Concrete Final Celebration!



December 4, we held a reception and invited all the mason bosses, people who transported materials, and cement vendors. We simply wanted to say thank you for a job well done these past 10 months. Without their hard work and dedication, we never would've been able to see the project complete. At least not in the time frame we did.

Most attendees didn't even know that they had participated in the project to the tune of 787 floors! They just knew they were working with Many Hands. Many were very excited to learn about the "bigger picture". Because Lutheran Church of Hope was the benefactor of the project, we were so blessed to have a team of their people with us for the party. We celebrated with statistics, words of encouragement, a Spirit inspired devotion by Vince (a member of the Lutheran Church of Hope team), and some refreshments.



(DSC Team) Jean-Ronel, Liz, and Jean-Rene



Mason bosses who led concrete worker teams



Cement vendors were invited to celebrate with us



Transportation team for the DSC project



Serving food at the party



Vince Belt from the LCH team shared a message

In the process of completing 787 concrete floors, Many Hands purchased 12,524 bags of cement. In Haiti, all the concrete is mixed by hand. It's like scratch cooking; a small heap of sand, a few shovels of gravel, 5 or so gallons of water, 2-3 bags of cement and what have you got? A batch of mix for 50 square feet of space. Too dry? Add 1/2 a gallon more of water at a time until desired consistency is reached. These guys are experts for sure.

For some spacial perspective, the average home was 319 square feet. (That does not include the outdoor facilities of both kitchen and latrine.) The total square footage of concrete laid was 120,500+. That's over 40,000 yards for those of you who know concrete. Needless to say, we used a lot of hands (and the rest of the body) to get this work accomplished. Over 3,000 opportunities for employment were given through DSC.

In the 787 homes to receive a concrete foundation, live 4,000+ people. Out of those people, 75 made a decision to follow Christ! Those 75 came out of 33 different families. Haiti is a very family oriented culture, wherein if a father or mother decides to except Christ, the younger children will convert as well. Please continue to pray for these individuals and families, that they will find a good body of Christians to assemble with in their zone, as well as for the children. Pray that they would be reared in the word of the Lord and would grow up to be game changers for their country!

NEW FACES

Marcena Schwab - Office Manager

Marcena joined the MH4H team in December 2016 and comes with years of extensive experience. With an accounting degree from Central College and 30 years of accounting experience, including work at a medical clinic, a few manufacturing companies, and a CPA firm, she is a welcome addition to the team. Marcena will be managing several big parts of our work, including child sponsorships, general accounting, short-term trips, and other projects.

Marcena has been associated with MH4H for about six years, starting as our accounting advisor through a CPA firm in Pella. She has been serving on our Board of Directors since 2015. She also has been heavily involved with our "Sewing Hope" program, helping to create the "Bundled Bottoms" diaper program. She has been to Haiti several times, most recently in June. Marcena is passionate about the work that MH4H is doing in Haiti and in the U.S.

"Jesus commanded us to love and care for the less fortunate. Sometimes, what we don't hear in that command, is what a blessing it is to be the ones loving and caring for the less fortunate. It becomes not a task, but a rewarding experience to love and help improve the lives of people who Jesus loves with all His heart! Working with the people at MH4H and working for the people of Haiti puts me in my happy place!"

She has been married since 1987 and they have two lovely adult daughters. As a family, they love to go to Colorado and hike in the mountains, but an occasional trip to the seashore is a welcome respite, too. Pella has always been Marcena's home and she says she loves it!



NEW THRIFT OUTLET OPENS IN PELLA

On November 1 in Pella, Many Hands for Haiti opened the Many Hands Thrift Outlet, a pop-up thrift store. The store is an extension of the Many Hands Thrift Market in Grimes, IA.

The store will replace the Pella Mango Tree over the winter months, continuing to provide the opportunity for people to participate in local and global missions through volunteering and shopping. All profits help to support our missions work.

"Our new thrift store in Grimes has been an amazing blessing, so we are ready to share the Thrift Market experience with our local supporters in Pella. This store will allow people to purchase some great second hand items, with 100% of profits supporting amazing missions work," explained Ken Landgrebe, store manager.

The store sells donated, high-quality, second hand goods including women's and children's clothing, home décor, jewelry, purses, and toys. If you are in Pella, you can visit the Many Hands Thrift Outlet at 720 Main St, Pella, IA. For more info visit www.manyhandsthift.com.



MH4H RECEIVES BBB ACCREDITATION



At the end of October, Many Hands for Haiti (MH4H) became an accredited non-profit by the Better Business Bureau (BBB), a national agency that sets high ethical standards for businesses and charitable organizations. MH4H is the only non-profit in Pella and one of nineteen non-profits with this level of accreditation in the state of Iowa.

To become BBB accredited, there are 20 standards in five different areas that need to be met. These standards revolve around governance and oversight, measuring effectiveness, finances, fundraising, and informational materials. All 20 standards must be met to become accredited. To learn more, go to www.give.org.

"It has always been a top priority of MH4H to be above reproach with how we handle money given to us and the effectiveness with your dollars. We've worked very hard to be a trustworthy and world-class organization for donors," stated Tim Brand, Executive Leader of MH4H.

give joy to the world

GIVE A GIFT AND TRANSFORM LIVES!

During this Christmas season, we are reminded of what our precious Savior did for us; becoming the ultimate gift for our salvation. We give during Christmas in gratitude of His gift. Our **Give Joy to the World** gift catalog is out and we are already seeing your generous gifts pour in. Give Joy is a great way to give back during the Christmas season, bringing life transforming change into Haitian families and communities.

Hundreds of families benefit from gifts chosen from the Give Joy catalog. Your gift of a goat, food, medicine or even bananas, directly impacts lives, bringing hope to the hopeless. Local farmer Elvéus and his family have seen the blessings from your gifts, with one of their children sponsored through our Give Joy catalog last year:

"I think that, once Many Hands for Haiti came to Sylvain, they were like water that never stopped flowing, everyone in Sylvain benefited."

We want to continue giving the gift of joy to people like Elvéus and his family. Below are some easy ways to give during this season:

provide a bible

Bring light in spiritual darkness. Through scripture, hearts and lives are transformed and the Good News is expressed in Creole, Haiti's native language. This puts a bible in someone's hand with a visit from our chaplain, to learn more about our Lord Jesus Christ, possibly for the first time.

\$15



feed a family

Give hope to the hungry. This gift of a month's worth of meals, including rice, beans, cooking oil, and a bag of spices, helps us fight malnutrition, giving families a healthy future.

\$35



medicine for a month

Provide children the gift of health. Medicine is hard to afford in Haiti, especially when families already struggle to buy food. This covers the cost of antibiotics, fever reducers, and other needed medication for 50 children for 1 month.

\$100



support a new mother

Help a new mom care for her baby. In Haiti, where babies are prone to sickness, caring for a newborn is a challenge. This gift provides medical assistance, basic food support, and additional help with expenses.

\$125



TO GIVE ANY OF THESE OR OTHER GIFTS YOU CAN:

Send a check to **MH4H at PO BOX 204**

or donate online now at www.mh4h.org/give-joy

TEAMS IN HAITI - OCTOBER TO DECEMBER



Team Ebeling, Pella, IA
October 16 - 22, People: 5



Thrift Market Team, Grimes, IA
November 3 - 10, People: 5



Lutheran Church of Hope, Des Moines, IA
December 1 - 8, People: 7