

many hands

QUARTERLY

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STANDING ON THE SHOULDERS

Tim Brand, Executive Leader



As I sit on a flight into Haiti, I'm overwhelmed by the grace that God and you have given to Many Hands for Haiti throughout the years. I am taken back to October 2008, sitting on the same flight with Jared and Stacey Nikkel, when I was going into Haiti to spend time in prayer and meet with community leaders to better understand this call we thought we had for Many Hands. I'm humbled at how God has worked to transform us into something far better than we ever imagined in the beginning.

This November, we launched our Love in Action initiative-- the defining strategy we will focus on over the next decade of ministry. I do not believe there is a higher calling than to strengthen families, starting at the foundational levels of caregiver and newborn, moving to a transformed mind, and seeing it into action through the Fruit of the Spirit within our communities. Through testing God's good and perfect will, we continue to channel our past to build a better future. We've made mistakes, no doubt, and by the grace of God, we are better from having had to walk through those mistakes. We believe we are uniquely positioned to truly bring transformation to the families and individuals in our spheres of influence. It is an exciting time in ministry, and I encourage you to learn more about our Love in Action initiative. Take some time in prayer to understand how God is asking you to participate with us, whether it be in intercessory prayer on our behalf, going to the field, mobilizing with financial resources, raising awareness through advocacy, or serving in hospitality to those on the front lines. All are needed for this God-breathed initiative to have the impact we believe God has anointed.

As we look to the future, I want to intentionally take time to honor our past. Being that next year will be the 10-year anniversary of active ministry for Many Hands, I want to celebrate by telling the inspiring stories of the people, the experiences, and the organizations that have played a vital role in making Many Hands what it is today. We stand on the shoulders of those that came before us, and to tell these stories, I will be blogging each week in 2018 on our website, under the title Standing on the Shoulders. I pray that you follow along and can be inspired by the stories of "love in action" long before this initiative came to be.

We have more work to do, and we are excited that God has chosen us to fulfill this purpose in our world. Thank you for your faith in our leadership and allowing us to steward your dollars given for Kingdom purposes. We are transforming together to be love in action in our broken world.



TWO YEARS OF SERVANT HEARTS

Craig and Christi Gabhart, Operations Managers



Above is the first graduating class of the Many Hands Leadership Development Program (LDP). These graduates represent ten different communities and each have received a certificate of completion. LDP is a two-year program, learning leadership skills through quarterly two-day conferences. In addition, the graduates were able to put their learning into practice through individual and group projects in their respective communities.

Two years of curriculum came to a culmination during the final two-day 'Storyline' conference held in October. The participants reflected on scripture showing that our God is a Missionary God and that He intends to use people to GO and share the story of the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In John 20:21 Jesus said to his disciples, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." The conference attendees heard about being ambassadors for Christ going out into the world. It is not IF we are sent, but WHERE.



Taking notes during a conference session



Praying during praise and worship



Kener (right) during a home visit in his community

On November 17, Many Hands held a graduation ceremony for these leaders. Sixty-one of the one hundred participants demonstrated a deeper level of understanding of the servant leader concepts presented. For this, they received a Certificate of Excellence during the LDP Celebration, honoring them in the presence of their spouses, Many Hands U.S. board, Many Hands staff, and select special guests. Each community group participated in the ceremony, sharing what they learned through skits, songs, dances, and speeches. Speeches were given by Apollon Paul, Many Hands Leadership Development Manager, Jean-Ronel Joseph, Many Hands Chaplain, Craig Gabhart, MH4H Operations Manager, Tim Brand, Executive Leader of Many Hands, and was concluded with a prayer by Pastor Ostel.

A surprise was in store. These budding leaders were sent out from the celebration with something to continue practicing the newly-learned leadership skills. Each of the ten community groups will be given two goats to create sustainable goat programs to benefit their respective communities. Many Hands will set certain expectations for accountability from the leaders. Each group will be asked to select two people from their community to attend a two day goat training class taught by Many Hands Agronomist, Claudin Augustin. As the goats multiply, each new recipient of a young goat will also receive the training from the two people that were trained initially in each community.

At the close of 2016, a desire to pour into those individuals showing the most servant leader potential created a second aspect to the program. Twenty of the leaders were offered the opportunity to be part of a class called, "Leader of Leaders", meeting twice each month since May 2017, to further develop their servant leadership skills. One young man, Kener Joseph, surfaced as one of the star leaders in the program, going above and beyond while working in numerous ways to benefit his community of Fontenn.

Many Hands will provide a similar learning opportunity over the next two years, beginning in January 15-16, 2018 for 120 individuals. Those who are selected to join the Many Hands LDP will be identified by using a series of questions such as, "Who do you consider a leader?", "What is a servant leader?", and "Who has servant leader qualities?". A set of core values will be established among the group, with the first being that all teaching is based on Truth in Jesus Christ. The two-year goal for the LDP is to strive for individual life transformation in Christ. These individuals will be encouraged to take responsibility to make a long-term effect within their families and community, by being a 'Lidè Sèvitè, yon sèvi lot', Servant Leader, serving each other.

NEW FACES - EDUCATION

Our new Love in Action initiative has enabled us to expand our staff in our education programs!

Our goal is for our programs to be Haitian led and run. We are there to equip, encourage, and hold accountable, but our desire is to find Haitian "experts" in their field to do the educating. Each staff member is a Christian, invested in the Many Hands vision of transforming together. We hope to create a safe space where families can learn about Jesus, learn who they are in Christ, and begin to live the true life of abundance out of those understandings.



Assistants help receive the families and monitor the daily meals, as well as lead developmental activities with the children while the parents are in the afternoon class.

Lerozane, our nurse, monitors the growth and development of the children, counseling the parents when children are sick and every other week teaches a Health class for the parents.

Juna is our Overall Lead for the First 1000 Days program. She trains and directs the Assistants in their responsibilities and every other week leads Spiritual Development and Parenting classes with the parents.

Top (L-R):
Misselene - Assistant
Gelène - Assistant
Jean-Willio - Assistant
Irana - PMJ Assistant

Bottom (L-R):
Tcherly - Assistant
Juna Jean - Lead/Teacher
Lerozane - Nurse
Liz - Education Coordinator

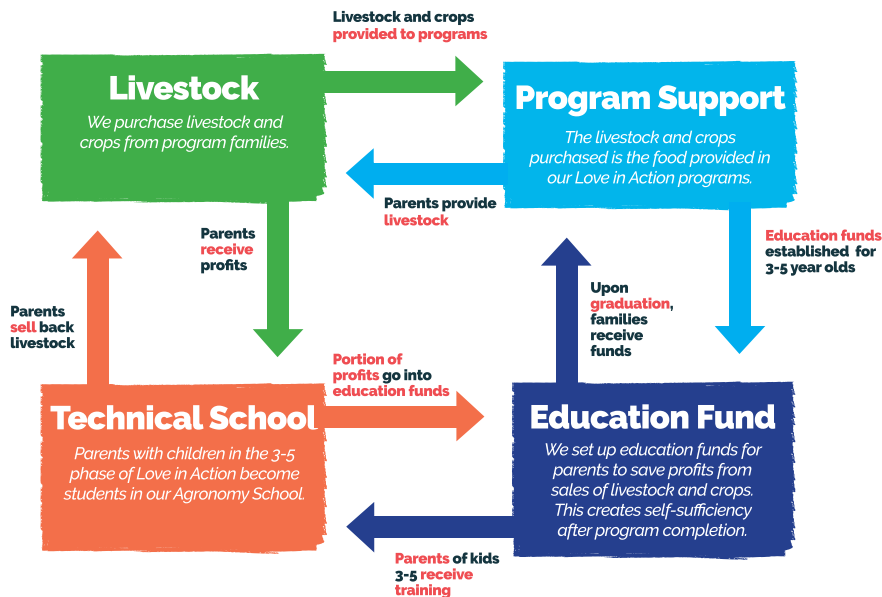
NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH THE RCA

Many Hands for Haiti (MH4H) and the Reformed Church of America (RCA) is excited to announce a new partnership between the organizations, focusing on a livestock initiative designed to strengthen families by creating an income source. The new partnership went into effect in October 2017 and the initial commitment is three years.

The livestock program will be part of the holistic Love in Action initiative, specifically targeting our families with children in the School of Light preschool. Each family will be given a pregnant female goat. The offspring can be sold back to MH4H to be part of our First 1000 Days (Mil Jou) feeding program, where we will give the family a portion of the money right away and a portion will be put into an educational saving account. This saving account will build over a three-year period, giving the family an opportunity to pay for school upon graduation from our preschool.

"We hope to give power back to the parents, where they get to control the destiny of their child's education, not a foreign donor," stated Tim Brand, Executive Leader of MH4H. This livestock program will also include adult education, commercial goat herd, and introducing other livestock such as rabbits and cows in the years to come.

MH4H roots are with many Iowa-based RCA churches, dating back to group meetings with church leaders in 2007 and 2008, representing RCA churches from Pella, Des Moines, Sioux City, and Spencer. "It is exciting to be able to have this partnership at the denomination level with the RCA, being that MH4H was birthed from meetings with many RCA churches and the desire to work better together," commented Brand.



A LIFE MORE ABUNDANT

Micah Aurand, Administrative Coordinator

Many Hands for Haiti (MH4H) has had the joy of watching God reveal Himself to the people of Pignon, Haiti in beautiful ways this year. From feeding a hungry child, to teaching a farmer how to yield better crops, to pouring concrete floors, to buying produce from a woman in the market, in everything we do we desire one thing - that the Haitian people would have life and life more abundant as described in John 10:10. Two of the MH4H staff members paving the way for the Gospel to be heard are Pastors Lumanes and Jean-Ronel. The following account shares how these men are making disciples of their nation for Jesus:

One day Pastor Lumanes went to visit a woman's house. He observed her sweeping the floor and began a conversation with her. "It's really good to sweep the floor. I know how to sweep, as well. Would you like me to help you?" The woman shook her head, "No, I don't want that. I don't have time to receive you today because I'm cleaning the house. You can go home now." So with a wave, Lumanes bid the woman good-bye.

After some time the pastor returned to visit the woman again. As he approached the front porch, he glanced around noting the woman's hard work. The smallest twinkle was in his eye as he again initiated a conversation. "Oh, you're done sweeping? I'm sorry, I came too late today. I would have helped you." Indicating the well-groomed yard, Lumanes continued, "There were a lot of weeds here before but I see that you've removed them and cleaned the yard. It looks very welcoming now. But you know, in the same way that the floor is nice because you chose to clean it, Jesus can clean your heart. Before you didn't want to receive anyone, now your yard is beautiful and people can come sit down. When Jesus enters your heart, He cleans it and makes it beautiful."

In 2017, Pastors Lumanes and Jean-Ronel have seen seventy-four new believers added and seventeen lives rededicated to the kingdom of heaven, including that of the woman previously mentioned. While door-to-door evangelism is intimidating to others, this is their main approach to sharing the Gospel. Using everyday objects, they reach out to people where they are. "You must approach them as a friend," Pastor Lumanes says. "Even if you're not their friend yet, you must be one to them so you can share what is on your heart."

The responsibility of making disciples does not end when a person declares his faith in Jesus. After praying with a convert, Pastors Lumanes and Jean-Ronel will present him to a local pastor as a new believer and member of the church. Giving him a Bible, they encourage him to get involved with his new church family. Time to time, they follow up to offer encouragement and see how he is maturing in the faith.

The work of a believer is not always easy; being on the front-line of spiritual warfare means battling attacks, rejection, and weariness. But this is also a life filled with joy, miracles, and victories. Give thanks with us as we praise God for the victories He won in the lives of these ninety-one Haitian brothers and sisters.



Praying for and encouraging a new believer



(L-R) Pastors Jean-Ronel and Lumanes

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DONATE AND MAKE AN IMPACT

If you feel led to help us impact lives through our programs, you can donate using the envelope provided or via our website through secure electronic transfer. Checks can be sent to MH4H directly to **PO Box 204, Pella, IA 50219**. Donations are tax deductible.

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