

NEW PROGRAMS LAUNCHED IN HAITI

In 2015, we prayed and waited patiently for the Lord to show us where He wanted to lead us for our work over coming years. And show us He did! In early 2016, MH4H launched two new programs within our strategic core: a servant-leadership course for community leaders and a P.E.T. hand-powered wheelchair cart ministry for the disabled.

Over the past two years, MH4H has done two leadership conferences for various audiences, but never had an ongoing program. The Servant-Hearted Leadership course kicked off on January 21 and 22 at our new Equipping Center on the Sylvain campus. The course is a two-year program, with conference type meetings four times a year. The course focuses on four areas: Biblical foundations, image-bearer training, leadership equipping, and community transformation. Participants come from 10 different communities from the greater Pignon area, with 10 leaders from each community, making up 100 total participants in the course. Expectations aren't just to attend the conference, but to replicate the conference in their communities and also to do MH4H projects in those communities, run by the participants. This allows for learning on three different levels: hearing, teaching, and doing.



The first conference was led by Eric Recker, Dave Gritters, Tim Brand, and Joel Verhoef. Topics covered during the two days were understanding the heart of God, unlikely beginnings of leaders, no longer slaves to fear/living in freedom, and treasure hunting for the Kingdom. "It was a powerful two days, as God's presence was evident. The day after the conference, we had a phone call from one of the local pastors that a participant had given his life to Christ. And that was just one of many stories," said Brand, executive leader of MH4H. Another conference just took place on March 8 and 9 and was led by students from Cumberland University.



Another program launched in 2016 is our continued work with medical assistance to the marginalized, namely children and those with disabilities. In December, a container full of 120 P.E.T. carts made in Leighton, IA, shipped to Pignon. They arrived in mid-January, ready for the P.E.T. short-term mission team that came February 11 - 18. MH4H has hired two local Haitians to do final assembly and maintenance of the carts. These two individuals were trained by the P.E.T. Leighton chapter and both went on the first distributions of the carts. Distributions will continue throughout the year, covering a geographic region from Cap Haitian in the North to Hinche in the South. To date, over 50 carts have been distributed.

CAMPUS AND GIVING UPDATE

We have been moving through a very exciting period in the last 4 months, with God pouring blessings out on the work being faithfully carried out by our staff in Haiti and in the States. To look back and see where we were a year ago, and then see where God has brought us, has been incredible. It has been a definite testament to His faithfulness and a confirmation of His call for our work in Haiti.



Our current goal is to continue to lay foundations and establish ourselves in the community of Sylvain. This way we can serve the people of Haiti and support our teams coming from the States. Phase 1, which is completed, contains the key building blocks for ministry needs. This includes our agronomy training center to train locals on how to grow food, an equipping center to develop people and raise leaders, a living space for short-term mission teams and long-term missionaries, a clean water well to provide water to the community fields, and a solar power system to electrify the campus.

It is an incredible thing to see the campus come to life. New families are being supported, children are being fed, and new jobs are being created. And the best part: these people hear the good news of Jesus, both in word and deed. We are thankful for this work.

HERE'S WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED THROUGH DONATIONS:

50/50 CAMPAIGN

We recently ran the 50/50 campaign to answer the call God has placed on our hearts to meet the needs of people in Sylvain. We needed to raise \$150,000 to finish Phase 1. The response we received from this campaign was phenomenal, with people answering the call and donating generously. Through everyone's donations, and including our self-funded \$50,000, we were able to raise over \$170,000! Amazingly, we found out that prices for materials and other costs increased toward the end of our campaign. So, God knew before we started that it would need to be covered!



Thanks to the efforts of staff and friends of MH4H we have been able to find sponsors for all the children currently in our Thrive program. We were also able to increase our program size to 60! This increase means that we are running at capacity until fall. Thank you to all those sponsors who have taken on the blessing of these beautiful children!



Give Joy was also a blessing this year, with many people giving towards gifts such as goats, medicine, gardens and food. Through the Give Joy donations we are able to:

Buy **800 bricks** for construction
Provide **93 Bible study sessions**
Build **11 beds**
Pay **1 month** of a chaplain's salary
Fund **1/2 year** of a construction job

Build **2 rooms** at the living quarters
Provide **57 kids** medicine for a month
Feed **137 families** for a month
Gift **121 goats**
Plant **35 gardens**

Save **41 trees**
Purchase **10 solar panels**
We also had **\$8,800** to use as the ministry sees fit

This came to a total of **\$43,075** in donations. This will impact the community incredibly. All these gifts work together to strengthen the community of Sylvain, helping to bring hope to otherwise hopeless situations. Thank you for your continued support. We are truly "better together"!

"COLORS OF HOPE" HAITI COLOR BLAST 2016

KARMEN BROWN MANAGER, MANY HANDS MARKET in SPENCER

Last February 2015, we were spending some time with our young Haitian friends, who help us interpret. Roodson, out of the blue, just said, "I wish we could do a Color Blast here." He sees all the photos on Facebook of those of us that annually run. Before I could even think, I said, "Well, Heather did one in Africa – why not do one here in Pignon?" And from there it started. We prayed for wisdom and with anything we do in Haiti, we want to tie it to a ministry opportunity to share Jesus. So, off we went to plan our first Colors of Hope Color Blast in Haiti.

The day was a smash hit! On February 6th, 100 runners were invited by local pastors and ministries in the community. They all showed up, excited and ready to go. They received a bright tie-dye shirt, and were given a breakfast of peanuts, bananas, and juice. The Color Blast started at the church in Pignon, run by our dear brother in Christ, Pastor Francois. He did the opening message about running your race in life for Christ. I shared what the race was about and explained the logistics. Then they were off, headed down the street of Pignon and running towards Sylvain! It was so fun to see the locals watching the runners and laughing at all the fun they were having. There were 4 color stations to run through – blue, pink, yellow, purple.



Five girls from the Hope Church team joined in with the runners, and the rest of the team, along with many Haitian friends, set up the color stations. Each station had hand-made signs of encouragement and scripture to remind the runners why they were running. Everyone ended up colorful! When everyone arrived on campus in Sylvain, we gathered at the Equipping Center, sang songs, and opened in prayer. Heather and Mercy shared a great message about *Attitude, Course and Influence*. We control our attitudes, the Bible maps out a course for our lives with Jesus, and whom we hang out with influences us for good or bad.

After the message, we shared a wonderful Haitian meal prepared by the cooks and had special fellowship time. As the runners were ready to leave, they were told about a gift each one would be given as they left: a small backpack with a solar light and Bible. For me, the best part was seeing their faces as we told them. They were so excited to receive their own Bibles. When asked if they wanted to do a Color Blast again next year, they all hollered with delight and said "YES"! It was a blessed day and for His Glory! We are underway in preparing for our 2017 Colors of Hope Color Blast.

NEW STAFF - LIZ CLARKE

Liz Clarke, who was our Mango Tree Manager for 2 years, has answered the call to Haiti! She is now in Haiti serving as Hospitality Coordinator for Many Hands for Haiti in Pignon. This calling had been building on her heart for a long time. She will be working with short-term mission teams during their visits and working in the community to build relationships with locals. She is also co-managing our **Do Something Concrete** project. Working alongside Haitian staff and leaders, she will be helping to find those most in need of a concrete floor for their home, and then continuing to minister and share the love of Christ with them.

She asks for the following:

Pray that I will continue in humility, helping God to be made real in this broken world. Also pray for our relationships. We are asking for radical unity within our team and within the community members we live alongside.



"DO SOMETHING CONCRETE" BLOWS AWAY EXPECTATION

When God is for something, nothing can stand in the way of Him accomplishing it. MH4H and Lutheran Church of Hope (Hope) learned this in a big way this past Advent season.

Each year, Hope has an outreach project for their congregation to participate in during the Advent season. This year, the project was "Do Something Concrete", which challenged members to give money towards cement floors in Haiti through MH4H. The organizers of the project had hoped to raise enough money for 100 floors, which would allow for a cement floor in every home in Sylvain. But God had different plans and brought in funds for 774 cement floors!

With the scope of the project greatly expanded, the impact of this project will now be felt in 10 different communities and the ripple effect will be great. First, 774 homes will get a cement floor, creating a safe foundation, free from the disease carrying dirt floors. Second, all the materials will be purchased locally and all the labor will be hired in these 10 communities, creating jobs in the area, helping families be able to support their needs. And lastly, we are utilizing those being trained in our Servant-Leadership course to lead the project management of the cement floors in their communities, empowering those to lead where God has called.



Workers celebrate another house receiving concrete!



Liz Clarke reads from the Word. Each house also receives a Bible and a prayer.

We thank the people of Hope for their generosity with this project. The Kingdom impact will be massive, as we go and build relationships with these families through the life-transforming nature of a new cement floor.

TEAMS IN HAITI - JANUARY TO MARCH



Pella Christian High, Pella, IA
January 5-12, People - 16



Gritters Electric, Pella, IA
January 18-23, People - 8



Sunnybrook, Sioux City, IA
Jan 28 - Feb 4, People - 11



Hope Church, Spencer, IA
February 4-11, People - 16



P.E.T. Team, Leighton, IA
February 11-18, People - 16



The Way Church, Newton, IA
February 18-25, People - 10