many hands QUARTERLY

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MANY HANDS FOR HAITI
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EXPLODING IN A GOD WAY

BY TIM BRAND EXECUTIVE LEADER

At the end of 2015, the 50/50 campaign kicked off and finalized, giving us the funding to put foundational building blocks for the campus in Haiti that would allow us to transform lives. And transform God did! It gives me no greater joy than to report back to you all, who trusted us with your financial gifts, what God has been doing over the past 9 months. Here are some of the highlights so far in 2016.

The Do Something Concrete cement floor project has been a life-changer for the greater region of Pignon. As I write this, we have completed over 580 cement floors in homes, providing safety to roughly 3,480 people. We have sourced all the products locally, including sand, gravel, cement, and labor, providing over 6,380 day jobs that pay an above average wage. We've heard stories of people being able to now send their kids to school, build a house, or buy a motorcycle, all because they had access to work. Furthermore, we've had over 52 people commit or recommit their lives to Christ as a result of the follow-up work done with this project. Absolutely incredible!

One of the many families blessed with a cement floor

Over 6,380 day jobs created for Haitians

Leaders at our conference perform a trust fall

We launched our Servant-Hearted Leadership training in January, with 100 leaders from 10 different communities participating over a two-year period. We are watching Christ-centered leadership take hold in these leaders, with 36 of them committing or recommitting their lives to following Jesus! Earlier this year, the leaders were each given $20 and told to go and impact the Kingdom, however the Lord led them, and report back in 2 months. From these gifts, widows were taken care of, community herds of goats were established, gas purchased and resold to send kids to school, and medical bills paid for needy individuals in the community. The hands and feet of Christ were lived out by the members of the community.

Jesus talks a lot about bearing fruit and we are literally doing that, with plantains, mangoes, and vegetables galore. Last June, we planted over 1,200 plantain trees and the first harvest came this summer. We have been so abundantly blessed that we've also been able to transplant plantain tree-shoots to families in the community, allowing them to grow their own fruit! In July, with the help of an Eagle Scout from Hartford, Connecticut, a hydroponics greenhouse was installed on the campus, with the intent of providing over 100 pounds of vegetables every couple of months. We now have model gardens that are run by agronomy students, peanut fields, plantain fields, and a hydroponic greenhouse on site. Being able to feed yourself is a critical building block for sustainment, and we pray for God's continued blessing on these initiatives.

Our plantains are growing in abundance

Huge peppers growing after only one month

Odenes attending the hydroponics greenhouse

There are more projects highlighted in this newsletter. Needless to say, the ministry is EXPLODING in a God way, and it would not be possible without your steadfast prayers, financial support, and continually giving of your time. The foundations are set and God continues to pour His vision into us for the next steps for the ministry. Thank you for entrusting us with your time, treasure and talents, and we pray that this newsletter gives a testimony to the explosive multiplication God has done with your gifts.

ÉCOLE DE LUMIÉRE PRESCHOOL OPENS

BY BEV BRAND EDUCATION PROGRAMS DEVELOPER

Monday, September 5, was the first day of school in Haiti. But it was not a normal first day for the Yellow Iron School of Light at the MH4H campus in Sylvain, Haiti! All the years and months of dreaming, planning and preparation to open a Christian preschool that would have a lasting impact on the surrounding area, came together at 8:00am, September 5, with the arrival of twenty excited three year olds accompanied by their parents. These twenty children had completed the 0-3 year old Thrive for Five Program and were now ready to enter preschool and continue the journey. Thrive for Five is a program for children along with a parent, that provides healthy food and clean water through a daily feeding program, health education through classes for parents and weekly health checkups for the children, and most importantly, the love of Jesus is shared through Bible teaching, prayer, and being the hands and feet of Jesus when needs arise in the community. The last step is the opportunity to attend preschool. Children can thrive to age five so they can continue to learn and grow in a healthy way that bring sustainable change.

The opening of Yellow Iron École de Lumière (School of Light) Preschool was the next step in the journey for the 20 three year olds in the program and was truly an effort of "many hands". We cannot begin to thank all the volunteers who created plans for the building, supervised the building process, built shelves and tables, painted the walls, donated teaching supplies, decorated and set up the classroom, offered prayer support, donated time and money, and sponsored children, who can now attend a first class preschool in Haiti! It took many hands and the grace of God to accomplish what was only a dream a few years back. We praise God that École de Lumière is now a reality in Sylvain, Haiti, and that twenty little children will be blessed and equipped to have a better future.

If you would like to financially support École de Lumière in Haiti, please consider donating in one or more of the following ways:

Feeding Program Sponsor
$15 a month will feed a child the entire school year
($1 per school day will provide breakfast and lunch)

Teacher/Helper Sponsor
10 sponsors @ $30 a month to go toward teacher/helper salaries
(good quality teachers are essential for this program)

Classroom Sponsor
Donate any amount toward continued maintenance and supplies for classroom

Send a check to **MH4H at PO BOX 204, Pella, IA, 50219** or donate online at **www.mh4h.org.**

THE INTERN PERSPECTIVE

Over the summer months for 2016, Many Hands was blessed to host Nichole Coe, Katelyn Kime, Maddie Hilsabeck, Regan Nelson, Laura Nicholson and Alecia Olson as interns, who assisted in various ways throughout their month long stays. They share their perspectives on the time and experiences they had in Haiti:

Maddie Hilsabeck

Spending a month in Haiti was one of the greatest things I have ever experienced (no exaggeration). I daily think about how much I would love to go back. The relationships that were built while I was there are something I will never forget, whether that be with Thrive families and children or staff members. Spending time with the children and families on a consistent basis every day was powerful, because it gave me the opportunity to get to know them as the individual people God has created them to be. God was constantly reminding me that language is not a barrier between love and friendship.

Putting this experience into words has been extremely difficult for me, especially trying to explain a month's worth of time into one conversation or even just finding the words worthy enough to describe it. There are so many things about being in Haiti that I thank God for often, and I look forward to the coming years of seeing how God will grow and transform this organization and the hearts of the people of Haiti.

Alecia Olson

Recapping a month spent in Haiti is a difficult task. As cliché as it may sound, it was somewhat of a roller-coaster; moments of joy and laughter mixed with bits of heartache and homesickness. The wonderful part is that my roller-coaster was on God's track and I was strapped into my seat with His love and peace.

I was interested in learning about life as a long-term missionary. Staying with MH4H for a month gave me a taste of that life. I loved getting to see the way MH4H is so passionately involved in the community through their different ministries. Getting to interact with the people of Haiti, with time to invest in the relationships, changed my heart. I learned more about loving others openly and boldly through watching everyone interact with each other. I feel so blessed to have been a teeny, tiny piece in the work God is doing through MH4H in Haiti. A piece of my heart is in that beautiful country, and I pray I can some day return - God willing!

Nichole Coe

My time in Haiti was filled with many emotions and experiences. As an educator, the timing was God blessed. I had the privilege of spending the month with 3 other women in addition to the fantastic in-country team. This was my fifth time in less than 3 years heading to Haiti with MH4H and each time my relationship with God has grown.

This time, I was blessed with assisting 2 special needs children, whom have been supported by many people associated with MH4H, to learn to hold a spoon so they can feed themselves. Neither of them was very excited when the process began, however changing behavior is never easy. At the end of the time together, both children held the spoon independently and just needed assistance with getting the food into their mouth! This was such a blessing, however, the true blessing came from my relationship that was strengthened in God and learning from the other fabulous 3 women. Thank you, friends and family, for supporting God's call in my life.

Regan Nelson

I loved getting to see both sides of the impact that Many Hands is making, both in Pella and Haiti, and I loved the hearts of the staff. In Haiti, I did some documenting for Craig and Christi, and helped perform health checks with Le 'Rosen, our Thrive nurse.

One of my favorite parts was being able to meet my sponsor child, Dieunika! I was worried that I wouldn't recognize her. I prayed, "Lord please help me know who she is. Please point her out to me." As I walked into Thrive, I began to worry because I wasn't finding her. Just as I thought that, I recognized her immediately and whispered to Maddie, "That's her." Within seconds, she locked eye contact with me, wiggled out of her mom's arms and ran straight to my legs! Praise Jesus! Our relationship took off from there. After a week, she ran to me each day. Her mother Sonia was so wonderful too. I cherish our relationship. If you sponsor a child, know that they appreciate and know the significance of what you are doing to support them! Many moms started asking who their sponsors are. Keep praying for them!

God is doing great things in Haiti. He's on the move in the hearts and lives of the Haitian people and you can see the effects it's having on the communities. I am so thankful for the month that I was able to spend in Haiti and for the relationships and experiences I gained from it!

MANY HANDS THRIFT MARKET OPENS

"Local hands. Global hearts. Transformed Lives." That is the vision for the new Many Hands Thrift Market in Grimes, which opened on the 15th of August!

God blessed us with a great opening, with over 2500 shoppers visiting in the first week. We now employ 10 staff, and have had over 100 volunteers working to serve Grimes and transform lives.

Please continue to pray that God's hand guides our work through this thrift store. If you are ever in Grimes, you can visit the Many Hands Thrift Market at 2900 SE Grimes Boulevard, Grimes, IA. For more info visit www.manyhandsthrift.com.

TRAINING FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

BY CLAUDIN AUGUSTIN AGRONOMY MANAGER - HAITI

The Many Hands for Haiti Agronomy Technical School started on March 28, 2016. We selected ten leaders from two different communities (Sylvain and Lacoste) to train about agriculture. The class has two phases: a theoretical phase and a practical phase. The class meets three times a week on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, holding discussions on many subjects, including how to make a good garden, how to protect the environment, how to fight against erosion, and much more.

The class is very interesting. The students come on time, eager to learn and practice. They master everything they learn in class together, doing well on both theoretical and practical tests. They acknowledge with gratitude all that MH4H puts at their disposal to facilitate their training process, such as land, water, documents, tools, seeds, fertilizer, and so on. They are very proud of their school and they promise to go back to their communities to pass on what they have learned. This group of students will graduate soon, and the certificates they will receive can help them get jobs, grow their own crops, and help take care of their families.

My goal and obligation as an agronomist is to help other people receive good knowledge about agriculture, so that the country may have a better tomorrow. Many people (young and old) are very interested in our training program. Besides the leaders, there is a huge amount of people who keep asking to join us.

My desire is that the school would take agronomy training to another level to improve the people's lives in the communities through our participants and leaders.

Claudin teaching the Agronomy Technical Class

Students working in the practical phase of the lesson

TEAMS IN HAITI - JULY TO SEPTEMBER

Central Reformed, Oskaloosa, IA
June 22 - July 1, People - 25

Lutheran Church of Hope, Des Moines, IA
July - August, People - 10

Tarrytown Team, Tarrytown, NY
July 20 - 27, People - 10

Christian Heiden Team, Hartford, CT
July 27 - August 5, People - 3

Bright Horizons/Education Team, Pella, IA
August 23 - Sept 1, People - 4