

many hands

QUARTERLY

Celebrating **10 years** of ministry | 2008-2018

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WEDDING CELEBRATIONS

Christi Gabhart, Operations Manager, Haiti



Early in May 2017, Many Hands for Haiti (MH4H) Chaplains, Lumanes and Jean-Ronel, saw numerous couples come to know Jesus as their Savior, who were living together as a family, but had not been united in marriage. Pastor Lumanes introduced the idea of MH4H offering these new believers a day honoring God through a man and a woman making a commitment to each other and to God, witnessed by family and friends. This was a prayer presented to God by MH4H. God answered, "YES!"

Soon a date was set, today, December 30, 2017. Twenty couples, representing five different area communities, were identified as willing to make this deep commitment. The Chaplains continued to meet with all 40 people, offering pre-marriage counseling and taking time to disciple them in the Word of God throughout the months leading up to the wedding.

MH4H wanted to offer a very special celebration, including a special gown, shoes, suits, ties, rings, and food. Musicians prepared their music selections that would be played on an electric keyboard, guitar, and violin. Decorations for the Equipping Center, where the ceremony would be held, were kept simple, yet beautiful. With the generous gift of people's time, the generous donations, and the help of short-term mission teams traveling with extra luggage to bring these beautiful things to Haiti, the idea was becoming reality.

The long-awaited day arrived. The ceremony proceeded with such ease through each portion of the wedding program. The couples signed the marriage certificates, they were presented as husband and wife, a benediction was proclaimed, and corks were popped on bottles of chilled champagne to be shared by the newly wedded couples. The gathering of nearly 350 people, was one of worship, praise, and thanksgiving to God for all He has done and will do in the lives of each couple.

For these new believers, this ceremony was not just a celebration, it was an opportunity to stand before loved ones, as they commit themselves to honor the Lord in every aspect of their lives. Many of the couples will be baptized in the coming weeks; others will present their children in church for the first time. Discipleship will continue for these families by both the local churches and the MH4H Chaplains. Remember them in your prayers as they begin a new life serving God and each other as husband and wife.



PUSHING THROUGH

Nate Heiden - Hydroponics Expert

Curiosity and excitement buzzed through the air as co-workers, neighbors, and community members watched the unconventional structure take form. "How can plants grow hanging in the air without dirt?" many asked. In July of 2017, Many Hands for Haiti (MH4H) took a leap of faith by partnering with Levo International to bring a hydroponics system to the community of Sylvain. God blessed the new system with a beautiful harvest and agronomy technicians who were willing to study this new method of growing.

Many blessings in life also come with challenges. To address this, Nate Heiden (Levo International) and Kelly Marcelin (MH4H) have teamed up to troubleshoot some of the issues that have surfaced during the initial trial runs. According to Heiden, some challenges that the systems have encountered so far are the intense sun and temperatures present much of the year in Haiti, as well as logistical challenges of finding fertilizer and system components in Haiti or shipping them from the United States.

Heiden says, "In order to counteract the issues arising from excessive sun and heat exposure, we are going to install shade cloth on top of our systems to cut back on the amount of sun that the systems are directly exposed to during the day. In addition, we are going to make sure that the water tanks are covered during the day in order to decrease the amount of water lost through evaporation and to keep the water temperature down. I have also begun to test the effectiveness of local fertilizers in our systems with preliminary success. We are hopeful that we will not have to continue to ship fertilizer in to Haiti which will greatly simplify our supply chain."

These systems carry a great deal of potential to positively impact this community. They can be used to grow crops in areas where soil is not reliable. They are able to decrease water demand and are more resistant to drought than traditional agriculture. Using hydroponic systems also require significantly less space than traditional agriculture. For these reasons, Many Hands continues to improve our growing methods. We look forward to seeing the hydroponics realize their full potential in Pignon, Haiti.



Shade cloth over the Hydroponic System



Testing Haitian fertilizer in the system



Less water makes the system more sustainable

NEW FACES



Yves Garamond - Supply and Transportation

Yves joined the Many Hands team in Sylvain, Haiti October of 2017. He, his lovely wife, and his son live in a neighboring community - a three minute motorcycle ride from the Many Hands campus. Yves actively participates in his church on both the worship team and the care team. As the leader of the care team, Yves sets the example by visiting sick congregation members to offer encouragement, prayer, and help with household needs.

Yves' previous work experience as a taxi driver introduced him to Many Hands. Liz Clarke said, "As the organization's needs continue to grow, we often shop in Hinche...and had been using Yves [as a taxi driver] for almost a year before it was determined that his character was one that we wanted on our staff."

As the Many Hands chauffeur, Yves makes things happen! Whether he is taking a sick child to the hospital or running an errand, Yves is attentive to the needs of the people around him. Yves also manages the supply depot on campus. He is responsible for filling orders for the Many Hands programs, keeping inventory, and restocking. Yves continues to show the quality of his character through his diligence and transparency in every aspect of his work. He says, "When we are obedient, God will bless us." Many Hands is thankful for people of character, like Yves, who are on our team.



Melissa Tafta - Assistant Manager

Melissa joined MH4H in July of 2017 as the Assistant Manager of the Grimes Thrift Market. Since starting, her strong work ethic and passion for our mission have made her a valuable part of the MH4H team.

"Having only worked in retail for approximately four years, I knew it was my calling as I love everything about it. I love the fast-paced, never-ending tasks, as odd as that may sound to some."

When approached with the opportunity to do what she loves, but also serving a greater purpose, she could barely contain her excitement.

"I feel good at the end of each day knowing I am supporting an amazing cause and serving God how I feel He intended me to. Since starting with MH4H, I not only am given a lot more time to spend with my family, but also I can see so much potential for good I can do in the world. It has been a very eye-opening experience thus far and look forward to each day and its opportunities to help others while keeping God at the center of my life."

A NEW JOURNEY FOR NEW LEADERS

By Micah Aurand, Administrative Coordinator, Haiti

Many Hands for Haiti (MH4H) saw a need in Pignon, Haiti, for morally-sound community leaders, willing to stand on Godly principles, to lead like Jesus. In 2016, the first group of 100 potential leaders gathered together on the MH4H campus to begin a two year journey of growth and discovery. Now, in 2018, Jean-Ronel and Apolon, co-leaders of the Leadership Development Program, are gearing up for Many Hands' second class of budding leaders.



Apolon has been our Leadership Manager since 2015.



Jean-Ronel began as co-leader alongside Apolon this year.



Participants form a human pyramid during a trust exercise.



Apolon leading worship during a conference.

The pre-requisites to be invited to the Leadership Development Program are straightforward: be over 20 years of age and be a respected member in your community with leadership potential. To ensure this standard, MH4H spoke to community members of 20 Pignon zones asking the question, "Who do you respect in your community and why?" Approaching those whose names were repeated, MH4H staff interviewed and invited 122 people of varying ages, genders, and backgrounds to attend the program.

The heart of the program is Servant Leadership based off of Mark 10:45, "For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many." Jean-Ronel says, "We are born as imitators. Jesus is our example to imitate." In dividing the program into two one-year segments, Many Hands can address the deep spiritual need in each person before the expectations of leadership are placed on him or her.

During the first year, the focus centers on the students as individuals, laying Biblical foundations to instill an understanding of God's heart and how they are called to represent Him. The second year focuses on pulling leadership characteristics from the Bible and relating them to the participants' own roles as community leaders. The students then practice these principles in groups, with supervision from MH4H leadership. The group projects test the individual's character, as well as the ability to work in a team for the good of everyone. MH4H instructors look at the group's teamwork and decision-making skills to indicate their future success as community leaders.

Apolon believes that one of the biggest obstacles facing the country of Haiti is the people's world-view. He says, "We can't change their mentality, only God can do that. We want to open their minds to what God can do through them." MH4H aims to cultivate an atmosphere where these 122 leaders can come, be transformed by God's Word, and take transformation back to their own communities.

A DIFFERENT APPROACH

Claudin Augustin, MH4H Head of Agronomy, has successfully graduated two classes of men and women through the Many Hands Technical School of Agronomy. In the Technical School, members from various communities were invited to learn sustainable agricultural practices designed to produce a greater yield from their fields. This was achieved in two settings. The Theoretical Phase was held in a classroom setting, while the Practical Phase took place in a garden with tools in the students' hands and dirt on their shoes. After completing this program, students walked away with a certificate and the tools needed to replicate the practices they learned in their own homes and communities.

This year, our newly revised agronomy program has been opened solely to parents whose children are in the MH4H Love in Action programs. The focus of the Agronomy Training Program is two-fold: agriculture and husbandry. Much like the students in the Practical Phase of the technical school, these parents will receive hands-on practical training in growing better gardens. Agronomist Claudin and assisting technicians will walk alongside the students to guide them as they learn-by-doing using land plots, seeds, and tools provided by Many Hands.

At the start of the husbandry training course, Claudin will explain the fundamentals of breeding goats. The class will learn about proper goat care and how to troubleshoot common problems with raising livestock. Each participant then receives one goat, which has been vaccinated and bred, to join the Husbandry Economic Project (HEP). In the following months, the MH4H agronomy staff will follow up with each student bi-weekly to offer additional advice until the birth of the goat's first offspring. Through HEP, our Love in Action families will be equipped to fund their child's education and provide for their family's future (to learn more about HEP, visit our website at mh4h.org/agronomy).

In following our "Inch Wide, Mile Deep" value, Many Hands aims to create a greater impact in Pignon, Haiti. We are intentionally investing in the families of our Love in Action programs through a different approach to agronomy training. Not only do we desire them to be transformed spiritually, we are teaching sustainable ways for families to provide for themselves, both today and in the future.



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MARCH 2018 NEWSLETTER

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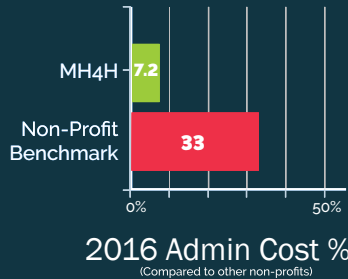
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Return Service Requested

We are Accountable



■ Program Expenses ■ Trip Expenses
■ Management/Fundraising



NEW CLASS AND NEW BUILDING

We are thrilled to announce that Yellow Iron School of Light preschool is growing! In fall 2018, the last room of our three-room preschool building will be filled with little scholars in Preschool Level Three. That means approximately twenty students will fill this area with brightly colored uniforms and even brighter smiles ready to embrace a brand new school year!

This also means that our staff members, who are currently using this space as an office, will be without a work area. To address this need, MH4H plans to break ground for a new administrative building this February. The building will have a conference room, staff offices, and cubicles, for MH4H staff to use. We are thankful for God's blessing on this ministry as we continue to grow in every area.



TEAMS IN HAITI - NOVEMBER TO JANUARY



Lutheran Church of Hope, Des Moines, IA
November 3-11, People: 11



MH4H Board
November 14-19, People: 5



Memorial Lutheran Church, Nevada, IA
Nov 30 - Dec 7, People: 13



Pella Christian Winterim, Pella, IA
January 2-9, People: 18



PET Team, Pella, IA
Jan 25 - Feb 1, People: 6

Joy to the World
RAISED
\$61,860

thank you!

Your faithful support will help us continue to transform lives in 2018. We could not do it without you!