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As we move into 2019, the word God is bringing forth to our organization is MULTIPLY. We are called to plant Oaks of Righteousness in our communities, whose foundation is grounded in the Lord Jesus Christ, to cast seeds far and wide, planted as the wind of the Spirit blows. In order for us to multiply our influence, we need God-anointed resources. This means prayers, people, and money to carry out the mission to transform lives to be love in action in our broken world. I ask you to prayerfully consider resourcing us for 2019 in an area with which God has burdened you, as you are God’s steward here on Earth. God has chosen us, you and me, at such a time as this for the fulfillment of His Kingdom purposes. We have the vision, we are seeing the fruit, now we need the steadfast resources to see the fields He has planted be harvested for eternity.
THE BEGINNING OF SOMETHING MORE

Claudin Augustin, Agronomy Lead, and Micah Aurand, Administrative Coordinator

To wrap up a year of many blessings for our Agronomy programs, Many Hands Agronomist, Claudin Augustin, has provided the following report, with Micah Aurand sharing a moving story of how the program is impacting the lives of individuals in Pignon.

“The teaching of the families to help them improve the condition of their life is a big dream we have in the agricultural department. I believe that it is better to show someone how to fish than to give him a fish. In July 2018, we started with our Community Gardens Program or “Garden of Beginnings”. We opened this class especially for the families who have kids in the School of Light. We had thirty ladies from the Sylvain area come to participate in this program. The families have a lot of determination and willingness to learn about agriculture. They believe if they work the ground that they will be able to change the condition of their life economically through the harvest from the garden. The families plant vegetable crops like cabbage, eggplant, leeks, and tomatoes.

“The families are super happy, thankful, and feel blessed for the way that Many Hands supports them by the Community Garden Program and the Goat (H.E.P.) Program. They are grateful for the way Many Hands provides tools, seeds, water, and land for them to work. The families have been harvesting their crops and they use a lot for themselves and sell some to have money and they are really happy to trust Many Hands to open an account to save some money.” - Claudin Augustin

Lijanie Tirogène is one of thirty women graduating from the Community Garden Program on December 16th. Having no prior knowledge or interest in gardening, Lijanie did not join the class to learn about the subject being taught. She was desperate for something more.

In spring 2018, a man nicknamed Ti Pa lost the battle against a sickness that had ravaged his body. Ti Pa was a community leader, a family man, and Lijanie’s husband. The day of the funeral dawned and the whole community stood still as people from far and near came to honor the passing of a strong leader.

Madam Ti Pa, as Lijanie is known, had followed her husband to Sylvain; nearly six hours away from her hometown. Her husband was devoted to giving her a stable life. From running the family business to working in the garden, Ti Pa saw to every detail - until the day he no longer could. Lijanie found herself alone with three children and, in many ways, lost. Lijanie considered returning with her broken family to her childhood home. But God placed a spark of hope in her lonely heart. As a parent in MH4H’s Love in Action program (LIA), Lijanie was invited to join the Community Garden Program - a course for LIA parents to work the ground that they will be able to change the condition of their life economically through the harvest from the garden. The families plant vegetable crops like cabbage, eggplant, leeks, and tomatoes.

Among her peers, Lijanie is noted to be a kind, motivated, and hard-working woman. As Head Instructor of the program, Claudin reported, “Her [Lijanie’s] first motivation for joining the class was that, after her husband died, she was very stressed... she wanted to come to make friends and move the stress away. After that she realized, ‘Oh! I don’t lose my time for coming here because I learn a lot and I have crops that make me happy.’”

Lijanie is confident that if it weren’t for the Love in Action Programs (School of Light, H.E.P., and the Community Gardens), she would have been forced to displace her family. Instead, Lijanie has found support within the Many Hands community. Here the Many Hands staff and neighbors shower love on her children while her classmates offer new friendships that would help her on the road to healing.

If you feel led to support our Agronomy programs, and other mothers just like Lijanie, please consider an end of year gift through our Give Joy catalog. Starting from $20, you can help support our training programs. For more information visit: www.mh4h.org/give-joy

NEW FACES

Mirguelita Noël
School of Light Teacher - PS2 Class

Mirguelita Noël is a pastor’s wife and the mother of two daughters. This fall she joined our team as the preschool level two teacher at the School of Light in Sylvain, Haiti. She brings thirteen years of experience teaching preschool-aged children to the classroom. Mirguelita did not originally set out to be a teacher. However, when she finished high school, she was offered a position as a teacher’s helper at a local school. Now she says, “I want to work my whole life with little children.” Mirguelita is excited to work with Many Hands. She shares that her favorite lesson is using arts and crafts to show the children they can create new things with their own hands.
The Yellow Iron School of Light preschool, located on the Many Hands for Haiti (MH4H) campus, is operating at full capacity for the first time in its three-year history. This means that all three of our classrooms are occupied with what we call the PS1, PS2, and PS3 classes. This is very exciting and is the realization of a vision that was cast several years ago to have a fully operational preschool as part of the MH4H ministry in Haiti.

This year, 61 precious little children ages 3-5 years old, who look adorable in their School of Light (SOL) custom school uniforms, arrive at our campus gate every morning eager to be at school. I’d like to think that they arrive each day eager to learn but I think that they are more excited to just be here and to be with their friends. Learning is a bonus that they get thanks to our wonderful teachers and helpers.

Each classroom has a lead teacher and a helper and these ladies get along so well and take great pride in our school and in their work. This year they decided that they wanted to have a teaching uniform, so they designed and had their official SOL dresses made for them. Juna Jean is the PS3 teacher and also serves as our SOL Lead Teacher (Pwofese Prensip). Mdm. Juna is an excellent teacher and is doing a fantastic job of providing leadership to the rest of the staff. We are grateful to have such a qualified and dedicated staff teaching these little image-bearers of God.

One of the things that makes the SOL such a great school, and definitely a different kind of school in Haiti, is that our teachers and helpers use pedagogical practices that teach and encourage creativity, critical thinking, and problem solving. Most Haitian children receive a very bland form of education where they are given daily doses of rote memorization activities that do little to prepare them for life in the complex world in which they are growing up. We have provided some great resources and professional development training to ensure that our students receive the best education possible. SOL is a Christian school where God’s story is shared and Jesus is proclaimed to be the Truth and the Light of the World. Bless God for the opportunity that we have to teach these little ones about their Creator, Savior, and Lord.

Please pray daily for these children and the teachers and helpers. Pray that as they learn and grow together, they will be lights that shine for Jesus. Bondye bon!

HEART-LED BUSINESS BREAKFAST

On October 5th, 140 leaders engaged in the inaugural Many Hands Business Breakfast in Des Moines, Iowa. The ballroom at the downtown Embassy Suites buzzed with energy and enthusiasm as leaders met over breakfast to network, learn more about Many Hands, and discover their purpose in heart-led leadership. Groups and individuals from both church and business were represented.

Through his keynote address, Tommy Spaulding was able to share from his personal experiences, pointing people to the key of leadership, leading from the heart. “People are starving to follow a leader, mother, father, or friend that is humble, genuine, caring, thoughtful, vulnerable, and real with these heart qualities,” explained Spaulding. “We need to have these heart qualities. And when we do lead from the heart it will change your life.”

During his keynote address, Tommy explained how his time in Haiti last year transformed his life. “It changed me. We have everything in America...and they have nothing. And yet they have a joy and love for people that literally changed my heart.”

A highlight of the event was an interview with Tim Brand and Jennifer Webster from OneBody3, who discussed leading through adversity, and turning failure into success that glorifies God.

“Our resources, influence, and actions can change lives forever, and it is my hope that through this event we’ve been able to inspire others to push onward,” shared Brand. “I am thankful for each person who gave of their time and resources to be here for this event. My prayer is that God would bless us all with enough foolishness to believe we can make a difference in this world, so we can do what others claim cannot be done.”

The event was able to raise over $35,000 to benefit the work of Many Hands for Haiti. We are thankful for our platinum event sponsors BHFO, Inc., Vander Haags, and Benefit Source, along with gold sponsors Bank of the West, Heartland, PSI, Inc, and Vermeer.
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ANNUAL END-OF-YEAR GIVING CATALOG OUT NOW!

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Send a check to MH4H at PO BOX 204 or donate ONLINE now at www.mh4h.org/give-joy