

A MOTHER OF HER PEOPLE

Micah Aurand, Administrative Assistant, Haiti



Wilna Pierre



Wilna praying with a program participant



Wilna (bottom left) leading a group of women in Maliarette

Wilna Pierre awoke with a start, the previous night's dream vivid in her memory. In the dream, a MH4H staff member had called to inform her of a job opening at the ministry. This person encouraged Wilna to apply for the position. Heeding the dream, the next morning Wilna went with resume in hand to apply for a job at Many Hands for Haiti. Within a short period of time, Mrs. Pierre was hired as the first female chaplain on the MH4H staff.

Ms. Wilna Augustin was raised in a Christian home and was taught to serve the Lord from childhood. Even as she matured into motherhood, marrying Wilner Pierre and raising four children, Wilna continued to assist the Church in any way possible: women's ministry, prayer ministry, church secretary. Over time, the local church leadership recognized the young woman's passion for preaching the Gospel and suggested that she attend a theology seminary to broaden her understanding and capacity for ministry. Feeling the Holy Spirit's prodding, Mrs. Pierre agreed.

"It's all by the grace of God that I became a female pastor. I didn't choose this for myself but God chose it for me. I know that all women can be used just like all men can be used...the blood of Jesus covers everyone the same."

Pastor Wilna's responsibilities are centered around teaching, counseling, and building relationships with the families of the Love in Action (LIA) Initiative. She is often available to work alongside the program nurse, Lerosane Devilmia. These two women have joined together to minister to the families' needs: to pray over sick children, offer spiritual and practical advice to a parent, or simply be available to give friendship and sound counsel. With this partnered ministry, we have already seen a grandmother in the program come to accept Jesus as her only Lord and Savior!

Through steady, loving interactions, Pastor Wilna is gaining trust with the program moms. She is seeing them open up concerning the various difficulties they're facing. According to MH4H Chaplain, Jean Ronel, this is the very reason God placed Wilna on our staff. "It's really important [to have a female pastor on staff] because there are certain things women will only be comfortable sharing with another woman."

"This is the best ministry I have in my arms and I give God all the glory for it."

- Wilna Augustin Pierre

As for Wilna, she considers the focus of her ministry to be that of prayer and evangelism. She says, "The biggest need [of the people] is the spiritual need. There is need for education, food, and housing; but the greatest need is that of the heart. Because [the heart] is what Jesus is after."

In the book of Judges, we see God's servant, Deborah, accept the Lord's call to lead, teach, and love her people — the nation of Israel. Deborah was a mother to her people, guiding them in the way of the Lord. Madam Wilna has accepted a call on her life similar to that of Deborah. She stands to lead and love those around her challenging her fellow Haitian mothers to study and live out the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Pray with us that more women would follow her example!

CALLED TO LEAD

Pastor Jean Ronel Joseph, Spiritual Shepherd, Haiti



Pastor Jean Ronel Joseph



The Leaders of Leaders class



Jean Ronel during a home visit

Pastor Jean Ronel Joseph works in both the Evangelism Department and Leadership Development with MH4H. He faithfully follows Jesus' command to disciple and train new believers. Jean Ronel tells inspiring stories of growth and transformation in his departments from an on-the-ground perspective.

There is EXCITING news in the evangelism department!! In the past few weeks we have had a lot of new believers come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ - these people are hungry for Jesus. The best part is that they're eagerly coming to the Bible cells (small group Bible studies led by MH4H chaplains) that we teach in a few communities. In the coming week, we will be adding another Bible cell in Maliarette to help the people know and apply God's Word to their lives; the Word is nourishment for every believer's soul. That is an awesome thing for MH4H as we are seeing MH4H's God-given vision of transformation, through the presence of Jesus Christ, in a broken world. We know that, for transformation to occur, it has to begin with the way we think which starts in our minds. So, the evangelism department, alongside all the other departments at MH4H that are doing the same thing with the same vision, we are on track to really target and see that transformation take place in our communities.

Pastor Lumanes and I normally ask some questions before we help people confess Jesus as their Lord and Savior. We ask questions before we pray with people when they want to commit their lives to Jesus for a simple reason. Why? Sometimes they have wrong motives. As MH4H works in the "Love in Action Initiative", sometimes we find people who say they want to "accept Jesus" because they think that doing so will help them benefit more from the Initiative. We always seek to discern if the motive is right or wrong to help them better choose to make the right decision to live for Jesus.

As Pastor Lumanes and I prayed with these new converts three weeks ago, something one of the ladies said caught my attention. Her name was Silficia and she was from the community of Benjamin. When we asked her why she would like to accept Jesus, we were amazed with her answer! She said "I would like to accept Jesus so that I can live for Him and have a place to live with Him as well when I leave this earth as the earth is not my ultimate home. I am just passing by." That was awesome and not many people would make such a statement.

Growth is sprouting in the Leadership Development program! Within this program, 20-25 of the most promising leaders are invited to join an intensive bi-weekly leadership class, taught by myself and Appolon, called the "Leaders of Leaders", in addition to the regular quarterly leadership development conferences. With this particular group, we are impressing the importance of having a solid team of leaders within every community. We help them know that they won't have a quality team if they don't build it. They have to pass on what they are learning to others so their team can learn to cooperate as a whole. This will allow their load as leaders to be lighter and ultimately give them better results.

It is especially encouraging to see two of these Leaders of Leaders, Pastor Sauver Felix and David Denis, start duplicating the training on "Spiritual Growth and Business class" in their own community. You know the exciting thing about that is they chose other Leader of Leaders to help them teach it! They have also invited the MH4H instructors to participate at another training they will organize for their crew again in May. We can't wait to be there with them to see what they are doing in their community!

So it is important to continue to invest in the lives of all these people as we aim for better communities with better leaders. We are working to see life transformation in Christ...one-inch-wide, one-mile-deep...keep up the good work!

Yes, we can with the risen Lord on our side!!

If you feel led to support our leadership programs, please consider supporting a Pastor for \$65 or Equipping a Leader for \$50. To donate use the envelope supplied or visit: www.mh4h.org/donate

TRAVEL TO HAITI RE-OPENED

The U.S. Department of State has lowered their travel advisory, enabling travel between the U.S. and Haiti to return to a pre-February state. For the day-to-day in Haiti, we have been able to grow our ministry and reach more people through our programs. But, this travel advisory greatly affected our teams traveling to Haiti, as we had 265 individuals cancel trips. The lowering of the Department of State travel advisory means we will once again be able to plan trips to Haiti as normal.

The travel advisory was raised in February due to political unrest, with much of the protests occurring in the larger cities such as Port-au-Prince and Cap Haitien. Pignon has remained peaceful during this time and our staff have been able to continue work as normal.

Continue to pray for Haiti, its people, and its government, as they work together towards stability and peace.



SAVING FOR THE FUTURE



Families in our programs receiving goats during our March distribution



Each goat is tagged and tracked



Parents draw blindly to select their goat

One of the many needs Haitian families face is a lack of economic opportunity. This causes a ripple effect, limiting opportunities for families to plan for the future. The Husbandry Economic Project (HEP) was launched under the Power to the Parents program to address this need. This cooperative provides two pregnant goats for the family of every student in the Yellow Iron School of Light Preschool. These goats and their offspring have the potential to change a family's economic status, providing financial stability to meet everyday needs, pay yearly tuition fees, and save for the future.

A total of 27 offspring have been sold back to Many Hands in the last year. Goats sold back to MH4H are used for the First 1,000 Days nutrition program, giving parents the dignity of feeding their children, while investing in their future education. MH4H will buy up to three goats a year (according to the local going rate for a goat) from each family in the Power to the Parents program. Through HEP, 50% of the amount is paid in cash while the other 50% is put into an Education Savings Account to be matched at the end of the three years when the School of Light Preschool student graduates. This savings account gives the parents a head start on paying for their child's tuition.

Goats are provided to families during our distribution days. Our most recent distribution on March 2, 2019 was an exciting day for the Power to the Parents participants as they gathered together to receive their second goat as part of HEP. In the last year, 122 pregnant goats have been distributed to the 61 families in the Power to the Parents program.

"This account has been very popular with the parents," said Darryl De Ruiter, MH4H Organization Development Manager. "In fact, we have had some parents ask us to hold the entire sum of money from the goat in their savings account so it will be there when they need it. They are recognizing the importance of saving for the future."

NEW FACES



Laura Nicholson

Executive Assistant, Pella

Laura joined the team in March as the Executive Assistant, playing a supporting role to Tim Brand, Executive Leader, while managing majority of our donor and sponsor systems. Laura recently graduated from Creighton University with a Bachelor of Arts in Theology and a Bachelor of Science in Psychology. Laura has been connected to MH4H for many years, previously serving with MH4H in Haiti as an intern, living at our Sylvain campus for a month in 2016. Laura is currently working on getting her Masters of Arts in Communication: Public Affairs and Advocacy.



Emily Van Gent

Event and Volunteer Coordinator, Pella

Emily joined the team at the beginning of January, filling the role of Events and Volunteer Coordinator. In her role as Volunteer Coordinator, she will manage all volunteers and volunteer events across the organization, including volunteers at our Many Hands Thrift Market in Grimes. As event coordinator, she will plan and execute MH4H events and help raise community awareness of our work. Emily recently graduated from Central College with a Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies.

many hands

QUARTERLY

JUNE 2019 NEWSLETTER



P.O. Box 204 Pella, IA, 50219
www.mh4h.org | 641.629.6633

Return Service Requested

Send audio Bibles to Haiti through your Summer VBS!

Find out how:
www.mh4h.org/vbs

LATEST UPDATES ACROSS MANY HANDS

VBS to support Audio Scripture in Haiti

Many Hands for Haiti (MH4H) has partnered with Audio Scriptures Ministries (ASM) in Holland, MI, to distribute Solar-Powered Audio Bible players in Haiti. ASM will pre-load each audio Bible with content in Haitian Creole and French to be distributed by Many Hands for Haiti. ASM and MH4H have developed a promotional kit that includes materials to easily share this vision with those participating in VBS programs. Multiple VBS programs are already using these materials to raise awareness and funds to send these life-transforming devices to those who need them in Haiti.

If you are interested in using this promotional kit for your upcoming VBS or Sunday School, visit: www.mh4h.org/vbs



Volunteer Appreciation

Volunteers and staff at our two Many Hands Thrift Market locations were treated to Volunteer Appreciation events in April. They shared in a time of fellowship as we were able to thank them for their ongoing commitment to Many Hands and the people of Haiti. Together they have donated 11,768 hours in 2018.



Volunteers and staff, Spencer, IA



Volunteers and staff, Grimes, IA

First Program Graduates

This June, Many Hands will be celebrating a historic milestone, with the first Love in Action graduating class. Twenty of our PS3 Preschool students will be graduating and moving into 1st Grade at the Sylvain Christian School of Light in the fall. These students and their parents have been with us since 2015, receiving meal, medical checks, education, and support for four years.



Opening day of Thrive for Five, 2015



Children in our programs, 2019