

many hands

QUARTERLY

Transforming together, to be love in action, in a broken world.

OCTOBER 2020 - THIS ISSUE

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HERE WE GROW AGAIN!

Darryl DeRuiter, MH4H Chief Operations Officer, Haiti



First day flag ceremony



Two tailors sewing school uniforms



Waiting for class while social distancing



Graduation



Children performing at graduation



Darryl with School of Light staff

What an interesting academic year it has been. Due to COVID-19, the Haiti Government forced all schools operating in Haiti to shut down. For us, this happened on March 19. We were allowed to reopen our school on August 17 for a five-week session that served as the wrap up of the 2019-2020 school year. We had 88% of the students in attendance on day one and by the second week, 100% of the students were back in school. Wow!! We celebrated with our second ever PS3 Graduation on September 18. What a fun event!

We then took three weeks off for preparations and began the 2020-2021 school year on October 12, nearly one month later than normal. During this "in-between" time we were busy hiring two new instructional staff members and preparing the new classroom. As you may recall, our vision is to add a new grade each year. Our student count is 100 for next year. We are blessed to see this continual growth of staff and students!

Many Hands continues to grow as an organization as well. We recently added four more staff members, which includes two classroom helpers and two Spiritual Shepherds, bringing our total Haitian staff number up to 66. This is amazing and so good! I believe that we are now one of the largest employers in the Pignon area. We are currently in the beginning processes of identifying the communities and boundaries that will make up our next "zone" in which we will build our second satellite center. This center will add more jobs and primarily serve local families through our Love in Action initiatives (First 1,000 Days and Power to the Parents programs). We hope to open this new center in January of 2022, Si Bondye vle (if God wants).

Since last year we have erected some new playground equipment at the new school. Special thanks to the team from Hope Spencer(IA) for this amazing addition to our schoolyard. Expanding campus!

If you would like to learn more about how you can sponsor our programs, or if your current sponsored child just graduated from preschool, go to www.mh4h.org/loveinaction and become a Love in Action Partner or First 1,000 Days Sponsor. Thank you to so many of you who are already serving as partners and sponsors. We truly are pi bon ansanm (better together).

WEDDING BELLS

Christi Gabhart - Director of Ministry & Benevolence

With the help of area pastors who work closely with Many Hands chaplains, twenty couples have been identified to be married at the December Many Hands ceremony.

In an initial meeting there is time to become acquainted with each other and communicate some critical information. Before the meeting is over they take measurements for the most important part...the wedding rings! One bride-to-be wondered if she would have a “Bag Simp”, just a plain wedding band. She has had a dream to have a fancy engagement ring before being married, like many other brides around the world.

The couples range from early twenties with no children, to a couple in their sixties with nine kids, and everything in between! My favorite question to ask is, “Eskè ou sonje premye fwa ou te wè li?”, Do you remember the first time you saw her? One response was, “Fourteen years ago, I came to church in Bouquewon and when church was finished we talked a little bit.” They have been together ever since.



One man said from the beginning they have discussed many things to get to know each other well. A bride-to-be said she asked God, “Eskè moun sa ki ou te voye pou mwen?” God, is this the person you sent for me? She had prayed hard to know if he is the one. Another couple lived in different communities at the time they first met. He said he wore out many pairs of shoes walking to see her.

Our next planned meeting will be on November 4th when the couples will come to Many Hands campus for our “Say YES! To a Dress” fitting event. The men will be fitted with their suits at this time as well. Our supply of shoes has come from the Many Hands Thrift Markets in Iowa.

Many Hands chaplains have encouraged us to believe, without a doubt, the tremendous opportunity this offers the area couples. The impact on families, churches, and communities is priceless. Mesi Senyè, Thank you, Lord.

Growth of Programs



Recently, eligible parents have been able to participate in two of our Power to the Parents programs, namely our Agronomy Technical School and the Husbandry Economic Project. We have 9 women participating in the garden training, learning important skills to help on the road to self-sufficiency. We recently distributed 47 pregnant goats to families. Our October 13th goat distribution was a significant milestone as it was the first goat distribution for families in our First 1,000 Days program in Maliarette. Darryl DeRuiter was there to help oversee the distribution:

“Always one of my favorite things we get to do for our families mostly because of what the end result is for this program. It starts with the gift of pregnant goats and ends with a child having the opportunity to get an education that the parents (not a sponsor) pay for. We are realizing this again now in year two of having a fundamental school. Our parents now “get it” and it is so good to see our goals and objectives being accomplished. Mesi Bondye!”

Both of these programs have shown to significantly benefit the participating families through providing food and finances. The goal is for families to be able to pay for education tuition for their children.

Back To School Parent Meeting



On September 15 the Many Hands staff held a meeting for all of the parents of our school-aged children. We had a great turnout and spent the morning discussing many important details for the upcoming (2020-21) school year.

After a prayer and introductions, we went over some important dates that they needed to be aware of. Dates for tuition payment, school uniform pick up, service program sign ups, and the first day for the new school year (which is October 12, 2020). The parents were happy to learn that due to the super high inflation rate over the past year that we would be lowering tuition 25% for the next year. The first payment was due September 30. At that time parents were able to pick up their child’s school uniform and also sign up for the volunteer service program, through which they can earn additional tuition scholarships.

We ended the meeting by thanking them for their efforts to be involved in their child’s education and for being good supporters of our school and teaching staff. We continue to remind our parents that we don’t want to do things for them but rather, we want to do things with them. Pi bon ansanm! (Better together!)

POSSIBILITIES FOR THE FUTURE

With Claudin Augustin - Head of Agronomy



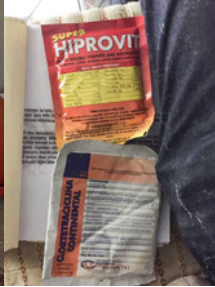
Claudin Augustin



David Alcina



Systems and medicines they learned about



David and Claudin sifting through grain in the Agronomy Center

As we continue to develop our programs in Haiti, Many Hands is always on the lookout to not only improve but also increase the effectiveness of these programs. Within the Agronomy department, Many Hands is in the process of considering raising chickens for this purpose. In late August, Agronomist Claudin Augustin and Vet Technician David Alcina traveled to Port au Prince, Haiti in search of information. The men sought training from and toured a successful chicken farm near the city. Claudin shares his experience:

"If someone spent money to start something but didn't have enough knowledge, it would be the same as throwing money away. How discouraging that would be! As Many Hands considered the inherent risk involved in breeding chickens, we realized the importance of investing first in our staff. This will allow the staff to improve their understanding of how to raise and breed chickens. As they become familiar with the process, they can also train others."

"We visited a large operation to learn the best practices of chicken care from start to finish. There we learned how to build a chicken coop and what materials were needed. We were shown how to determine which type of food the chickens need according to their three developmental stages: Starter, Growth, and Finish. We recognized the possibility of one day preparing such feed in-house."

Many Hands Head Agronomist Claudin continues, "We have identified several potential benefits of adding chickens to the Agronomy Department. This would provide a source of meat for the Love In Action programs as well as for the surrounding communities to buy chickens wholesale once our flock is developed. As our staff's capacity for raising chicken grows, we will be better equipped to share our knowledge with the community." Such is Claudin's vision for Many Hands agronomy and the potential future in chicken breeding.

Many Hands also sees the potential of incorporating a chicken operation with the Corn Seed Project. Claudin excitedly shares, "I would love to see Many Hands have all the means for preparing the chicken food such as growing our own corn and soy with a mill to grind the corn. These projects have the potential for a positive economic impact for our area!"

Pignon in Pella Update



On Saturday, September 19, Many Hands hosted the second annual Pignon in Pella fundraising dinner in Pella, Iowa. Despite the current challenges of social distancing, we were able to safely host 100 people, raising \$30,000+ to support the next phase of work in Haiti.

During the evening, Tim Brand, Many Hands' CEO, shared the next steps of the 2020 vision. This included the vision for the expansion of our work, aiming to strengthen 1,500 children and their parents, challenging what's possible for them now and in the future. The evening also included presentations from Tim Van Maanen and Pam Osborn, with Darin Wogen hosting as the Emcee.

We are grateful for each of you who choose to be Love In Action, and continue to support us. We could not #ChallengeWhatsPossible without you! If you are still considering a donation to support our vision, you can donate online at www.mh4h.org/donate.

MANY HANDS
**BUSINESS
BREAKFAST**
WITH KEYNOTE SPEAKER
JOHN O'LEARY
POSTPONED
NEW DATE
FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 2021 | 7AM TO 9AM



Due to rising concerns stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Many Hands team has decided to postpone the Many Hands Business Breakfast from October 2, 2020, to April 16, 2021.

Tim Brand, Many Hands' CEO, shared: "As the date was drawing closer, many of our partners who previously had committed were uneasy about group gatherings. To maximize the resources invested in this event, we felt it was best to push back to the spring and have a FANTASTIC event at that time. We appreciate each of you who stepped forward and purchased tickets and hope this new date will work with your calendar."

For those who already have tickets, your tickets will transfer over to this new date. If you are looking to attend, our ticket sales are still open for the new date and can be purchased here: www.mh4h.org/bb2021.

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Return Service Requested



NEW FACES



Jean Missol Joseph - Spiritual Shepherd (Chaplain)

Jean Missol joins us as an apprentice Chaplain as part of our spiritual development team. Jean Missol is married with four daughters and one baby boy, age 18 months. Jean Missol was raised in San Raphael, but studied theology in Cap Haitien. He has strong experience in evangelism. One story he shares as part of his testimony involves his being unable to travel, spending four days without food or money. During this time, he was called to preach in a neighboring church. Though hungry he said to the Lord, "Lord, you called me, I must go." Three people accepted Christ through his message.



Jean Robenson Baptiste - Spiritual Shepherd (Chaplain)

Also joining as an apprentice Chaplain as part of our spiritual development team, Jean Robenson grew up in Pignon. He is currently engaged, with hopes to be married in 2021. He graduated from university in Cap Haitien with a double major. He originally began studying Agronomy, but realized his passion is for theology. He decided to study both, picking up work to help with the extra tuition cost. Jean Robenson has worked as a youth pastor in a church in Milot. Robenson has a passion for helping young people advance in their faith. He has always felt that God has plans to use him for something big. Jean Robenson's hope is always in God.



Kellee Van Hemert - Technical Writer and A/V Coordinator

Kellee and his wife, Molly, have two children Cohen (5) and Rhemy (1). They recently returned to Pella, IA, after serving 7 years in Cambodia with YWAM. While they had every intention of returning to Cambodia once COVID-19 allowed it, God was working out another plan to allow them stay in the States and be welcomed back into the community of Pella and now Many Hands with open arms.

In his position, Kellee will be responsible for creating standard work across the organization, recording teachings to assist in creating an audio library, and developing video editing skills for video creation.