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## HIS HANDS FOR HAITI NEWS

Part 1

October 2020

### Sponsorship Donations

We were so glad to see that Covid hasn't had a huge impact on northeast Haiti, as far as many getting sick. Unfortunately some foods are hard to find and costs have risen. Things like rice and oil have basically doubled in price.

Schools were shut down for a short time and when they returned they worked on finishing out the 2019/2020 school year. After a short break they've returned for the 2020/2021 school year. Please note that even when school is not in session the Pastors still need to pay teacher's salaries, just like schools here in the U.S. Your donations help to cover tuition. Tuition covers the uniform fabric (parents pay to have it made), teacher's salaries, and whatever other costs the schools have so that they can stay open and the children can attend. Without tuition schools could not run and without donations from sponsors it makes it hard for children to attend or stay in school.

### NOTE:

Part 2 of this newsletter will also be on our website. We would love for you to check it out.

<http://www.hishandssupportministries.org/haiti/newsletter>

Please know that Daniel is no longer doing the "Pedals for Paulette" program. He and HHFH thank all of you who donated to this program. A lot of students now have bikes, but the costs have risen considerably so the decision was made to end this program at this time.

### GIFTS

We will be sending monetary gifts to Haiti in the next week or so. If you'd like to send a donation for your child's Christmas now is the time. Thank you.

We apologize, but we will not be able to get packages there until the next visit to Haiti. We don't want to discourage packaged gifts, but please know that by sending the children monetary gifts you are allowing the families to buy what is needed to sustain life, such as food, doctor visits, and medicine. At the same time you are helping their economy and at least one other family. When your child's family buys locally they are helping those who are selling. By helping a merchant you could be helping the farmer/grower as well. It's a ripple effect.

As always, 100% of your gift donation goes to the child and family.

When your sponsored child is in Philo level, the last class before graduation, they take an exam at the end of the school year to see if they will graduate. They can't take this exam if they haven't paid their school tuition for the year. There's also an extra charge for the exam itself. Being sponsored is a huge help for a Philo student, but donations need to be in for us to send them on time for the student to work on finishing their last year. If you would like to send them an additional donation gift for this, we will add a note to explain what the gift is for.

When you look over your sponsored child's info sheet and see that parents "work in a garden" please note that this doesn't necessarily mean that they sell their vegetables. Children see their parents "work" in their gardens and they think they have a job. Even those who do have jobs don't usually earn enough to keep their families fed daily.

\*\*\*\*\*PRAY WITHOUT CEASING\*\*\*\*\*

1 Thessalonians 5:17

## KERVENS MEDICAL STORY

by Daniel Joseph

Two years ago we were in Terrier Rouge Baptist school interviewing kids for the sponsorship program. I was translating for the Haiti program coordinator, Lorna Faircloth. Then arrived that tiny, skinny, slow little boy named Kervens Joseph. Lorna immediately realized that there must be something wrong with this child, so we started asking questions. At the end of the interview we decided that he was an urgent case and needed medical attention. Since then, His Hands for Haiti (His Hands Support Ministries) has been providing medical and food assistance for him through donations. His tonsils were so big he could barely swallow. When we first noticed, he couldn't answer questions due to how hard it was for him to even talk.

For the past two years we've been to the five best hospitals we have in the north and northeast areas of Haiti with him. Most of them agree that he needed surgery to remove the tonsils. Unfortunately, they were all helpless. They all referred us to that one hospital in the Northern area but that place also depended on specialists from abroad to perform this kind of surgery. And because of Covid19, they couldn't even tell us when they would have specialists available.

It came to a point where the tonsils got so badly infected Kervens was having fevers from time to time. Through God's blessing, the HHfH team was able to make it here despite Covid19 this past October 2020. Two team members, Lorna and Ellen, along with Kervens' mom and myself, took Kervens to that last hospital in Cap Haitian. There we were told to get him somewhere to get the tonsils removed otherwise it would just get worse as they were already so badly infected. With that being said, the team left to the states and I was on a mission to find a place where they could get the surgery done.

I started calling all my medical contacts around the country. They all referred me to the same two hospitals in the Capital, Port-au-Prince (PaP), a rough 5-6 hours' drive from Cap Haitian. So, I had to have good, specific information before leaving my wife and my son to go there. Gracefully, I had that good friend of mine there who was willing to go to the different places to find the information needed. In less than 3 days, I was informed of the schedule and costs to get the surgery done from each hospital. Without much ado, I contacted HHfH through Lorna, and transferred the information to her. We were in a hurry because they told us to get there on a specific date as specialists might be gone if we came after the date we were told. In less than a week enough money was raised to cover the trip to the capital and get the surgery done.

We left Cap Haitian Sunday morning. The sun was bright and my friend Kinston was with us. Kervens and his mom both looked happy and excited to be going to Port-au-Prince for the first time. Kervens, seven years old, didn't really know what a surgery was like so he didn't seem to really care. We settled in for the night to rest up for our early morning hospital visit. So, the next morning, we went to the two hospitals and were so shocked that we were blocked from getting any information that could help us proceed to see the appropriate doctor. We went back to the place where we were staying and decided that I would go back to one of the hospitals that I really felt were hiding information. I returned to the hospital, very frustrated. Unfortunately, I had to express my frustration to get an address and the name of the right specialist. Then I called some of my medical friends in PaP and asked them about the name and the address. They told me that the surgeon was the one working at the two hospitals I have been to and where they sent me was his private clinic. On that same day, I took Kervens to the clinic. More than a 100 people were in the three waiting rooms. You could read frustration on most faces. I felt better to realize I wasn't the only one. The tension was a little high outside because some people were protesting. However, it's Port-au-Prince, and that seems to be the norm. A few hours later Kervens was seen and we were told how much it would cost for them to do the tonsil surgery.

Hearing the cost, my frustration amplified and I told my friend Kinston it was over. We won't be able to get it done. The price they told us was three times more than what we were told by the other hospitals.

While I was thinking on what to do and how to tell Lorna, she messaged me to ask how things were going. I explained the situation to her and how we would have to go back to Cap Haitian and then back to Port-au-Prince again another day.

I knew it was much easier for me to tell her than for her going back to supporters trying to raise much more money than expected. That was when she told me that people kept donating for Kervens' surgery. With her encouragement, I went back to the doctor and he sent me for some lab tests and to make an appointment for surgery. In a week or so we were so shocked to see how it all turned out. By the time for Kervens to go back for surgery, I was informed that we had more than enough money to cover surgery and other fees including staying in PaP, food, and transportation thanks to several generous donations.

Money wired, we returned back to Port-au-Prince on Sunday evening. We saw the anesthesiologist on Monday. Tuesday and Wednesday protesters filled the streets of Port-au-Prince. Thursday was calm enough for us to go to the clinic for surgery. Clinic doors were half opened because there was still some protesting in some areas of the capital. With God's grace, Kervens went in the surgery room and finally out with his tonsils removed on Thursday, November 19, 2020. Praise God! We were told to bring him back for a follow-up on Friday, November 27<sup>th</sup>. My friends invited Kervens and his mom to stay with them during this time to help save money and so that they wouldn't be in that huge city alone. This also gave Kervens children to play with and keep his mind off the pain from the surgery. At the follow-up the doctor said he is healing well. Praise the LORD! But, he wants to see Kervens in 15 days. We believe he'll also want to see him one more time thirty days later. He should then be released from this surgeon and be able to see a doctor much closer to home, if needed.

Through the process leading up to surgery, God taught me a lot and I'm still learning during the recovery process. In the midst of all this, it was so great to see the mother not having to worry trying to choose between buying him acetaminophen for pain and food to feed him. He actually had both because God talked to your heart, and you gave for his cause.

I learned a lot but will just mention a few:

1. I was not alone. This was team work lead by our almighty God.
2. The battle was not ours, but His.
3. It reminds me that only those with faith will see the glory of God.
4. Some truth about the medical healthcare system of Haiti.
5. How to better help, serve, and assist others not only in Cap Haitian but in the country.

Thanks to y'all for all you're doing and your continued prayers for Haiti,

Your brother in Christ, Daniel Joseph



Our precious little  
Kervens.



God has placed this man in our path and we are ever grateful. Daniel has such a heart for the people. Here he is with his beautiful sponsored child, Djidjeska.

My name is Rose-Katia Pierre and it's a pleasure for me to talk about HHSM for all they have done for me. My sponsor and others, through HHSM, have helped me since I was 3 years old. They paid for my preschool up through Philo. When I finished school, I didn't find someone to help me for University or Technical school. When one team found out I could not go to technical school they helped me so that I could get my training in electricity. I have graduated now because of them.

Since I was little, I always saw how they help many children to go to school and some to go to hospitals for medical help, along with helping with food supplies. They do a lot for the children in Haiti. I do not know how to thank you all. You have big hearts and God will always bless you, take care of your families, and protect you wherever you go. Thank you again for all you have done for me and I hope you continue to help others. Do not be discouraged because God has a plan for each of you, and for me, that will help others so much.

Love, Rose-Katia aka "Ronise"



Our beautiful Rose-Katia working with electricity and hanging out with our team.

### HAITI NEEDS

Pastor Francilot's school in Welsh is in need of more classrooms and more students to be sponsored. We learned that it's hard to keep good teachers when the money isn't there and a teacher receives about \$1500 a year when the funds are available. We can't imagine being paid ONLY \$1500 a year, as a teacher or any other profession, and yet these teachers can't even get that amount without sponsors because most parents aren't able to pay for their child's education. Welsh is so far out in the country that jobs just aren't something they can find. Jean Calvin is another school in need of help. They've moved to a very small house and we believe they pay rent. They are looking for a permanent location, but without some form of help, it will be hard for them to find. *If you know of any churches that would like to help these church schools, we would love to talk to them about it!*

Marie Noel loves to help all those in need around her with food and she can do this through the Saturday Feeding Program. None of this can happen without those who make donations for the program! Due to the increased price of food at this time, the costs have doubled. That means it's costing approximately \$100 per Saturday now to feed 100 children. In October we were able to witness another awesome Saturday of kids receiving their dish of food. She counted 132 fed that day. She ran out of rice for the last few children and the team gladly gave their lunch to those few. What a blessing to be able to share and see Marie's heart being so very blessed.

You know Kervens' story, but there are so many others like his. God put a family of young siblings before us about a year ago and we've been doing what we can to help Marie supply them with food as we are able. These siblings' parents have both passed away leaving them to care for themselves and each other. And this year we were introduced to the oldest sibling's year old twins. They are in need of formula and diapers. This can cost upwards of \$300 a month. There's so much more to this story and it just makes us weep when we talk about it. If you'd like to donate so we can supply them food it would be a blessing to all.

Some of you may have also heard about the brother and sister with the eye issues. We have been able to help them see an eye specialist and they're both on medication. It seems to be some kind of film/growth on the eyes and the sister, Love Madalie, is the worst. She can't keep her eyes open as any little bit of light hurts her terribly and to see her eyes, you would think she is blind. It's a sad sight, but she still goes to school and does what she can. One of the meds she received is a pain medication so she could get to the point of opening her eyes for the specialist to look at them. Thankfully she was recently seen again and they could diagnose the issue. Please pray that hers and Love Kerly's eyes are fully healed! Once his eyes are healed we will work on getting him glasses. When she is healed completely we'll see if she needs glasses.

These are just a few examples of those in medical and other needs that God has placed before us. We never know how we can help, where the funds will come from, but we know that God does and we place our faith and trust in Him to show us the way. We are not a medical team, we are there to update children so they can be sponsored to get an education. That is very important as most of these families can't afford to pay the tuition. But we also can't ignore what God puts before us. Your prayers for the people in Haiti, for our teams, for HHSM are so very needed and welcomed! THANK YOU!

**We pray you have a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and a BLESSED NEW YEAR!**