

HOPE rising

CHILDREN'S HOME • LEOGANE, HAITI

October 2014

www.hrch.org

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Remember...

It's a word I find myself using a lot. Hey, remember when we...remember that time when the...Remembering is a blessing from God to His people. It has a way of instructing, warning, and encouraging us. As I write this I am on the final decent to Port Au Prince. I remember my first trip here and the chaos of the post 2010 earthquake. I remember trips to buy food for orphans whose names and faces I will never forget; bringing vitamins, and recording height, weight, shoe size, and health progression. I remember birthday parties with ice cream from the "convenience" store for kids who don't know when their birthday actually is. I remember a child who had been surviving on his own, being reunited with his family two years after the quake; feeling helpless to make a long-term change, but remember God speaking to me and others, and telling us to do something so big, that it could only be accomplished through Him. I remember driving around looking for land to build a Children's Home; getting out of the truck at the last property shown and knowing that I was looking at the future. I remember thinking how little sense what we were trying to do made, yet how much sense it made. I remember the day that Hope Rising got its name; the day that we were no longer welcome to be with the orphan kids who had become a second family to many and that their safety depended on it. I remember holding the first VBS event to take place on HRCH property, the 40 we were expecting turning into 400, and that one year ago, the fence around the property was almost complete!

It has been refreshing and invigorating to remember the setbacks, victories, baby steps, and giant leaps of faith along the way. Starting a children's home/local church/mission organization is on many levels the equivalent of skydiving. You can't "sort of" do either. You plan, prepare, and most importantly, you PRAY. In the past year, HRCH has gone from a piece of property with a vision, to what it is today. HRCH is now a piece of property with: a home for our missionary family, clean water for the community, a mission team house under construction, and a facility to hold church services, medical/dental clinics, kids clubs, etc. Staff continues to be hired. Pastor Ben has started construction on a home for his family. The gospel is going forward and people's lives are being changed for the Glory of God!

We are excited to remember what God has done thus far. There are not enough words to thank all of you who have either prayed, gone, given, or all of the above. 2015 has more God-sized plans in the making. Hope Rising Fellowship church will continue to impact the region with the gospel. The mission team home will be completed and HRCH will be able to house mission teams AND the first Orphan Family Pod will be built! The vision is becoming a reality!

So please remember all God's done. Remember, He always uses people to get it done. Pray for HRCH, our missionary family, the church and Pastor Ben, the Children's home, and the Haitian people. Finally, pray about how to join the ministry of Hope Rising. **Get involved. Give. Go.** I'm already looking forward to what we will be remembering this time next year.

Stuart Smithson

A Word From Our Interns:

Chris and I were so honored to serve with Hope Rising this summer. While we did have to cut our time short, we want to start by thanking everyone who supported us through prayers and financially to be there. The biggest blessing had to be working with Matt and Cara. To see the heart that the Lord has given them for the people of Leogane, to try to keep up with them as they worked circles around us to accomplish those dreams, and to get to live with them and their family was an incredible chance to learn about God, and ourselves. The need is great, that is sure. The Haitian people are trapped by spiritual darkness that we don't have experience in our day-to-day lives here in America.

This is a burden that we all share, but one we can easily forget. We've been back in the States for over a month, and so quickly we have lost the passion that consumed our days in Haiti. The work is certainly not done; it is only just beginning! Jesus knew this would be the case until He returned, telling us in Matthew 9: "The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

We are the workers. We are the prayers.

We were once the harvest. Please, please continue to pray, and continue to GO!

Chris and Mary Comstock
Missionary Interns

Interns are always needed:

If you or someone you know is a missionary intern and would like to be a part of the HRCH ministry, please contact Cara at cara.smithson@hrch.org or Allison at allison.davis@hrch.org. We'd love to hear from you. Visit our website to make donations in support of our interns.

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Check out
the Smithson family blog:
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MK Corner... If you're an MK, more than likely you are homeschooled. I have always homeschooled, so there was no transition to this method for my kids, but for many missionary kids, this can be a challenge. They each are unique and have their favorite subjects when it comes to academics. Joel's favorite is Bible time. Kaylea's favorite is history and Dean's is science. I use the Abeka dvd program for Kaylea and Dean. They watch a pre-recorded class with actual teachers and students and have the same workbooks and textbooks to follow along. Kaylea is a very independent learner and this set up works well for her. Dean enjoys the videos, but with dyslexia he requires more one on one from me. Joel is in pre-K and Kaylea and I switch off teaching him. He likes Kaylea the best! Kaylea has made a video of how her schooling works on her "My Life as an MK" Facebook page. Check it out. - CARA



Supply Needs

Solar Power Supplies:

- 10 panels needed (\$350 each)
- 16 batteries needed (\$400 each)
- 2 solar hot water tanks (\$800 each)
- 2 solar inverters (\$2,000 each)

Other needs:

- 15 passenger van (\$40,000)

A big "Thank You" to all the donors that have already contributed to the solar panels.

If you feel led to donate to these specific supply needs, please send a check to HRCH, PO Box 200, Lavaca AR 72941 or donate at hrch.org.

A word from Allison...

After having recently returned from Haiti, the one thing that still haunts me to this day: the look of desperation from many of the men, children and women that I encountered while there. Here is my journal entry, after having spent the day at a local orphanage, in which I wrote about dealing with this heartbreaking pain I could not contain that day - I was drawn to this passage of scripture:

"Just then a woman having an issue of blood for 12 years came up behind him and touched the edge of His cloak. She said to herself, "If only I touch His cloak I will be healed." Jesus turned and saw her. "Take heart daughter, He said, your faith has healed you." And the woman was healed from that moment. Matthew 9:20-22

I want my life to be found in chasing after Him and I want my arms to be filled, not just reaching for, but gathering in the hem of Jesus. I want my arms to be filled with gathering His grace, His love, His goodness. I want to follow Him wherever He leads me and be so full of Him that He is overflowing out of my arms, out of my life. Even when it means reaching out my hand with a smile to a situation that might hurt...that will hurt.

He gives me the grace to hope. And so I am asking that He give me more grace - even if it's harder to grasp this time. Grace to feel joy, grace to hope for life, grace to fight hard - because these people are worth the fight. Grace to have arms so filled with Him they remain open and He spills out.

So I pray today that we would know deeply His love for us. I pray that we would fight for His love in this world because we know He is right here - His hem is wide. And just as it is in His message to the woman with the blood disorder - I can see Him stooping down, looking in her eyes to speak to her, to meet her need - saying you are worth it. I want these kids to know - they are worth it.

Allison Davis
Executive Director, HRCH

Hope Rising Church Is Going Strong

We are pleased to announce that the church on the HRCH compound is not only having services, but other needed community ministries. Pastor Ben and his wife have hit the ground running to further God's kingdom. The church is now about 80% complete and just recently the roof was finished.

The community has welcomed the church with open arms, Praise God. This just let's you know how very much it was needed. Services are as follows:

- Sunday 8:00 a.m. Worship
- Sunday 5:00 p.m. Worship
- Monday 6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting
- Tuesday 6:00 p.m. Worship
- Wednesday 6:00 p.m. Worship
- Thursday 5:00 p.m. Evangelism
- Friday 6:00 p.m. Film

As you can see, Pastor Ben and his wife stay very busy. The need is great and the harvest is plentiful. Please continue to pray for this precious couple and their four children.



2014 Hope Teams

- October 12th-16th
Regent College Psychology students
- October 31st-November 7th- ABSC
- November 7th-November 14th- ABSC
- November 21st-November 26th
Dallas Avenue Baptist

Interested in going to Haiti? Contact Allison at allison.davis@hrch.org

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A **HUGE** "Thank You" to Kevin Comstock for spending 6 weeks serving with Hope Rising in Haiti. We are so grateful that he was willing to use his time and talents to further His kingdom. Thanks to Kevin's Sunday School class at First Lavaca for helping to send Kevin and providing lots of prayer and support.

