

## Missionary Marriage Retreat

Bel Fle Missions Hotel in Port au Prince was the site of Hope Rising's first marriage retreat. Twelve couples and families from different areas of Haiti and a variety of ministries gathered for a weekend of relaxation, renewal and refreshing worship. Rex and Mary Jones of Wynne, AR were the speakers for the weekend. Rex and Mary are both retired, have taught couples Sunday School for 20 years, and counsel couples out of their home. Dan Carson of Nashville, TN, was the worship leader for the weekend.

The theme of the weekend was "Happily Ever After" and the Jones's led the couples in several sessions regarding important decisions, priorities, storms, communication, and more. The couples also had time to unwind with access to unlimited air-conditioning.

Here is some positive feedback from some of the missionaries:

*"...it was so wonderful to be able to unplug and just focus on our relationship with God and each other without all the distractions... it was truly a gift to us and our marriage!"* - Stephanie Eugene, Respire Ministries

*"This retreat gave us the opportunity to get away from the day to day tasks and have time to reconnect with each other, have conversations that have been put off, and connect with other couples."* - Cassie Jean Louis, Praying Pelican Ministries

*"...worship was encouraging... we have tried to incorporate what we learned there into our marriage. The most valuable part of the retreat for us was having time alone and away where we could talk as a couple."* - Andi Lunsford, Hope Rising

"This weekend absolutely would not have been possible without generous Hope Rising donors who helped defray the cost of the weekend for the couples", said Cara Kay Copes, executive director for Hope Rising. "I cannot say THANK YOU enough to those who donated. Our goal was to give the couples Biblical strategies for deflecting Satan's fiery darts." Copes and her husband, Larry, along with their family organized the events of the weekend and also provided childcare. Copes said she would like to be able to plan another retreat for couples in ministry in Haiti. Anyone interested in helping make that happen can contact her at [carakay.copes@hrch.org](mailto:carakay.copes@hrch.org).

## Amazon Needs List

It's that time of year again! We need to fill the container with a year's worth of needed supplies for Hope Rising. Many of these items either cannot be purchased in Haiti, or are too expensive to ship via mail services. We will continue to add to our needs list over time, but feel free to go ahead and start shopping. Click on the link below to purchase needed items for as little as \$4. Thank you and Happy Shopping!

[Amazon Needs List for Hope Rising](#) **amazon**





## Christmas at Hope Rising

This past Christmas was filled with excitement and the good kind of chaos for the Hope Rising kids and staff. It took an army of staff and team volunteers to wrap all of the presents for the kids. On Christmas day, the kids opened presents together in the team house, followed by popcorn and a Christmas movie later that day.

Thank you to those who provided gifts for the kids... without your generosity, this Christmas would not have been as special. Please continue to pray for these kids and Hope Rising as we head into another year full of God-sized possibilities.

## MK Corner... Cousin Fun

The Smithson kids were excited to have some of their cousins come to visit for the new year. We were able to get Joel's perspective on their week together...

"I had fun showing them around the property and playing with all of them. We went to the beach one afternoon, and we threw a surprise birthday party for my youngest cousin. It was a fun week!"



**LAPTOPS NEEDED:** Hope Rising has a need for new or refurbished laptops with SSD (solid state drive). If you would like to donate a laptop, please reach out to [carakay.copes@hrch.org](mailto:carakay.copes@hrch.org).

## 2018 Hope Teams

Feb 17-23 Lakepointe (Health Fair)  
March 10-17 Lakepointe (basketball)  
April 28-May 2 Lakepointe

*If your church is interested in coming to serve at Hope Rising, please contact*  
[carakay.copes@hrch.org](mailto:carakay.copes@hrch.org)

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