

## Greetings from Haiti!

It's been a long time since we've updated you on HRCH and many have asked what's happening in Haiti. Most know that last July the president of Haiti was assassinated. Today we are still unsure who was behind this terrible act but it has only increased the instability and difficulty that was and is present here. For these reasons we have been unable to freely move about Haiti. Getting to and from the airport has become a major event that must be well planned and evaluated moment by moment along the trip. Ben and I have been coming in and out, roughly swapping a month at a time to keep things working and try to encourage our staff here.

The Big question: "What is happening at HRCH if no teams can come and only Ben and I there? The short answer **EVERYTHING!** Hope Rising has been blessed with great staff. All are working hard to keep the ministry that we do functioning well. The church, school and clinic are all open and have been the entire time of Covid and insecurity here in Haiti.

In addition, we were blessed to have sponsored a 4 day youth event last month with 140 attending. During that same time 50 church leaders from a sister church came and taught a leadership-training event. Almost 200 people were here, lives were changed and local leaders advanced the Kingdom of God. You see GOD'S work will continue even in difficult times. It isn't dependent on us but the great news is we can have a part in His work by giving and investing in the ministry of HRCH. COVID has kept many you from being able to Go but it doesn't keep you from being able to invest in kingdom work. That leads me to my next question for you. Are you willing to invest into the work that we do here in Haiti?

We have over 35 staff members. Teams that visited HRCH paid some of those staff members' salaries. Unfortunately, we can't host teams now but ministry still happens. Our staff members like Pastor Mondesir, Phito, Ferra and others are still working to keep HRCH going. You may wonder what they do. Pastor Mondesir keeps Hope Rising Fellowship Church operating and is the administrator for the clinic that sees over 400 patients a month. Phito helps maintain the facilities and vehicles. We have daily projects just to keep things working on campus. Ferra mows the 12 Acres of land each week with a push mower, tractor and weed eater. He keeps the campus maintained and looking good. Many others do cleaning, cooking and gardening that is critical to keeping the ministry running.

We currently need about \$2,000 a month for employee salaries that are not covered. For 3 years God has blessed HRCH with the needed funds to cover these costs. I want to be clear that these are positions that are **NOT** covered by sponsorships. Our sponsors are great and they cover the cost of employees in the school. Looking forward we continue to hope that teams can once again return to HCRH and the shortfall would be met. However, instability won't allow us to have teams return this year. We are asking our supporters to consider making a financial gift to help keep HRCH in good financial shape. Just like you, we need a pastor for our church, we need our house to be in good shape and vehicles running, our garden attended to, and we need the yard cut each week. Over these past years God has been showing me that investments into His work yields fruit for years to come. Only in Heaven will we be able to see the full impact our gifts we make to the cause of Christ. We are stewards of what he has given us and like you, I want to be faithful to invest into things that have lasting eternal rewards. Please pray about a gift to HRCH today and thank you for your prayers and support.

Blessings,  
Matt Smithson



*Ferra Keeps our grounds looking beautiful*



*Enide, is our amazing cook*



*Mr. Miller takes care of our garden and fruit trees*



*Pastor Mondesir & family*



*Hope Rising Fellowship Church sponsored a 4 day youth event with 140 attending*



*Phito and family: Operations Coordinator*