



# Bulletin

Caribbean Children's Foundation

Spring 2024

## Proud to Partner with You in Haiti

My first introduction to Haiti was through a mission trip with my church in January of 2015. I thought I knew how it would affect me emotionally. I knew I would see some hard things, but what I was not prepared for was the love and friendships that would be forged with the Haitian people I met during the short time I was there.



We spent part of our trip on Île-à-Vache working on projects at Grace School and part of our time in Les Cayes working at the Children of Israel Orphanage. While on Île-à-Vache, Nora

and Leon explained to us the background of how Grace School began. It was Leon's dream to educate the people on the island where he grew up. Lessons started under a mango tree with only a couple people learning to write their names. As time went on, more students came, and the mango tree was no longer sufficient. They gave us the history on how Grace School came into existence, how Pointe Est school was started and was eventually replaced by Boisbouton school. Additional programs and places were added as needs arose; the orphanage, the church, a feeding program for students, a goat reward program, a trade school and plans for a medical clinic. WOW! It was evident to me; God's hand is certainly at work here! So many

lives have been touched and improved by this dream and this ministry. In future newsletters, I will talk more specifically about each one of these programs separately and their impact.

In 2016, our church started planning a trip to Haiti for January 2017. Of course I was going! This time my view was much different. I was looking forward to reconnecting with those that I met on my previous trip and meeting new friends. In late 2016, I joined Caribbean Children's Foundation as a Board Member. I wanted to learn more about this organization and get more involved where I could. Hurricane Matthew struck the small island of Île-à-Vache in October of 2016. This time on our mission Trip, we spent nearly all our time on Île-à-Vache. Hurricane Matthew had devastated many structures on the island, but the hearts of the people remained loving and strong. They had the strength to persevere. There were many improvements to Grace School and the orphanage by work that had been done by the students of the Trade School. There was additional work needed due to the devastation of Hurricane Matthew. Boisbouton and Trinity School had suffered quite a bit of damage.

In January of 2019, our mission team returned to Haiti one more time. This time I lead the mission trip. It was quite a task to take on, but there was lots of help from the team. We had received donations of reading glasses to do a clinic. We held the reading glass clinic at Boisbouton School. We had a full day fitting people with reading glasses. There were tears from some as they had been unable to see to do close up work such as sewing so that they could earn a living. We were able to see the Medical Clinic first floor under construction. Sadly, due to the increasing unrest in Haiti, I have not been able to return.

In 2019, I became Treasurer of CCF. I filled that role until May of 2023. As of October 2023, Nora and I now share the role of Executive Director (Co-Executive Directors). I have learned a great deal about this role and Nora has been a great teacher. I know there is still more to learn. I am devoted to the vision of this ministry and the people who benefit from the great work that is being done by God through all of us. God willing, I will be able to serve in this role for many years to come.



God is working through you and this ministry to improve and save lives! Through your donations for education, the feeding programs, the medical clinic and other programs you are helping to improve many

lives! You are ensuring that through educating students, their lives and the lives of their families can be improved. You are providing meals to students who attend school. You are providing a means to medical care which saves lives.

The Haitians are now suffering with a lack of food greater than before. Civil unrest with the political situation may lead to a civil war and cause even more suffering. The Haitians need our prayers more than ever. We deeply appreciate the continued prayers to improve the situation in Haiti and for the continued work of Caribbean Children's Foundation.

CCF's supporters have been loyal, faithful, generous and a vital part of our ministry. Without you, we could not have accomplished what we were able to do.

THANK YOU for walking this journey with us. I trust you will continue to be a part of this journey as God unfolds what lies ahead. His work in Haiti is not yet done!

Serving HIM,

Chris Meaney  
Co-Executive Director



## Easter Traditions in Haiti

Prior to Easter weekend, you will find many colorful kites for sale on the streets of Haiti. Many children are skilled in crafting their own kites. The white variety, as shown in the photo, was handcrafted by a child.

The tradition is children will get up very early in the morning and wake their neighbors to watch as they launch their kites. The rising of the kites is greeted with the phrase "He is risen". The Kreyol word for Happy Easter is "Bon Fêt Pak". The words in the photo say, "Happy Easter Everyone!"



## Urgent Prayers Needed for Haiti

The following is a just a small excerpt from a CNN article titled, "Carnage on the streets of Port-au-Prince as world stalls on a promised intervention for Haiti". Dated March 22, 2024:

*For three weeks, Haiti's capital has been trapped in a gory cycle that far exceeds the kidnapping and gang violence for which it was already known. An insurgent league of heavily armed gangs is waging war on the city itself, seeking new territory and targeting police and state institutions. Scared and angry, vigilante groups are blocking off their neighborhoods with felled trees and chains, killing and burning outsiders suspected of gang membership. It's the only way, they say, to defend themselves.*

**Google search "Haiti news today" to learn more from a variety of sources.**