

# HCDF SPRNG 2013 UPDATE

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Haiti Christian Development Fund—Proclaiming good news to the poor...

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## Some Highlights



Jacques & Crystal



Joy's 60th Birthday



Josiah's Graduation



Caleb Seminar

The first half of this year has been a very busy, eventful, and successful time. There is a lot of news to share so I hope you will be able to take the time to read this whole letter.

We started having volunteer work groups come since early January.



The first group was from Iowa with a couple people joining them from other nearby states. The walls and floors of five rooms and two bathrooms were completed and the work for the group was to get as many walls painted as possible in their time frame. The Caleb students oversaw the work and I put in some input on color. The group worked hard and long and managed to get all the down-stair outside walls completely painted as well as the bathrooms and two of the classrooms. The other classrooms were partially done. We are grateful to the expert paint mixer who came up with a very ingenious paint stirring tool and his excellent notes to enable us to recreate the colors at a later date. Almost everyone from this group chose to sponsor a child at the school.

The second group came from a church in Western Springs, IL. Their job was to design tables for the school cafeteria. They designed and built a will be recreated five more times by other private booth seating and tables as well as sizes. A group member from this group just could send tablecloths for the tables that she We really appreciate this effort to enable us pleasant. Another member of this group percussion instruments to enable us to the students. We are already using them to graduation this June.



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The third group came mostly from Alabama. Their job was to work on the roof of the second story of the secondary classroom building. They had to design the beams, cut the different lengths needed, transport them across the yard, get them to the second story and then nail them into place. Both the men and women worked hard on every aspect of this project. They were able to complete a third of the roof. Local men followed their example and finished the other two thirds.



Besides groups we also had individuals visit us. The group from Iowa had a mechanic among them who fixed several small things for us. Later we had another mechanic who came to work on our larger machines in the tractor category. It is a blessing to us and the community to have all these machines, but they do require maintenance or more on a regular basis. We are grateful when we can get qualified mechanics to come.

Jean's oldest brother came to visit after being absent from Haiti for 19 years. I enjoyed his visit because we got to do some traveling within Haiti while he was here. Jean's parents are originally from the Jacmel area. His oldest brother was born there and the clinic where he was born is still in operation and we got to visit it. The clinic is in a school yard where Jean's father

was a school principal before he became a pastor. The people at the clinic/school actually recognized his name from reading the history of together and met a doctor who knew his father's time. It is an honor to have this time being used in a classroom.



became a pastor. The people at the clinic/school actually recognized the school. Jean and I had visited when we first arrived in Haiti his father. He gave us an antique desk from the school from Jean's this desk and then we actually saw another one while we were there

Ken Smith who was a big help in getting the construction of the secondary school as far as along as it is came for a four days visit. He visited the school and the agricultural site. We always appreciate it when people do not just give, but also come be a part of the actual project.

Justin Irving was our latest visitor. He is a professor at Bethel Seminary in St Paul, MN. He worked with the Caleb students, teaching them about servant leadership. We enjoyed his visit and his seminars were excellent.



This month I turned 60. A difficult number to say out loud and to relate to as pertaining to myself. However, I have had an amazing life with experiences and adventures to fill all those years. I have a family that is easy and fun to love and they love me back. My life has never been boring and never will be. I have been blessed with a life serving Jesus in a place that gives me unending opportunities of service and fulfillment. I have felt well celebrated. Jean gave me an amazing birthday party with friends present and with the children calling in to be a part of it all from afar. His brother used his musical talent to teach a musical group to see in harmony at the party. It was beautiful!



Even bigger family news is that our son, Jacques, got married March 30. His wife's name is Crystal. They have known each other for four years and dated off and on. It is now on forever. An opportunity came for them to marry quickly and they took it; mostly so Jacques can let the military know he is married before they begin making their assignments when this current training session is over. Jean was able to get me a ticket to St Louis, MO which was only two hours from Jacques so I was able to be there and be an official witness of the event. It was very special for me to be there to be a part of it and actually sign the marriage certificate as a witness. I was there for Jacques and Crystal had a friend there with her. They still hope to have a celebration where more friends and family can come share in their happiness, but timing of that has not yet been decided.



Our son, Josiah, graduated from Berea College the 5<sup>th</sup> of this month. We traveled up there to be with him for that. Crystal is also graduated from the same school and we were able to meet her family at that time. Lemec and Tara are also came to the graduation. Joey has a really strong group of friends on campus and we did a ton of activities that Joey had planned for them and us. A lot of the activities involved eating, but we also took an awesome walk in the nearby hills of Kentucky. Joey will stay on campus for a couple months after graduation and then he will come home for a month or two. After that he will move to San Diego and live with Lemec and Tara while he works out his future which will probably include grad school after a year of working giving him time to make applications.



A few days before the graduation we attended a HCDF board meeting that was held in Nashville. A day after the graduation we traveled to the University of Tennessee in Knoxville where we loaded up a rented U-Haul full of solar panel equipment being donated to HCDF by the university. The equipment is being loaded on a ship in Miami heading for Haiti. After its arrival a student will come to help us set it up at the new school. We are very grateful for this gift.

There is no end of prayer requests within this letter. I will not enumerate them here, but hope all of you were touched by something that makes you want to pray. One request not in the letter is the need for rain. The farmers here are waiting and waiting. Thank you for taking the time read all this, thank you for your interest and most of all thank you for your continuing prayers.

Yours in Christ,

Joy