

Winter 2010/2011, Issue 1

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www.haitipartners.org

Focusing on Hope

We find strength
by focusing on
areas of hope.

What a year of heartbreak. Haiti, a country where many people were already struggling to survive, took a devastating blow in the January earthquake. So many lives were lost and people injured. So many buildings destroyed (including several Haiti Partners schools). More than a million people instantly homeless, including many of our colleagues and families in our schools. Churches faced needs far greater than they could respond to.

The sorrow was overwhelming—but the immediate focus of Haiti Partners was to help our colleagues and the communities we work with. First, how could we help meet people's basic needs in those first urgent days and weeks? Second, how would we work in the new reality?

So many of you responded generously to help people in such a desperate situation. All of us at Haiti Partners are deeply grateful for your compassion. We're also grateful for your long-term commitment to help the recovery—because certainly this requires a sustained effort.

Since the quake, we've also been inspired by the responses of our Haitian colleagues and friends. Their faithfulness and tireless efforts have inspired our own work and faith. We find strength by



Vanessa Caruso visits children at Cité Soleil Community School.

focusing on areas of hope. We find the right strategy from our years of on-the-ground experience and the great Haitian colleagues we collaborate closely with.

Haiti Partners started in 2009, though our programs—which all focus on education—have been underway for many years as part of our sister organization, Beyond Borders. Launching this new ministry has enabled us to better focus these efforts to accomplish our goal of “helping Haitians change Haiti through education.” The staff and board of Beyond Borders have been tremendously helpful and gracious in enabling this shift to take place. And, your support and prayers have been critical to the successful start of this new work.

As we prepared this annual report for you, we felt grateful for God's

love and your steady partnership. Thank you for all you have done to help people in Haiti. Thousands of people have been served through the Haiti Partners programs because of your support. Nearly 100 Haitians are permanently employed through our programs, and several hundred short-term jobs (such as construction workers for schools) were created. We invite you into these pages with gratitude for your partnership—and we invite you to continue with us in the year ahead.

Let's focus on hope as we help Haitians change Haiti through education. We can work together toward a better future.

With Love and Gratitude,

John and Kent,
for everyone at Haiti Partners



Students Program

The Students Program creates model schools that are sustainable and where children thrive. In a country where nearly 50 percent of school-age children don't go to school and 90 percent of schools rely solely on enrollment fees to support their work, we come alongside Haitian schools that already have strong leadership but lack resources.

Haiti Partners supports students by (1) improving school facilities and providing educational materials; (2) offering training in innovative education methods; and (3) helping schools create social enterprises (small businesses) that can help pay teacher salaries and other expenses.

In the past fiscal year we:

- ❖ Formalized partnerships with seven schools.
- ❖ Provided food, shelter, medical attention, and training on trauma after the earthquake.
- ❖ Funded salaries for school staff when families couldn't afford tuition fees after the earthquake.
- ❖ Constructed two new Learning Centers, rebuilt another school, and helped remaining schools build semi-permanent structures after the earthquake. **Classes resumed at all seven partner schools within 90 days of the earthquake.**

- ❖ Played a lead role in a pilot program that provided 200 laptops for children's learning.
 - ❖ Completed water projects at two partner schools that had been without water.
- Your generosity made it possible to do lots in a short time. With your support in the coming year, we will complete Learning Centers for three of our partner schools—equipping them with electricity, internet, and computer labs; presenting student-centered teaching training; and providing seed money to help communities create small businesses to cover school expenses.



Students, parents, and teachers at recently completed Caboïs Community School.

Teachers Program

The Teachers Program provides educators with methods to create great learning environments that bring out the best in their students. Teachers learn to help students think for themselves, articulate their ideas, cooperate with others, question constructively, and apply their learning locally so they can take responsibility for improving Haiti's future.

In the past fiscal year:

- ❖ 30 Circles of Change took place, training over 300 teachers.
- ❖ More than 100 Open Space meetings were held, reaching more than 4,000 teachers, students, parents, and community leaders.
- ❖ 79 Reflection Circle Groups took place (an adaptation of the Touchstones discussion method; for more information see touchstones.org), impacting the lives of 1,652 students.
- ❖ 40 teachers received training in using math to help manage personal and communal spending priorities.

We reached our initial goals despite the earthquake. With your support in the coming year, we are planning to increase the number of groups by



Wenzel Joseph, principal of Cité Soleil Community School, passed away in March. This beloved man left a wife, Maryse, and two sons. Haiti Partners and other friends helped with funeral costs and provided a grant to help his wife start a small business.

50 percent, introducing thousands of more people to these innovative educational methods.

“School has been everything to me”

The following interview took place recently in front of the Darbonne Community School, which was destroyed by the earthquake. Lordz Decilus just started fifth grade. In this photo, she is standing in front of the tarp where the school building once stood. Lordz and her fellow

students are now in their new school building.

Lodz's mother died in December 2009. Her life is hard. It's wonderful to help her realize a better life by enabling her to be part of a good school and investing in her future. This is her story in her own words:



Leaders Program

The Leaders Program trains 40 strategic community and education leaders from around Haiti in an intensive three-year program. These leaders meet four times a year and receive laptops and training to positively impact the lives of thousands.

This program helps these grassroots leaders (1) inspire others as they discover their potential; (2) engage their stakeholders to accomplish their mission; (3) use computers and the Internet to increase their personal effectiveness; and (4) nurture spiritual growth and a culture characterized by mutual respect and trust.

In this last fiscal year we:

- ❖ Convened 40 leaders/educators, including participants from all seven partner schools, for quarterly, three-day seminars.
- ❖ Provided training and materials in helping people deal with trauma.
- ❖ Distributed 240 5.5 kilowatt generators through this network.
- ❖ Created a film and booklet about a Haitian success story of farmers using small businesses to pay for schools.

With your support in the coming year we will convene these community leaders four more times for training, and will provide seed capital for local small businesses. By supporting the



Eramith Delva is co-director of The Commission of Women Victims for Victims (an advocacy group for abused women) and a Leaders Program participant.

Leaders Program, you help focus on the hope of a brighter future through dynamic leaders.

Disciples Program

The Disciples Program fosters hope by providing Christian education materials and training to individuals, churches, and schools. We offer practical, inspiring ways to support (1) people's spiritual growth, (2) better approaches to education and leadership, and (3) the community's development.

In the past fiscal year:

- ❖ 10,000 people received Bibles in their native language of Creole through our partnership with the Canadian Bible Society.
- ❖ Dozens of Haitian churches received training in Christian education through four Creole study books created by this program over the past seven years.
- ❖ 234 families in our church network received loans (\$70 to \$250 each) to start small businesses—selling cooking oil, rice, clothing, etc. The repayment rate has been a remarkable 95 percent.
- ❖ Trainings took place throughout our church network on first aid, disaster response, and dealing with trauma.



Students at Lalo Community School celebrate receiving Bibles.

In the coming year—with your support—we will continue these efforts and launch a scholarship program to enable top Haitian church leaders to receive education at a Haitian seminary. During this time when our churches have seen staggering losses, it has been a privilege to work with people so committed to the gospel of grace. These dear friends continue to focus on hope for a better future.



Lordz with the laptop she loves.

"When I focus on my school work, my sadness and tears go away."

What have you learned since the earthquake?

"I've gotten much better in French and mathematics. With laptops, we've learned to type. We write stories about our lives, create drawings that go with the stories, and turn them into books. We also take photos, create videos

and make music with the laptops. Learning laptops and the Internet opens our world. It's like I can visit other countries."

What has been helpful?

"After the earthquake, I would often become sad. When this happened, I'd grab my laptop and start working on it. When I focus

on my school work my sadness and tears go away."

What are your hopes for the future?

"I want to be a nurse and work in a hospital so I can take care of people when they're sick. I have a neighbor who is a nurse, and she's a great person who helps other people."

Advocates Program

The Advocates Program gives people from the United States and Canada the opportunity to come to Haiti to learn about its people and culture, the challenges it faces, and the work of Haiti Partners. After visiting Haiti, Advocates return home and speak about their experiences to church gatherings and community groups, become financial supporters of Haiti Partners, and participate in Advocate conference calls.



Doug Fouche visits with students at Caboio Community School Learning Center during an Advocates trip.

In the past fiscal year:

- ❖ 13 groups including a total of 60 people have gone to Haiti to help. These groups typically stay three to five days, enabling them to learn, pitch in, and go home to share their experiences as Advocates for Haiti Partners.
- ❖ Several interns, who work directly with our partner schools, spent up to two months each in Haiti.

One Haiti Partners Advocate described her experience like this: "Until the concept of generosity

becomes experience, all you have is speculation. I am so grateful that you provided me with the experiences that turned my speculation into interaction that will forever be a part of me."

As an Advocate (whether or not you can make the trip to Haiti), you can serve in productive and meaningful ways by participating in the work of Haiti Partners and inviting others to focus on hope, too. For more information, visit: www.haitipartners.org/get-involved/advocates-program

Bring Quality Education to Haiti Today!

Please clip this coupon and mail in the envelope provided.

If you have questions, comments, or a change of address, please email: info@haitipartners.org

I want to Get Involved!

- ☐ I'm interested in becoming a Haiti Partners Advocate.
- ☐ Please contact me about getting involved in the other Haiti Partners programs.

Please accept this one-time gift or monthly pledge in support of quality schooling for the children of Haiti.

I'm giving:

- ☐ \$30 a month (\$1 a day)
- ☐ \$_____ (one-time gift)

Here is my method of giving:

- ☐ Charge my monthly gift or one-time gift to my debit card/ credit card
 - ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ AMEX ☐ Discover

Card Number _____

Exp. Date _____

Name on Card
(Please print) _____

Signature _____

- ☐ Check payable to Haiti Partners

Please update your address if necessary:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Haiti Partners Inc. is a 501C3 charitable organization. Contributions are tax deductible. EIN 26-3768289

For more information on Haiti Partners' programs visit www.haitipartners.org/what-we-do



Financial Report

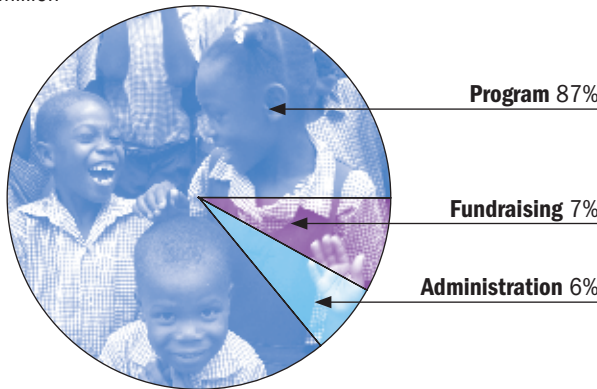
We thank God for the remarkable way people like you responded with incredible generosity to the needs of people in Haiti. You gave just over \$900,000 during the past fiscal year, which was spent to make all the work detailed in this report possible. You made it possible to respond to the earthquake and also expand our education programs, as we launched Haiti Partners. (Please contact us if you would like a copy of Beyond Borders' audited annual financial statement.)

After the earthquake, the needs became tremendous and urgent. Your sacrificial giving helped people immediately. Your continued giving has expanded our education programs to make a difference now and a longterm investment. The allocation of money for the current ministry year (July 2010-June 2011) is detailed in the chart below.

Your help is needed more than ever as we focus on hope. Your support is making a difference to so many children, men, and women in Haiti. THANK YOU!

2010-2011 Ministry Year Budget

Total: \$1.55 million



Power to the People: Gift of 240 Generators!

Haiti Partners distributed 240 needed generators to schools, churches, government agencies, and other grass-roots groups. These generators were a generous gift from Briggs & Stratton. (Pan American Development Foundation and Missionary Flights International helped us in their distribution).

Among many uses, these generators help to provide light in tent cities (refugee camps in Port-au-Prince for people who lost their homes), which is key to reducing rape according to Eramithe Delva, a leader of a grass-roots group that works for women's rights: "At night the tent cities are very



These men are just starting the two-hour hike up the mountain to La Tounel. Despite the odds and circumstances, people are committed to improving their communities.

dark and without sufficient lighting, women are at risk of sexual violence. The gift of these generators has provided both safety for women and children and needed electricity to run our offices and to serve others in need."



Statistics

Haiti has the weakest economy and the most challenging struggles of any nation in the Western Hemisphere. Here are a few statistics (sources available on our website) about the situation in Haiti that highlight why Haiti Partners focuses on education:

- ❖ Haiti has 9.7 million people, in an area about the size of Massachusetts.
- ❖ 78 percent of Haitians live on less than US \$2 a day; 54 percent live on less than US \$1 a day.
- ❖ Half of all primary-school-aged children are not enrolled in school. Only 1 in 3 finishes sixth grade and just 9 in 1,000 go to university.
- ❖ Approximately 75 percent of all teachers lack adequate training; many have less than high school education and no teacher training.
- ❖ About 40 percent of the population is unable to read or write.
- ❖ 4,992 schools were damaged or destroyed in the earthquake.

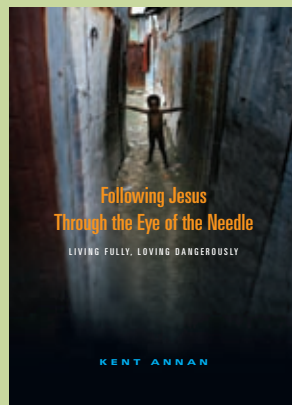
People in Haiti have great faith and a willingness to work hard. Our shared commitment to these values leads Haiti Partners to help Haitians change Haiti through education.



Get Involved!

It would be a privilege to partner with you so we can continue to make a difference for people in Haiti. There are many ways for you to get involved—and we want to highlight a few:

1. Sign up to give \$1-a-day as a Change for Haiti Partner. Your support at this level will: send two children to school; provide six months of training for two teachers, pastors, and community leaders; or print 200 educational booklets!
2. Invite your family and friends to be a \$1-a-day Change for Haiti Partner.
3. Come to Haiti on an Advocates Trip. (See Advocates report inside.)
4. Work with Haiti Partners on a bigger project. Each of our programs has specific projects that provide opportunities for you, your church, or your group to make a lasting difference. For details, check our website and email us at info@haitipartners.org. We'd love to connect with you!
5. Start a book group. *Following Jesus Through the Eye of the Needle* (InterVarsity, 2009) is a great book for discussion in your church, school, or book group. In this book, Haiti Partners co-director Kent Annan shares his story of living and working in Haiti. The story takes place in Haiti, but is relevant for any group or church.
6. So, get involved today—and continue to Focus on Hope!



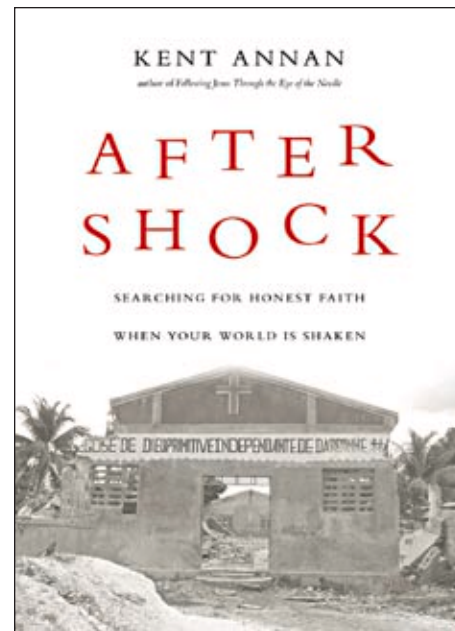
Follow weekly video updates from Haiti at www.haitipartners.org/the-blog

John Engle, Haiti Partners co-director, with Jimitch Marquis, a student at Caboiss Community School.

AFTER SHOCK:

New Book by Co-Director Kent Annan Coming in January 2011

After Shock: Searching for Honest Faith When Your World Is Shaken is Kent's second book (to be published by InterVarsity Press in



January 2011). It tells the stories of the earthquake and its aftermath. Kent searches through the hard questions about faith, doubt, suffering, and God in a way that is personal, honest, and ultimately hopeful. (All proceeds from both books go to education through Haiti Partners.)

In "After Shock" Kent Annan struggles with his faith existentially. This is no simple attempt to excuse God for non-interference in the suffering that pervades Port-au-Prince following a devastating earthquake. Instead, it is the poetic confession of a Christian who faces his doubts and questions about God, and yet goes beyond them to find a newer stronger faith. — Tony Campolo, Eastern University