

## Bringing Light to Northern Haiti



# Haitian Christian Ministries

## Important Update from the HCM Board

**Preaching and teaching  
the Word of God**

**Planting Churches**

**Meeting the Physical  
Needs of the People**

Dear HCM supporters,

The HCM Board of Directors would like to provide you, our supporters, an update on the situation in Northern Haiti and the ministry of HCM. As I'm sure many of you are aware, the situation in Haiti has become very critical. In Port Au Prince, over 80% of the city is now being controlled by gangs. There are daily reports of murders, rapes, food shortages and continued unrest. Thousands of citizens have been forced out of their homes by the gangs. The sea port where supplies come into Haiti has been closed for over a month, the airport is closed, and the roads are controlled by gangs so there is really no way in or out of Port Au Prince at this time. The United States has evacuated all but a handful of essential US embassy employees due to the current situation in Port Au Prince.



Cap Haitian has been spared the extreme violence that is occurring in Port Au Prince but has not been spared the effects of the events. Gas is almost impossible to obtain. The price on the black market is \$10-\$20 a gallon and is often diluted with water which can ruin engines. The cost of food in Cap Haitian has risen dramatically and there is widespread food insecurity and malnutrition. Most commercial airlines have canceled flights in and out of Haiti and the border between the Dominican Republic and Haiti is closed to anyone trying to leave the country. The sea port in Cap Haitian is still open but there are many issues with getting goods out of customs. Praise God HCM just received a shipping container of Tender Mercies Food that had been stuck in customs for over 2 months! Despite the challenges, HCM continues to feed our students a hot, nutritious meal daily.

The situation in Haiti is dire! But Praise God, HCM continues to be a light in Northern Haiti in very difficult times!

HCM has 1,686 students enrolled in our 3 schools: Pillatre; Lory; and Haut Dehenne. These students are receiving an education, a hot meal, uniforms, books and supplies. The teacher and administrative staff salaries, along with the food, books and uniforms are paid for by you, our very generous HCM supporters. Right now, **ONLY 34%** of our students are sponsored and our sponsorship support continues to decline. The medical clinic continues to serve the community and is considered one of the top clinics in the area by the Haitian Board of Health. We have 8 total churches that were planted by HCM, each with a pastor and a growing congregation. People are meeting Jesus, getting baptized, being educated, and have access to medical care all because of you, our supporters. Thank you for all that you have done and continue to do; you are investing in the future of Haiti by providing financial support.

Here are some of the challenges we face: Mission Teams are no longer able to travel into Haiti due to the continued unrest. It is difficult for us to obtain individual photos of each sponsored child like we have done in the past. It is difficult to find out what happened to a child when they no longer show up on the school roster. We as a board are doing the best we can to allocate the funds to our top priorities. We are committed to feeding our students, paying our staff, and providing medical care through the clinic. We have had to put several needed improvements to our 8 campuses on hold due to lack of funds. We are in the process of determining what our child sponsorship model will be as the current model where each sponsor is assigned a specific child, with a photo and yearly communication from that child, has proven to be challenging to maintain due to the situation in Haiti. If you presently sponsor a specific child, that will not change. You will continue to be assigned a specific child. We are still in the planning stages of how we will assign new sponsors to students. Thank you for your patience as we prayerfully work on the changes we need to make to the child sponsorship model.

We would like to ask each of you to prayerfully consider how you can help us get more of our students sponsored. At the present time, we have over 1,000 students that need a monthly sponsor. Can you help by increasing your monthly gift or can you talk to your friends and family about child sponsorship? Please share our website: [HCMIn.org](http://HCMIn.org) with anyone interested. There is a link on the website to sign up as a child sponsor.

Thank you for your continued support of Haitian Christian Ministries. We could not do what we do without you!

**The HCM Board of Directors**

## **Spotlight on an HCM Student**

**We would like to start sharing stories of former and current HCM students and how the education they received impacted their life. We plan to start sharing monthly interviews to enable our supporters to understand how the funds they provided have impacted an individual student. We want to use the students' own words to paint the picture of the impact an education provides. Our first student interview is with Evlyne Andre, a former student on the Pillatre campus.**

## Evlyne Andre Interview

### ***When did you start attending school at Pillatre?***

"I started to go to school at Pillatre in 2005; I was 4 years old at the time"

### ***If you were not sponsored at Pillatre Christian School, would you have been able to attend school?***

"Honestly, if I was not sponsored it might have been difficult. It is possible I could have gone for a while. As I think about it, the main issue would have been I would not have been able to continue my studies in the long run. The sponsorship I received has definitely been very helpful and I am very thankful for everything I received."

### ***How did attending school impact your life?***

"I believe in education, and I can strongly say it was a great privilege for me to attend school. I live in a country that is very difficult in terms of opportunities. Having been schooled is an important step to success in all aspects of life: mentally, physically, spiritually. I certainly have a lot of advantages when compared to an unschooled individual."

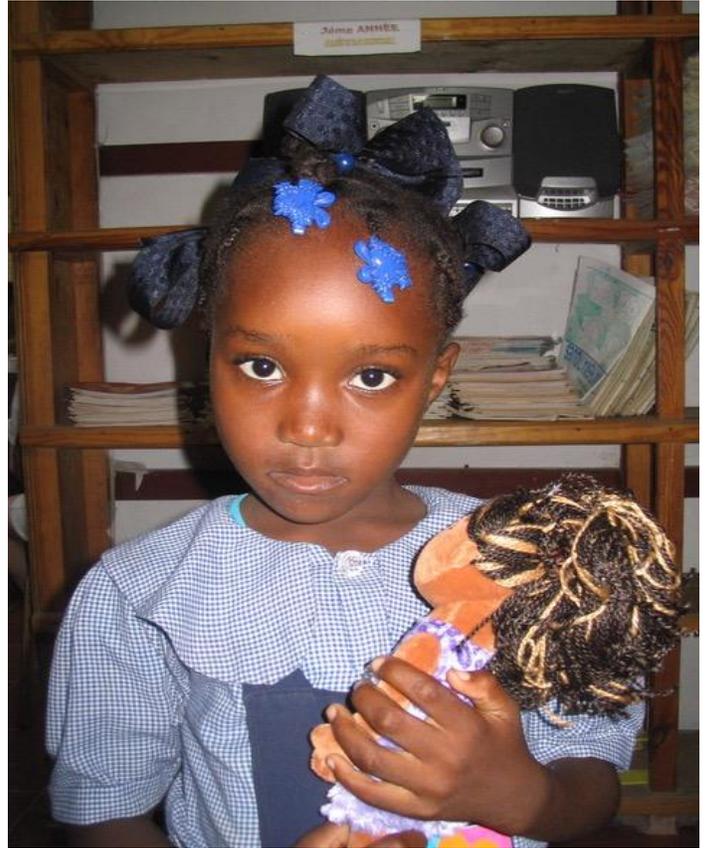
### ***What specifically did you enjoy about school?***

#### ***How did getting a hot meal every day and an education change your life?***

"I enjoyed everything. Some classes more than others, but all the classes taught me something. I also enjoyed the connection with the other students. Having a hot meal everyday was one of the most important experiences: we would sit together and eat while joking. Sometimes it was difficult to get something to eat at home, but we would not worry because that part was covered. In my country the elders like to say: "sak vid pa kanpe" which means if you don't eat you can't do or focus on anything."

### ***Tell me about getting to meet your sponsor. I know you are one of the fortunate students who got to meet and form a relationship with your sponsor.***

"I am very grateful to have met my sponsor. Not only do I have someone else that cares for me but also a mentor; I like the fact that I can rely on her and I consider her as my Mother. I think everyone needs someone like this."



*Evlyne in 2006, photo taken by her sponsor the first time they met.*

**Where are you going to school now and what are you studying?**

“I am at University Lumiere and I am studying medicine. I hope to become a doctor.”

**How and when did you decide you wanted to become a doctor?**

“That is a very funny question. I decided to become a doctor in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. I watched countless medical trips that my sponsor who is a nurse come to Haiti and serve, I was inspired by her gentle care. Her help has been very beneficial in my life, and I want to help others as much as she has. Sometimes, meeting one person can truly define someone’s destiny.”

**How has going to college made your life different from those who do not get to continue on to college?**

“A lot of young unschooled people become bandits, prostitutes and without a future. I believe if we had a lot of schools that had sponsored students exactly like Pillatre we would have less insecurity because boys and girls could become doctors, nurses or so many other professions.”

**When you graduate from college what plans do you have to use your education to help your community?**

“One of my best wishes would be to educate two or more of my fellow Haitians. I believe education can change the young people if they are provided an opportunity to learn so they can dream of a better future.”



*Evelyne at her White Coat Ceremony. Pictured with Pastor Bob.*

***Evelyn met her sponsor when she was 5 years old and continued to form a lasting relationship with her sponsors as they made yearly trips with a medical team. She learned to speak English in order to communicate better with her sponsor. They speak regularly using “WhatsApp”. Evelyn is a 2<sup>nd</sup> year medical student at a college in Northern Haiti and continues to be sponsored for her college education. She grew up in Pillatre and graduated from Pillatre Christian School in 2022. She is a church member at Pillatre and has been a part of the youth leadership class and continues to serve when she is able during breaks from college. She hopes to serve her community as a medical doctor in the future.***