

# Joy In Haiti News

## A Year Like No Other

### You Can Help!

#### Pray:

- Pray that during the pandemic, Christians will display the love and peace of Christ and many will turn their hearts to Him.
- Pray for strength and healing for COVID patients' bodies, and peace for their souls.
- Pray for the many Haitians struggling to survive in a plummeting economy and rampant inflation.
- Pray for wisdom for Haiti's leaders as they seek to slow the spread of the coronavirus and take measures to limit inflation to improve Haiti's economic situation.

As 2020 draws to a close, we can all agree that it has been a year like no other. Previously unfamiliar practices like mask-wearing, social distancing, and frequent hand-sanitizing have become common to us. Nearly everything from face masks to civil rights has become a political bone of contention in the midst of a heated and controversial election. Events and a crisis that should have drawn us together as a nation have instead served to foster division and animosity. For many, anxiety levels are at the max, making showing love and compassion more important than ever.



2020 has brought new or exacerbated challenges not just to the US, but around the globe. In Haiti, the year started off with much of the opposition to the Haitian president collapsing, bringing an end to waves of protests that, in the last two years, frequently had the streets of Port-au-Prince and other cities impassable and schools and churches closed. With the end of the protests, gang activity increased and has continued throughout the year. When the coronavirus came to Haiti, the government took action by shutting down air travel into the country and limiting travel across the border to the Dominican Republic. As in the US, in-person gatherings at schools and churches were closed for a time, requiring them to find other strategies to continue to serve community needs. With many businesses shut down, Haiti's struggling economy plummeted even further, prompting officials to, later in the year, attempt to curb rampant inflation by setting the exchange rate for the US dollar rather than allowing markets to dictate it. In theory, this action should help the local economy, but it has also had the consequence of making it more difficult for ministries such as Joy In Haiti, because it now takes nearly twice as many US dollars to equal the amount of Haitian currency that it did before.

### God With Us

*"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"—which means, 'God with us'" (Matthew 1:23, NIV).*

As we go through the Christmas season, in this year like no other, and celebrate when God chose to be *with us* by taking the form of a man in Jesus, we are also reminded that God is *still with us*. While we are not promised to always be shielded from life's difficulties and trials, Jesus did promise to be with us through them.

*"And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:20)*

As we celebrate Christmas and the approaching New Year, during this unprecedented and challenging time, we at Joy In Haiti invite you to celebrate God's presence *with us* and our Haitian brothers and sisters in Christ. The next pages highlight both the challenges of the year and what God has accomplished through the ministry of Joy In Haiti during 2020.

## 2020 Year-End Report

### You Can Help!

**Pray:**

- Pray for Pastor Briseno and the leadership of the New Christian Church of Tabarre as they seek to meet spiritual and physical needs in their community in Jesus's name during these difficult times.
- Pray for the teachers and students of the New Christian School of Tabarre as they teach and learn during this school year while dealing with the continuing effects of the pandemic.
- Pray that the financial needs of the school will be met so needed supplies can be provided, repairs made, and teachers' salaries paid in a timely manner.

**Give:**

To sponsor a student, visit:

[www.joyinhaiti.org/student-sponsorship](http://www.joyinhaiti.org/student-sponsorship)

Or send checks to:

Joy In Haiti  
PO Box 255  
O'Fallon, MO 63366

Please write the name of your student if you are a current sponsor or "Student Sponsorship" in the memo of your check if you would like to become one.

You may also make a special gift to help with other needs of the school by writing "School" in the memo.



### New Christian Church of Tabarre

By the end of March, church services in Haiti were suspended, prompting church leaders to find alternative ways to continue to minister to their community. The church was quickly equipped with internet so sermons and Bible studies could be recorded and shared via Whatsapp, a mobile messenger and video app, and Facebook. Pastor Briseno and his family also began hosting a daily radio program called "Hello Pastor" in which they read scripture, shared a message or advice, and prayed with callers over the radio. These sessions were also recorded and sent to church members.

Pastor Briseno feels that the congregation and community were able to still be spiritually nourished during the pandemic through these online and radio methods. In July, the church was able to reopen in-person services with socially-distanced seating.

### Community Outreach

While continuing to meet spiritual needs, God has also enabled the church to reach out to the community and meet needs during the tough economic conditions. Through donations from Joy In Haiti supporters like you, the church has been able to distribute food and clothing aid to those in need during the coronavirus crisis.

### New Christian School of Tabarre

When the New Christian School of Tabarre was closed due to the coronavirus, teachers provided parents with materials to use to continue their children's education at home, but many parents were not able to help their children understand the material. In May, teachers began attempting to connect with and assist students through Whatsapp, but due to inconsistent electricity and internet, this proved difficult as well. School was able to resume in the fall observing social distancing, mask-wearing, and checking students' temperatures. However, some students had moved out of the city during the pandemic shutdown and did not return. Rather than beginning a new school year, it was necessary to finish the previous school year in August through September. The new school year began on November 9 with 136 students. The biggest challenge currently facing the school is financial. The coronavirus and inflation have caused school supplies to cost more and prompted teachers to need a salary increase. It is difficult for many parents to pay their half of school tuition under normal circumstances, and even more so when facing the current economic challenges. The artificial setting of the exchange rate of the US dollar also means that funds contributed to the school by Joy In Haiti are worth only a little more than half the Haitian gourdes they were before the pandemic.



### Music Program

In addition to the regular curriculum, students at the school can be involved in the music program, which offers a variety of instruments to learn. The music program provides training to church members who wish to learn to play as well as to interested students at the school. The program was closed while schools and churches were shut down, but has now started back up again. Some students of the program are now playing instruments for church services! They are also looking

forward to a recital for the community on December 23.

## 2020 Year-End Report

### You Can Help!

#### Pray:

- Pray that the House of Joy girls will excel in school, in sewing training, and in their service to the Lord.
- Pray that God would move in the hearts of people to give toward the needs at House of Joy and to sponsor the 4 girls who still need sponsors.
- Pray for Madam Guerline and her family as they receive a new home through Project Cornerstone.
- Ask God to continue to provide for and bless Phena as she pursues her dream of becoming a nurse.

#### Give:

To sponsor a House of Joy girl, visit:

[www.joyinhaiti.org/hoj-sponsorship](http://www.joyinhaiti.org/hoj-sponsorship)

Or send checks to:

Joy In Haiti  
PO Box 255  
O'Fallon, MO 63366

Please write the name of the girl if you are a current sponsor or "HOJ Sponsorship" in the memo of your check if you would like to become one.

You may also make a special gift to help with other needs of House of Joy by writing "House of Joy" in the memo.

### Sewing Café

Many of the girls at House of Joy benefited from the Sewing Café this year to learn sewing skills, possibly preparing them for a potential occupation in the future. Some of them were even able to make their own school uniforms using their newly acquired skills! Sewing classes have also been added to the school's curriculum for every grade above preschool.



### House of Joy

While both the school and church were shut down due to the coronavirus, the House of Joy girls spent all their time at the girls' home. Pastor Brisenault and Joseline tried to provide some normalcy for them by establishing a daily routine that included exercise, English lessons, and Bible study. They also worked on school lessons at home and online and helped with cleaning the home. Expenses for taking care of the 22 girls at House of Joy have risen because of inflation, especially food costs. House of Joy also has some upcoming maintenance needs, such as painting, plumbing work, and new batteries for the solar power system. Special gifts above current regular giving and sponsorships are needed to help cover some of these costs. Sponsors are also still needed for 4 girls. Sponsorship is \$100 per month and covers their living expenses at House of Joy.



### Project Cornerstone

At the end of last year, a church member, Madam Guerline, faced eviction from her rented home because she was unable to pay rent for the next year. Guerline, a single mother of 3 girls, had inherited a piece of property with a foundation on it several years previously, but had been unable to save the money needed to build a home there. Because of her need and the land she already owned, she was selected to receive a Project Cornerstone home. The project paid her rent for 2020 so that she could continue to stay at the rental house while a home was built for her. Through generous giving during the year, the existing foundation on the property was reinforced and her home is nearly completed, with only the roof

remaining to be built! She will soon be able to enjoy her own home and apply the income she was using to pay rent to take care of the other needs of her family!

### Phena

Phena Morantus grew up at House of Hope (an orphanage where Pastor Brisenault and Joseline previously served as house parents) and has been volunteering at the church and working with the House of Joy girls on their English for the last few years. Last year, Joy In Haiti tried to bring Phena to the US to fulfill her dream of attending nursing school here. Unfortunately, she was unable to get a visa. Instead, Phena began nursing school in Haiti and has been continuing with the program this year, despite the challenges of the coronavirus. During the spring and summer months, her classes were held online, but could not include skills they needed to physically practice, such as bandaging. This fall she has been able to return to class to continue to learn and get closer to fulfilling her dream of helping her fellow Haitians as a nurse!





*A few more pictures  
of what God  
has accomplished  
in Haiti in 2020!*

## You Can Help!

### To Learn More:

To learn more about Joy In Haiti's ministries, visit:

[www.joyinhaiti.org](http://www.joyinhaiti.org)

### Thank You!

Whether you are a regular sponsor, a special gift giver, or a prayer warrior, your partnership means so much to those of us at Joy In Haiti!

Thank you for helping us support and serve our Haitian brothers and sisters in Christ as they, in turn, share the love of Jesus in their community!

## God is Able

*“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.” (2 Corinthians 9:8, NIV)*

As 2020 comes to an end, we are thankful for the way God has been *with us* and has worked out His great plan in and through us this year. We are thankful that He was *with* you this year and that He enabled you to support Joy In Haiti through prayer and giving. We are thankful that you were *with us* in spirit this year, even if you couldn't attend fundraising events or travel to Haiti in teams. We are thankful for your prayers and gifts that have enabled Joy In Haiti to support our Haitian brothers and sisters in Christ at the New Christian Church of Tabarre. That support in turn enabled them to help meet both physical and spiritual needs in their community. God, through His rich grace and the caring hearts of His people, has provided what was needed to accomplish *every good work* shared with you in this letter.

Whatever 2021 may hold, may we approach it with confidence that God is *with us* and that He *is able* to provide all that is needed to accomplish His will *in all things at all times* so that we can accomplish *good work* as we serve Him!

## Ongoing Needs

At this time of year, many people try to get in some last year-end gifts for tax deductions. Others begin to plan their giving for the upcoming year. If the Lord has blessed you and enabled you to do more than you already have for Him and for Joy In Haiti, would you consider giving a gift or making a commitment to help meet some of these needs:

- Special gifts for the New Christian School of Tabarre to help with school supplies, teacher and staff salaries, and needed improvements.
- New Christian School of Tabarre student sponsorship (\$200 per year for each student)
- Special gifts for House of Joy to cover rising monthly expenses and needed maintenance projects such as painting, plumbing, and new batteries for the solar power system.
- Sponsors are needed for 4 House of Joy girls. (\$100 per month for each girl)
- Funds for pedal sewing machines for the Sewing Café. 6 machines are needed at a cost of \$307 each.



From those of us at Joy In Haiti:

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A  
BLESSED NEW YEAR!**

