



Joy and Hope
of Haiti

2019 YEAR-END NEWS

Hope in the Midst of Heartbreak

By Cal Schultz, Project Manager

Today, Haiti is experiencing its worst cycle of civil unrest in decades, the month's long, nation-wide shutdown is catastrophic.

NGOs and missionaries are fleeing for their lives, government offices and local businesses are closed, and most organizations — *ours included* — can't get into the country because it's simply too unsafe to visit even if all we're trying to offer is humanitarian aid.

As bad as the situation is, it's expected to get worse. And making things *even worse* is that the world has turned away from the horror pretending — *or at the very least wishing* — it didn't exist.

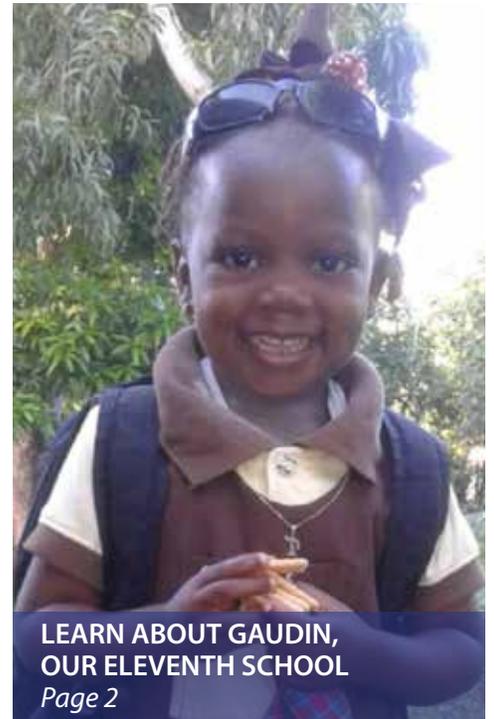
But it does exist.

When people ask me about Haiti, I often say that nothing happens there that doesn't happen everywhere else; it just happens in Haiti in such extremes and magnitude as to make it appear different.

If you search for the news, you'll find it: there are legitimate protests by frightened, frustrated, and famished Haitians. Today, most Haitians — *even those who were recently considered to be wealthy or even rich* — go to bed hungry. One third or more of the population is considered to be 'desperately hungry' and on the brink of starvation. A lack of fuel is fueling protests, sure, but the problems are persideous and persistent; there's much more behind the protests than that, and that's what is so worrisome.

But despite the darkness, there is light. It glimmers in the eyes of our children when their school doors open in the morning, despite the fact that most area businesses and shops remain closed. Not all of our schools are open every day, of course, but every day our pastors, and teachers do their best to ensure their children are taught and fed. I am humbled by the heroism our school leaders demonstrate. Prudence, the director of our Lory school, reported that the locks on her school had been filled with glue in order to prevent her from opening. She cut the locks and the doors swung open to children who were eager to learn; thankful to escape the horror that is Haiti.

Your gift saves lives. It feeds children. It educates and it employs. It offers hope to people who would otherwise be hopeless. It makes a world of difference in a world we can't even imagine. Thank you for your support! May God bless you to give more.



LEARN ABOUT GAUDIN,
OUR ELEVENTH SCHOOL
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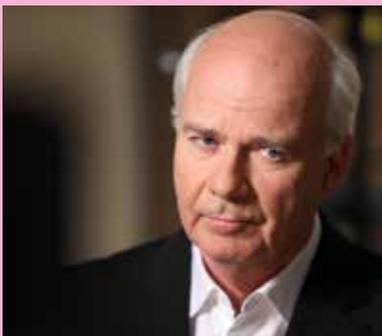
SCHOOLS
10



STUDENTS
3,175



TEACHERS + STAFF
268



Save the Date: Thursday, May 28, 2020

Peter Mansbridge to speak at our 2020 Gala

PETER MANSBRIDGE, chief correspondent for CBC News and anchor of The National for almost 30 years, will be the keynote speaker at the Joy and Hope of Haiti 2020 Gala on **Thursday, May 28, 2020**. Mansbridge is one of Canada's most respected and recognizable figures. For five decades, he has guided Canadians through the political, economic, and cultural events that have shaped the country. Through a unique lens of journalistic expertise, Mansbridge will offer us guidance on how to cultivate trust, take pride in our heritage, and navigate leadership through times of upheaval. *Gala details to follow.*

NOVEMBER 7, 2019

Remembering Rosemarie

By John VanDuzer, Board Chair

It was just reported that Rosemarie — *the mother of one of our students at Morne Rouge School and a dear friend of our ministry* — went to be with the Lord. “Heaven has its newest, most joyous dancer today,” Cal Schultz wrote. Rosemarie was the bravest person I’ve ever met. Crippled, thin, and weak, she nonetheless exuded a power that was overwhelmingly powerful. Rosemarie is no longer in pain; her suffering has finally ended.

I first met Rosemarie in 2015. “I have a friend you’ve just GOT to meet,” former Joy and Hope of Haiti missionary, Art Duerksen said. So, we drove to the middle of nowhere. We walked and walked... and walked and walked. Jumped over a ‘crick’ (*way too small to be called a creek*). And we walked some more. Single file, because the path was puddled and we weren’t wearing boots.

When I first met Rosemarie, I was shocked. Tiny in her wheelchair, she was painfully thin. Just skin and bones. Her hands, clawed, sat useless in her lap. Her legs were angled awkwardly, propped on her footrests. But there was her smile. A joyous, hopeful smile that started at her mouth, extended to her eyes, and radiated beyond her body. Rosemarie glowed; she actually glowed!!!

I remember being informed that Rosemarie had been cursed by two female witch doctors. That both had since died. That the curse couldn’t be lifted. That Rosemarie believed in Jesus. That she was a true believer. And that she read her well-worn Bible daily.

Rosemarie had faith in abundance

Art asked Rosemarie if she wanted to be healed... If she wanted to walk... If she wanted to be well again? “Yes, yes, yes,” was Rosemarie’s enthusiastic reply!!!

And then when Art and Emily Vandonk (*pictured*) cradled her in their arms, lifted her gently from her wheelchair all the while praying aloud, I videotaped it thinking — *honestly, believing* — that a miracle would happen. Because Rosemarie believed. Because Art and Emily believed. And in that holy moment, I believed, too.

Rosemarie didn’t walk that day, but she gave it her all. Today, I believe Rosemarie isn’t just walking, I believe she’s actually dancing for joy in Heaven!



OUR NEWEST SCHOOL

Institute La Nouveauté de Gaudin

Built almost 20 years ago by Joy and Hope of Haiti, Gaudin is located in the mountains west of Cap-Haïtien. An OMS (One Mission Society) school, Gaudin is notable for the sacrificial work done by Pastor Herode Pierre and his wife, who regularly give up personal funds to pay their teachers month-to-month. They have done this ever since the school opened.

In the 2018-19 school year, Gaudin had 105 children registered from kindergarten to grade 6. When we visited them early in 2019 they were down to 61 — *we hope to reverse this trend*.

No teacher has a teacher’s certificate because it is very hard to get teachers and keep them as the school didn’t have the ability to pay them properly. Over the years, their financial situation deteriorated due to the significant reduction of children sponsored under the OMS Starfish program. (*At one point, they had 30 of their children sponsored by Starfish but currently only six children are sponsored*). In an effort to help them in the immediate short term, Joy and Hope of Haiti is sending them \$660 USD per month as of September, 2019.

Notable challenges

- 1. They are water-starved** However, there is a mountain spring above the school which could allow a cistern to be built and — *with piping* — water could be brought down the mountain to the school property. They need \$200 USD to repair water tanks.
- 2. Salaries need to be paid** Eight staff — *1 Kindergarten as well as 6 Elementary School Teachers and a Director* — need our help on an ongoing basis so they can be paid. They need 80% of \$800 USD (\$640 USD / \$870 CDN per month) which equals \$10,400 CDN per year. Although poor, they have 20% community/parent support and Pastor Herode uses his meagre Radio 4 VH salary to pay the salaries of some of his teachers.
- 3. Paint** The school needs some fixing up and a new coat of paint would really spruce things up. This would be a wonderful work team project if sufficient people could be organized to go.

As mentioned above, we are currently doing our best to meet the school’s short-term needs, but they require on-going support if they are to regain the students they’ve lost and then become sustainable for the long term. Please contact us if you’re able to provide support and / or if you’re willing to provide some sweat equity as we see about giving the school a much needed facelift in 2020. Please call or email us at (905) 577-5482 or info@joyandhopeofhaiti.com



THEY DID!

Liz and Russ tied the Knot

Long-time Vice-Chair of the Joy and Haiti Board, **Russ Demeny**, wed **Liz Stirling**

on Friday, November 1, 2019. In lieu of gifts, they wrote, “we have been blessed to benefit in both life and love.

The greatest gifts we can receive are your continued friendship and your presence at our celebration. However, if you are considering a gift, we encourage you to commemorate our wedding with a donation to Joy and Hope of Haiti.”

To honour Liz and Russ, you’re welcome to do so while they’re still newlyweds: joyandhopeofhaiti.com/donate

Be an answer to prayer: \$3.33 a day ensures that 30 kids can be in class each day!

Over the past quarter century, Joy and Hope of Haiti has built 27 Christian schools. Because the Haitian government doesn't provide funding for most schools and because it also doesn't pay its teachers, we currently support eleven schools with the hope of increasing this number to 17 schools.

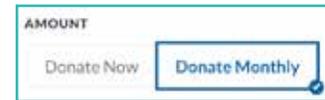
Our special 'matching programs' see local communities paying a percentage of the costs needed to run the school while Joy and Hope covers the rest. Although every school is different, typically, we pay two-thirds to three-quarters of the costs because unemployment is so high and as a result people in our communities are often living in extreme poverty.

Without Joy and Hope of Haiti, it would be impossible to pay teachers a nominal living wage of \$100 US per month. *It's only possible with the support of someone like you.* Sponsor a class for \$100 CDN monthly knowing that the children's parents are making up the conversion difference between our two currencies. \$100 a month translates to just \$3.33 a day. Your gift of \$3.33 a day will ensure that 30 Haitian children receive a Christian education and follow in God's Way.

Sponsor a class: Bring sustainable, predictable support to 30 children whose lives can then be transformed by the love of God.

THREE WAYS DONATE

1. Donate online through our website:
www.joyandhopeofhaiti.com/donate



AMOUNT
Donate Now Donate Monthly

2. Call or email us at (905) 577-5482 or info@joyandhopeofhaiti.com and we will contact you so we can arrange pre-authorized payments from your bank account or from your credit card.

3. Mail a 'VOID' cheque to us with an accompanying note confirming that you're donating \$100 a month (or more). Mail to: **Joy and Hope of Haiti, 267 Strathcona Drive, Burlington, ON L7L 2C9**





DID YOU KNOW?
Joy and Hope of Haiti receives almost 35% of the soup that Gleaners makes

A 'souper' way to boost education

By Jann Schlett, Container Committee

As you may know, for many years **Ontario Christian Gleaners** and Joy and Hope of Haiti have enjoyed a wonderful partnership that is of enormous benefit to Haitians who otherwise go hungry.

We know that children cannot fill their heads with knowledge when their tummies are empty. Through the school year — from September to June — we feed approximately 8,000: teachers, administrators and, of course, children. 2,500 are fed during the summer. The soup aids overall health and enhances cognitive abilities, especially when it's fortified with rice, beans, and fresh, local vegetables. Indeed, the schools who have added soup to their programming almost immediately report better passing grades and numbers of students passing exams.

With the support of generous donors, Joy and Hope of Haiti sends two shipping containers a year to Haiti. Each container holds approximately 37 pallets of Gleaners'

soup. There are many elements that go into getting the container ready; approximately 4,500 hours of labour by Gleaners' volunteers are packed into every nook and cranny of what is prepared, peeled, washed and vacuum-packed. This translates to 2,220 pails and 8,880 bags of soup, which, in turn, amounts to almost 900,000 cups of soup per container. Five or six months later, we start all over again, ensuring another 900,000 servings of soup are sent south.

Ontario Gleaners and Joy and Hope of Haiti cannot do it alone; we depend on the much-needed assistance of **Food for the Poor**. Food for the Poor has proven instrumental in their ability to get the shipment through the Haitian Customs juggernaut in one or two days (*a modern day miracle*). Without them, we could never deliver to our 26 destinations in Northern Haiti.

We know that Gleaners' soup plays a fundamental role in the success of our

schools: it adds to the fullness of tummies and the wellness of minds, thereby providing students with the ability to learn. Our schools have reported an 85% pass rate on year-end exams!

Thank you Ontario Gleaners and Food for the Poor. And thank you to our donors who offset the \$35,000-a-year expenditure to ensure this program continues.

So, why aren't the girls smiling, you may ask? Thankful for the soup, the girls — hungry and tired after a morning of studies — didn't have spoons with which to eat. Although they'd been served their meal, they were waiting for the younger children to finish eating before the spoons could be washed and then given to them.



Mel Dear (sunglasses), Ron North (centre), and Ron's nephew (left) help cram our container full of 900,000 servings of soup



CONTACT US
Web joyandhopeofhaiti.com/donate
Phone (905) 577-5482
Email info@joyandhopeofhaiti.com
Mail 267 Strathcona Drive, Burlington, ON L7L 2C9
CRA: #82765 1209 RR0001