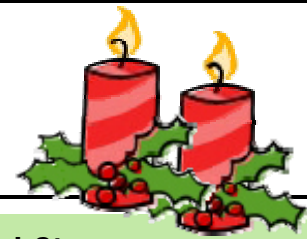


HBS Newsletter

Hôpital Bon Samaritain

Limbé, Haiti



Fall 2008

Hurricanes & Tropical Storms

Since August, four major storms have directly struck or passed close to Haiti, killing hundreds of people and affecting hundreds of thousands others. Two hurricanes, Ike and Gustav, and two tropical storms, Fay and Hannah, slammed into Haiti within a four week time period affecting the entire country. Gonaives, a city located in the Northern side of Haiti was completely flooded with water levels up to 9 feet. Cabaret suffered flash flooding, killing a number of persons as the river flooded the city.

Nearly 800 people were killed and more than 150,000 people were displaced. The storms caused flooding all over the country, destroying houses and crops and leaving behind mountains of mud.



HBS & Storms

HBS and Limbé were spared the brunt of the storms, though we had our share of rain and wind of about 60 MPH. Branches of trees snapped like toothpicks and HBS lost electricity and water for about 24 hrs.

The aftermath of the storms was a different story. For about a month and a half, HBS was not able to get fuel or medicines as the road infrastructure was so damaged. Patients were not able to travel to the hospital for help. Fuel and food prices, already high went even higher amongst the difficulty to procure. HBS was able to hold on through rationing and conservation of stocks already on hand. These are very trying times for Haiti and HBS. Through prayer, with your help and encouragement, the hospital is still open, providing help and hope in a country where lately there is not much in the way of good news.



Returning Volunteer

This summer we had a "return" volunteer, Richard Ambler, who came to HBS several years ago as pre-med student for six months. He recently graduated from UAMS Medical School and wanted to come back and do his clinical rotation in Haiti but this time as a licensed medical doctor. He was a real help in the clinic and on the wards. The staff was really happy to see him again. It is always nice to see volunteers return to HBS after they graduate. We appreciate all the volunteers that come and help HBS continue to provide medical services to the people of Limbé.

Guivenson School Boy!



Guivenson is a loveable, energetic, young 5 year old, always on the go who loves to climb up on things and play with the toys. He is trying to ride the tricycle but has still a little trouble pushing the pedals. The other kids will come around and help push him from behind.

Guivenson's mother died in childbirth, leaving behind twins. Left with the grandmother, they became quite ill and the young girl passed away. The boy, Guivenson, was abandoned to Kai Mira.

With the help and encouragement of Marg and Jim Brickman of Canada, we have decided to open a foster, halfway, home at HBS with a house mother for those children who have

no apparent mental or physical impairment. Our first candidate is Guivenson.

Prior to the opening of the house, arrangements were made for Guivenson to go to school, which he began a couple of months ago. He has made huge improvements ever since and loves school. Shawn Hodges has been helping him with his homework, the part he does not like, and he appears to be doing very good. He does have a slight speech disability but he is learning to speak better and certainly understands when he is told to do something. He now wears a big smile on his face all the time.



William Hodges Foster Home



Kai Mira Orphanage has always specialized in taking in mentally and physically disabled children. But, like Guivenson, not all children who are abandoned at HBS are incapacitated. We always envisioned being able to present the opportunity for each of these children, who are able to go to school to get an education and have a semblance of a family surrounding. Unfortunately Kai Mira was not set up as a living environment for normal children. That's why, for our latest project, we have decided to create a Foster/Half-Way house at HBS. After contemplating a number of options, we have decided to renovate the old "Hodges house" located on the HBS compound. For many years it served as a humble abode to the Hodges Family. The last few years has seen it empty and deteriorating, except for the kitchen which is still used for Kai Mira and laundry facility.

Once the house has been fixed up, our goal is to provide a nurturing environment where these children can call home. It will not only provide them with stimulation from living and making bonds with other kids like themselves, but also equip them with the means to have a stable environment where they can concentrate on homework. We have already hired someone to act as foster mother, to tend to their needs and look after them. We also need a helper and a tutor. We need your help to make this project a reality, to help give these children a promising future. Please help by donating to renovate the house and provide an operating budget.



HBS Foundation, Inc.
PO Box 1290
Lake Worth, FL 33460



Phone: (561) 533-0883
E-Mail: hbsfl@bellsouth.net
Website: www.hbslimbe.org