

The Sonlight Children's Home Newsletter (August-September, 2013)

Greetings to all our supporters who love us and encourage us in so many diverse ways. Much has happened since our last newsletter and, as you will see, we are excited and thankful.

Santo, Haiti, is boasting its first micro-factory! The Dorcus Sewing Ladies is comprised of women vested in their own business of sewing and selling beach and hobo-style bags. In April of last year, I suggested to Harry Hames of Decatur, AL, that we needed to have sewing classes for our women. He responded that ladies from Florence, AL, and surrounding areas were already sewing dresses and sending them to the children of Haiti.



Maxie Sockwell, a retired home economics teacher, got busy designing the beach and hobo bags and came to Haiti with a group of ladies to conduct sewing classes. Eight women were chosen from three local congregations to be a part of this “pilot program” and, because they were so skilled, they finished the assigned purses in three days’ time. The Alabama ladies felt the workmanship was superb enough to sell the purses.



The ten top seamstresses were given “seed” money to purchase more fabric and make more purses. Their new business was created. The purses have been really popular with mission teams visiting Haiti and several women have taken them back to the States to be sold. We are also trying to get established in local businesses.

One of the major problems we’re facing is limited material supply in our local fabric store. In February, I am to speak at the Women of Hope conference in the Women Worth a Million segment in Murfreesboro, TN, and the Haitian ladies are working hard to provide me with a good inventory of purses to sell. If all goes well, I can take those funds, visit the local fabric store, and return to Haiti with fresh and different fabric so that their business can not only continue, but thrive.

In June, Larry Waymire brought Keith Kasarjian, associated with the Bear Valley School of Preaching, on a fact-finding mission in hopes of one day establishing a school of preaching in the Port au Prince area. Keith fell in love with my kids and returned in August with his family of five --- we put them to work with Bible studies for my kids, VBS for the Nutrition Center kids and two orphanages, cutting grass, cleaning, and helping me organize a forty-foot container.

Keith was also instrumental in helping the church in Prattsville, AL, raise \$12,000 to buy milk for the children. We just received our second \$4,000 allotment. With the first allotment, we were able to provide milk to 300 kids for four months: the Nutrition Center kids, four orphanages, and my kids.

October brought the second Estes medical team. My kids did a fantastic job of translating and hosting this 25-member team. Though they were a “new” team, they acted like pros. They had huge hearts, as did the Healing Hands International medical team that came about the same time.

And rabbits came in October to live at the Sonlight Children's Home. Robert Spencer, from Alabama, brought 10 rabbits and, along with some experienced rabbit growers from Cap Haitian, built rabbit hutches and conducted four days of classes to teach my kids how to raise rabbits.



We have eggs! After an extremely rough start, we have established a healthy flock of chickens. Our 76 chickens are now laying 69 eggs, daily. We have enough to supply the Guest House as well as to other eager buyers awaiting beautiful, brown eggs. What a joy!

Frequent visitors Bobbie Solley (coming often to "teach the teachers"), Joe Holley (frequent construction trips to Ganthier) and Harry Hames (keeping busy with HHI medical mission teams, construction projects, and Magi boxes) are always welcomed and appreciated by those of us who live here in Haiti.

My kids and I want to thank all of you who pray for us, sacrifice to come serve us, and who financially help us serve the people of Haiti. This job is bigger than we are, but not bigger than God. Blessings to you all.

Roberta

Son Light Children's Home and Nutrition Center

Is overseen by the elders at Estes Church of Christ in Henderson, Tennessee