



# Our 2020 Story

Winter 2020

“Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” Eph. 3:20-21

**It has been a rough year for us all and this year the HOH had a bit of an advantage over many others. The reason? Flexibility. We have become quite used to having life upended and then having to adapt to what is happening around us.**

When the pandemic shutdowns hit our corner of Haiti in mid-March, for us it was time to just shift once again and face the crisis at hand. Other tough things we've had to face this year have been a major fuel shortage, political unrest, increasing violence, staggering inflation, and multiple deaths of family members. It has been quite the year!

But it hasn't been all bad. We have also seen time and time again how our Faithful Father takes care of our every need. Many times, He provided in ways we could never even ask or imagine.

We even enjoyed the many months we all had to be together in our home. At first that is. It did get a bit much by the time late August came around, and when school started up again, we were all more than ready for that!

Here's a little peek at what the year was like for us...

## Hello Covid-19

For us, like most of you, the Covid-19 pandemic became a reality early in the spring of 2020. From having dealt with cholera for a number of years now, we had our protocols in place for shutting down our gates, and getting supplies in place for regular hand washing.

One of the ways our kids dealt with cholera in times past was to remind each other, regularly, of the dangers of certain actions (like drinking unfiltered water or putting dirty hands in your mouth). They came up with a little greeting when they saw someone doing them. “Bonjou Kolera” (Good Morning Cholera) they would say! And the receiver of the greeting would quickly be reminded of what they shouldn't be doing.

And so, when Covid hit, they made a few tweaks, including some changes to the proper behavior and added a “Bonjou Kowona” (Good Morning Corona)! The kids adapted well to the new public health protocols. You can see, in the picture, the masks our young ladies made to protect the kids whenever they had to leave the HOH or if they were not feeling well. We also received some masks from a friend in the US who made some and shipped them to us.

Some of our kids already have health problems that would have made this virus very difficult to combat. We are so thankful that God has so far spared us from any cases in our home.

## A Full House

With everything, including school and classes shut down, we welcomed all of our “kids” back to the HOH. The university boys came home, as well as our usual “vacation crew” who are a number of our “grandkids” and family of kids at the HOH. We like welcoming these kids into our home during school vacations because it gives us a chance to catch up on how they are doing and also to have a positive spiritual input into their lives. All said and done, we were around 100 people at the HOH throughout the summer.

Our annual Summer Day Camp was off the table due to restrictions, but we found a way to keep everyone busy every day with games, lessons and activities. Last year at camp, we had learned about putting on good actions like clothes we wear. This year we continued in that idea and looked at how these “clothes” influence how we live with one another. It seemed very fitting since we were so many bodies in one space for a long period of time.

To do this, we looked at the “one anothers” in the New Testament. The kids had fun learning, serving and presenting these lessons to each other. Here is a picture of Desimène teaching them Colossians 3:23.



## A School Year Like No Other

When school was suspended mid-March, it followed months of on again—off again school shutdowns due to political unrest. Our university boys had missed their entire first semester and had just gotten back into things when the virus shutdowns hit. So when it started back up again in late August, there was lots of catching up to do.

By the end of October, ready or not, the end of last school year was officially declared, and the kids started the new year in early November. We are so thankful that, in spite of the extremely difficult year, most of our students did well enough to pass their classes. Even more good news was that all of our students who wrote government exams this year in grades 6, 9 and 13 passed!

Providing an education for the kids who stay with us long-term is a way to give them the hope of a future. Your support enables us to do this and allows them the chance to better care for themselves and their families once they leave the HOH.



## Pray With Us

Want regular prayer requests? Join our Facebook page or sign up for email updates. See below for details.

- With so many mouths to feed over the summer, it was hard to keep our shelves stocked, but God was faithful time and time again. Whether by using partners to send us food, or having them send us money to purchase it, there were times He provided just in the nick of time. Other times it came before we even knew we were going to need it. It is just amazing to watch the many ways He takes care of us. Praise Him with us for all the provisions He supplied this past year, and pray with us for continued provisions for our needs in the months and year ahead.
- The inflation and exchange rates have fluctuated greatly in Haiti this year. Unfortunately, the prices of food and services did not decrease in like measure and at one point through the year, it was as if we had lost 40% of our support. While a few

things have evened out, not everything has, including food prices and school fees for our students. It costs us roughly \$30 US a month to send each of our students to school. If you would like to help out with this, send donations to one of the organizations below. If you are not able to, please pray with us for others to be able to help us bring this much needed hope to our kids.

- Kidnapping is on the rise in Haiti and there has also been much violence due to political unrest and gang activity over the past number of months. Our university boys are often caught in the midst of it as they try to get to and from school. Please pray for protection for them, and for wisdom to be able to make quick, smart decisions when the violence does arise.
- Pray that all of our kids and youth would be lights shining in a dark place. Also, that they would continue to grow in their knowledge of Jesus and share His love and hope to those around them.

## Financial Gifts

can be sent to one of our partnering organizations:

(Please make checks out to **Extreme Response** or **Crossworld** and include a note that it is for the **House of Hope in Haiti**.)



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## Ways To Be In Touch

Share us with your friends and family!

Website:

[www.houseofhopehaiti1-lapointe.org](http://www.houseofhopehaiti1-lapointe.org)

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