



Come and Learn

YOU'VE LIKELY READ that Haiti has an incredibly high rate of illiteracy. It is estimated that at least 50% of Haitian adults cannot read or write in their native language of Creole. The further you get from the big cities, the more truth there is to the statistics. Lifeline recently started a literacy program. We had no idea what to expect in terms of interest and participation. We just knew there was a need. **It has been SO fun to see how excited people are to come and learn.** Almost all of our cooks are in the class. They're learning quickly.



Some in the class can read Creole, but are not comfortable writing. They're getting help too. Last week when payroll was handed out, one of the cooks signed her full name for the first time. She turned to the other cooks and proudly said, "**See that? - I just did that no problem.**"

We're very encouraged by the progress made in the first six weeks.

Below is an excerpt from a literacy program, "**Haiti Lumiere**" –

The education system in the countryside:

The education system in Haiti rarely reaches the children of the countryside where three-fourths of the pop-

ulation lives. The lack of educational opportunities in the provinces is three-fold: scarcity of teachers, a lack of governmental education policy, and the country's economic reliance on agriculture, which **values child labor more than a child's education.**

Thus, children are left victims of their own circumstances. Without any education, and consequently without learning how to read and write, Haiti's children are left without any hope for a brighter future. Schools in rural Haiti often have no walls or desks, and were often never meant to be schools in the first place.

Additionally, the **teachers in Haiti have been victims of the same educational system and therefore are unable to teach the next generation.**

Teachers in the provinces of Haiti are often not educated themselves. An adult having completed six years of education is considered qualified to in turn teach through the sixth grade.

Life in Haiti:

As many studies have shown, there is a **direct relationship between literacy and poverty.** It constitutes a vicious cycle in which one begets the other. This is the trap Haiti finds itself in.

Haiti is currently ranked 150th out of 170 countries in the Human Development Report, (HDI being a measure of GDP per capita, life expectancy, and educational attainment), and is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Haiti is behind in every statistic when compared with other countries in the region. Illiteracy and the lack of educational opportunities only add to the tolerance for widespread political corruption and maintain an increased culture of dependency that hinders development. The current conditions in Haiti will only guarantee the continuation of political turmoil and economic stagnation that have plagued the country over the past 200 years.

Without direct efforts to raise the literacy levels of Haiti, Haitians will not be able to contribute to the rebuilding of their own country or the development of their region. **In order to break this unending cycle of abject poverty in Haiti, Haitians must currently rely on the international donor community** and Haitians living abroad to help their country overcome its education and literacy crisis.

Investment in education is fundamental for economic and social development, poverty alleviation and the end of political corruption. Education will allow a new generation of Haitians to think for themselves and become positive contributing members within their communities.



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MADAME PIERRE is a friend of Lifeline's. She faithfully attends the Lifeline church and substitutes in the canteen when other cooks are absent. In July and August, we were able to watch God work in her life, and we were able to bless her by helping her with a large medical problem.

In early July, Mme. Pierre fell from her bed and broke her femur bone. The break was of course very painful. She was taken to Port au Prince where she waited in the public hospital for a solution. There were no supplies or a surgeon that knew how to repair her badly broken bone.

Proper medical care is difficult to find in Haiti. **Thanks to many prayers, God's grace and provision,** and some resourcefulness, we eventually found an orthopedic surgeon who was willing and able to perform the surgery.



31 days after falling and breaking her bone, Madame Pierre had her surgery.

The surgeon worked to place a four inch plate and eight screws. The plate and screws successfully held the two pieces of broken bones. After a month of waiting, God



worked a miracle and with your partnership, made it possible for Mme. Pierre to begin the journey towards healing.

Usually this is not a situation that we are prepared to help with, but we felt that it was an important need and began to spread the word about Mme. Pierre's situation. **In a short time, all of the funds had been raised to cover her operation.**

I am pleased to report that Mme. Pierre, only a week after the operation, is up walking with the help of a walker. God is good! Thank you for your continued support and prayers for Mme. Pierre's complete recovery.



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