***H.I.S. Home For Children***

*Haitian Interdenominational Shelter*

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**HIS Home Newsletter**

**August 2017**

**A cheerful look brings joy in the heart, and good news gives health to the bones.**

Proverbs 15:30

Each of us needs joy in our hearts! Keeping our eyes on the world around us and the nightly news cannot bring us joy, but keeping our eyes on Jesus Christ and His presence in our lives brings joy unspeakable! Passing our joy on to others with a cheerful look or an encouraging word improves our disposition and the attitude of those around us. God loves us, and that in itself is reason enough for sharing joy with everyone we come in contact throughout the day.

***Father God, please open our eyes to see you working in our lives today.***

***Thank you for the joy you bring! Amen!***

Thank you to all who have been praying for our 3 little girls, Lorencia, Djoulissa, and Ciera who are in the US for surgeries! Both Lorencia and Djoulissa have been undergoing orthopedic surgeries to correct deformities with their feet and knees, and will be scheduled for hip surgery as well. Ciera completed surgery to correct her heart defect in January, recently had surgery to correct her cleft palate, and is scheduled for cleft lip surgery on August 30th. We would like to express special appreciation to Shriner’s Hospital in St. Louis for donated surgeries for Lorencia and Djoulissa, and to Nationwide Children’s Hospital in Columbus for donating the oral surgeries for Ciera. We also wish to thank the host families who are caring for the children, and Tami Shobe at Children’s Medical Missions West who coordinates medical projects for us in the US! Please continue your prayers for these girls!

Thanks to all who participated in the HIS Home 300 Bicycle Ride in June! Riding bicycles 300 miles to benefit the kids living at HIS Home requires sacrifice, and I know that God must smile as he sees you helping to provide for HIS children! We also appreciate those who donated food to feed everyone at our reunion! We especially thank Kari and Tony Keener who opened their home to welcome our weekend campers with 1 day notice due to an emergency which prohibited our campers from staying at the campground. This couple, along with Kendra and Bill Mulholland and Kyle Nungester, helped with preparation of food and arrangements at the Harrod Fire Department for the reunion meals and festivities. We couldn’t do this without all of your help! Sunday morning, we were all blessed as Erntz Reynolds shared the Word of God with us at the Harrod Christian Church service. Erntz, thank you so much! From the little boy who arrived at HIS Home in 2002 to the young man you have become, it has been exciting watching God develop your spiritual gifts as you have led evening devotions at HIS Home and now attend Bible College! During the reunion, HIS Home kids provided a great afternoon of fun and entertainment with the *Haiti’s Got Talent* program, and the weekend was filled with laughter and sharing of memories as HIS kids and families renewed relationships and enjoyed being together. What a great opportunity to encourage each other, and we are already looking forward to next year!

HIS kids in Haiti had a lot of fun and excitement in the past month as well! Twenty of the children ages 10 and older were invited to the 2017 Thrive Retreat hosted by the Grand Rapids, MI team of 14 members, including John Walton, a former HIS Home child who is now studying in the US. Shari Farrell worked with Jean Jumelle at HIS Home to arrange for the children to spend 3 days and 2 nights at Habitation Hatt Hotel. Activities included Bible studies, lots of music, swimming, crafts, and great fellowship! The kids had a great time and loved eating in the restaurant!!! Following the retreat, the team held VBS at HIS Home for all of the children. There were Bible stories, singing, crafts, snacks, and lots of special attention for all of the kids. The VBS also organized some special activities at our SN home for children with special medical needs. It takes a year of planning and fund raising for the Thrive team to host this 1week of events, and we know that for both teens and adults on the team, finding a week in the summer to devote to this important ministry isn’t easy! Thank you so much for investing sacrificially to bless HIS children!

Summer went very quickly for Hal and I with our family. We were able to visit and share HIS Home Ministry with several new churches and enjoyed visiting with family and friends. After organizing the HIS Home reunion, our attention was turned to packing and organizing supplies for a 40 ft. shipping container to send to Haiti. Day after day, our daughters Berline and Felineta cared for our son Jamie and 2 year old Ciera who spent the summer with us while in the US for surgery. Alin and Michael helped Hal and I at our storage facility, packing boxes and preparing the shipment. We were so grateful for all of the donations of necessary supplies! Snyder Newlove, a former HIS Kid, learned that we were collecting supplies, and he went on a campaign through his church to gather needed supplies. With the help of his family and friends, almost everything listed as needed in our previous newsletter was delivered to our front yard. Tommy and Karla Robison were also instrumental in collecting equipment needed for our special needs home children. We expect the container to arrive in Haiti by the end of August. We would like to thank Richard Fagan for all of your help in packing and transporting boxes!

HIS Home will be closing our home for children with special medical needs the beginning of October and children in that program will be relocating to the first floor of our home for boys. This is being done for financial reasons. We are also making some budget cuts with reducing staffing to help control expenses. As a result, we will reduce our school program to 1 class for those children who are not able to attend Haitian school for reasons of physical or mental disabilities. We have registered 28 children in a Christian French School program. Although this will reduce costs in the big picture, it creates a financial strain to get everyone prepared for school. We are asking for Back To School Sponsors willing to make a one-time donation to help cover the cost for a child to start school to pay for shoes, backpacks, school supplies, and the cost of having their uniforms sewn. The school donates the fabric for the uniforms but we must pay the seamstress to sew them. The total cost for this one time Back to School Sponsorship is $100. If you would like to help, donations can be made to: HIS Home For Children, 1775 S. Grubb Rd., Lima, OH 45806 or on Paypal, found on our website at [www.hishomeforchildren.org](http://www.hishomeforchildren.org). Photos of each child ready for school will be posted on our HIS Home For Children Facebook Page in September. If you would like to receive a personal photo of the child you sponsored, please send your name and mailing address to [canungester@hotmail.com](mailto:canungester@hotmail.com) and I will be happy to send you a photo suitable for posting on your refrigerator. This program is separate from our regular sponsorship program which helps provide for the overall cost of caring for a child on a monthly basis.

Another big need at HIS Home right now is replacement of 3 tires for our big truck. Tires are not available in Haiti (new or used) for the size needed, so we will be getting them from a supplier in the Dominican. The cost of the tires will be $450 each for a total of $1,350. This truck is our grocery truck as well as transportation for our children attending French school, so we need to meet this need right away. If you are interested in helping, please let us know.

Hal and I, as well as the Board of Directors in the US and in Haiti, would like to thank each of you for your prayers and support for the children of HIS Home! Although things are sometimes difficult, we are all encouraged by 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18 which says:

***Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances,***

***for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus***.