

BHM

BAPTIST HAITI MISSION



CANADA OFFICE

Baptist Haiti Mission
Box 11
602 Wellington Ave.
Wallaceburg, ON N8A 4L5
bhmcanada@bhm.org

US OFFICE

Baptist Haiti Mission
118 Courtland
Rockford, MI 49341
1.800.359.5174
bhmus@bhm.org

HAITI FIELD OFFICE

Baptist Haiti Mission
Unit 2019 - BHM
3170 Airmans Dr.
Fort Pierce, FL 34946
bhmhaiti@bhm.org



CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

“Baptist Haiti Mission exists to serve people and encourage discipleship for the development of the Church.”

I collapsed onto the old, weathered bench that was offered to me. After hours of tramping through humid lowland trails and clambering up steep, rocky paths, I welcomed the invitation to sit down and catch my breath. I did not want to rest too long though, the top of the mountain was right around the next bend and our destination awaited: a secluded church tucked in amongst the rising peaks and rippling valleys in the heart of Haiti.

After a sip of water, I was back on my feet and urging the others on. There were 7 of us: 3 American pastors, 2 missionaries, a Haitian pastor who oversees the church, and a local mason who was acting as our guide. The 3 pastors had come hoping to form a lasting partnership with a local church body through Baptist Haiti Mission. The aim of this church partnership would be to aid in the further maturing of the local church, as well as to learn from their strengths.

Despite our party's fatigue (this of course excludes our two Haitian friends who were seemingly unaffected by the hours of walking), we were anxious to reach our destination. After a final push up the

last mountain stretch, we had arrived. The church was perched on the very tip of the mountain, and the Artibonite valley spread out for miles before it. The countless rice fields starting around the foot of the mountain, stretched out across the valley floor. On the other side of the vast expanse of fields even more mountains rose up and ran themselves into the horizon.

The Carfort Church has been meeting at that site for nearly 5 years. Every Sunday hundreds of believers would gather under a small shelter made of woven palm branches to worship and hear from God's Word. The pastor explained that the church body has been saving funds for years in order to construct a proper building. Just two weeks prior to our visit they were able to begin building. Four unfinished walls stood there testifying to the dedication of that remote church body. Bag after bag of cement had to be hiked in, and each cinder block was made right there on the mountain. They had no outside help, but took the responsibility of constructing the building themselves.

It was then that I noticed a long line of people coming up the other side of the



church yard. I was curious, so I walked over to see what was going on. What I found struck me to the core. It was the members of the church hauling sand up the mountain. The elderly women carried burlaps bags on top of their heads. The men muscled up large buckets. Even the children were contributing by leading overloaded donkeys up the hill. When they reached the top, they would dump their load in a growing pile of sand and then turn around to get another. The sand would be used for making concrete for the building.

After an hour or so of visiting under the woven shelter, it was time for us to start our descent so as to make it back before dark. We said our goodbyes and began our trek back down the mountain. My heart was uplifted, despite such a short visit. I had witnessed a group of believers working together to create a house of worship for their community. The task was not expected to be accomplished by the church leaders or some outside aid, but rather it was accomplished by the body, individuals who were willing to carry sand up a mountain for the sake of their church.

I thought about the vision of BHM: that it exists to strengthen and develop the body of Christ in Haiti. These people are constructing so much more than a building. It is a place set apart as the house of God and the gathering place for His children. It will be a memorial for what God can do through His Church as long as those walls are standing and His children gather within them. That building is not the Church but rather a shelter for the Church: the body of Christ.

As we worked our way down the mountain, I turned around, and through the trees and rolling hills I could see the church building stretching toward heaven and keeping watch over the valleys. It is a light upon the mountain, and a beacon of hope for all the surrounding areas. I thought to myself “this is why BHM exists: to encourage and strengthen the churches in Haiti to be a testament of Jesus' love and hope for all of mankind.”

-Colton Manley

Colton came to Haiti in 2013 as an answer to God's prompting. He is the on-staff designer and also works closely with visiting service groups.



**“I BRING YOU
GOOD NEWS OF
GREAT JOY THAT
WILL BE FOR ALL
PEOPLE”**

The end of the year is right around the corner, and we need your help as we relentlessly seek to proclaim the gospel.

You have the opportunity to be a catalyst through your financial gift this holiday season.

Ways to give:



Credit or Debit card



Electric Funds Transfer



Check or Money order

For more information on the various ways you can give please visit www.bhm.org/give/

FIELD NOTES



A word from the Field Director:

An athlete cannot expect his physical capacity to increase if he is not exercising. Nor can one expect to become wiser without intentional thought or study. In the same way, a child cannot learn to run if he does not learn to walk; he cannot learn to walk if he does not learn to crawl; and he cannot crawl if he is left in a stroller.

Our physical development requires action and exercise in order to mature our muscles and functionality. The body of Christ is no different. In order to function properly within God’s will, it must continue to develop. In Ephesians 4:11-12 the Bible tells us that Christ has given gifts for the training of believers and the building of His body here on earth. When these God-given gifts are exercised properly, His Church becomes more unified in faith and function. As this unified body of believers works together, it will mature in strength. The body of Christ, which is the Church, is the primary instrument God uses to demonstrate His gospel. If the body is formed by members (individual people) who are maturing together, then the message of Christ will spread uncontrollably.

Baptist Haiti Mission exists for the development of the Church in Haiti. Through education, camp ministries, and self-help programs we seek to empower individuals, and encourage them to grow in their faith. We host conferences and trainings geared toward the equipping of local leaders to effectively contribute to the development of their church’s. Through this Christ-centered discipleship process, we believe these churches will develop into self-supporting unified bodies that are characterized by their “work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in Jesus Christ.” (1 Thess 1:3)

It is not a matter of going to church, but being the Church.

The Cycle Of Spiritual Growth

- Chris Lieb



We believe serving others will result in the formation and encouragement of disciples. As these disciples mature in their faith, the church will develop and increase its capacity to serve others, continuing this cycle of spiritual growth.

PRAISE & PRAYER

Praise God for another year He has used BHM for His glory.

Pray for the health & safety of our staff during the holiday travels.

Praise God for His love in sending His Son to be our salvation.

Pray that God would continue to raise up His Church in Haiti.

Pray that God would continue to call out men from darkness unto light Acts 26:18

MEET JHONBINO

The man behind the translation

He speaks three languages: Creole, French, and English. When asked about his favorite food he says juice and ice cream. He is an avid exerciser and plays soccer whenever he can. His name is Jhonbino and he is the man behind the translation.

Jhonbino is 26 years old and has been working in the BHM Child Sponsorship office since March 2014. He was a sponsored child himself and now works as the program's manager of translations and correspondence.

A sponsor has various ways in which they can correspond with their children. The easiest and most widely used way is by sending a letter via the Child Sponsorship website. These letters come directly to the office and are printed. Jhonbino carefully reads each letter to effectively translate each heartfelt message. After his translation is finished the original message and the translation are sent to the child. When a child writes a response to his sponsor in Creole, he translates those letters back into English.

We caught up with Jhonbino to talk about child sponsorship and the letters that he translates:

What do you enjoy most about translating correspondence?

"I really enjoy translating the letters from children to their sponsors because they are so honest."

What do you think children like to hear from their sponsors?

"All children like to hear they are going to get gifts, but they like to hear stories about sponsor families and also to be congratulated on the work they do in school."

What has been the best letter you have translated so far?

"There was one letter from a little boy whose sponsor had just visited. He said he was very happy that she came. Then he explained how he used to be sick but that her prayers helped him get better. He also wrote that he doesn't have time to be sick anymore because he is too busy playing with the ball she gave him. It was a sweet letter."

Why do you think it is important for sponsors to write to their children?

"It is a big encouragement for the children to receive a letter or a gift from their sponsor. I think it helps them continue to work hard and study in school."

You can give your family and friends the gift of sponsorship this Christmas by sponsoring a child in their name.

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM MOUNTAIN MAID



Mountain Maid has a very special opportunity in working alongside Haitian artisans as they seek to support themselves. You have a chance not only to buy a gift for a friend or family member, but the opportunity to bless others as the artisans seek to support their families and give back to the Church.

Please visit our website and check out our holiday products
WWW.MOUNTAINMAID.ORG