



Rescue One

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A Testimony from Gary, Out-going Coordinator of the Rescue One Program at Calvary Chapel*

Hello! I am Saïs Gary, the former Rescue-One Program Coordinator of Calvary Chapel Port-Au-Prince. I want to share my experience and my testimony during my 2 years as coordinator.

For the past 2 years, I have learned 4 essential points that helped me lead the children efficiently:

- 1- **Love the children.** This helps me make good decisions that are right for them.
- 2- **Have a heart for the ministry,** a heart to serve.
- 3- **Pray.** The day I took the decision to pray for the students, I started to love each one of them. As long as I pray for them, my love for them grows day by day. Early in my leading experience, I realized that I wouldn't be able to lead them by myself. That's when I decided to have a devotion session with the students every Friday which included Bible study, prayer and worship time. I helped them to discover, by themselves, the words of God. Some Fridays, we just talked and I listened to them and encouraged them.
- 4- **Be Patient.** I learned to be patient because change in their life won't be done right away. It is one step at a time.

For example, one day, I asked one of the children to remove a can from the floor. He firmly refused and said, "I did not put it there. I will not remove it to the trash." That little one just behaved from what he learned at home or in his neighborhood. When this happened, I was not mad. On the contrary, it opened my eyes and I started to search for a way to help students change their attitudes. I decided to let them watch a video where a group of people joyfully decided to pick up trash in their environment and clean up their place. A few days after watching the video, I decided to do the same exercise. I asked one of them to pick up a bottle and to put it in the trash can. You should have seen how he did that with joy, without complaining, because he learned the lesson.

During my two years, I invited other church members to teach the children and the parents about specific and useful subjects. For example, I invited doctors to talk with them as they were becoming teenagers. Many changes occur in their body, so I thought it was good for them to understand these changes. They were excited to learn those things and they asked a lot of questions. I also met with the parents on a regular basis to share their children's progress and to help them understand and treat their kids much better. I encouraged them to have devotional times at home with their kids. In addition, I took time to pray for the Rescue One programs of the other churches.

It was a pleasure for me to serve in that great ministry of Rescue One of Calvary Chapel Port-au-Prince.



These charming students were delighted to hear the story of Jesus' birth and to enjoy the Christmas party sponsored for them at the Community Church. For safety reasons, each church sponsored their own individual party this year.



*The Rescue One program in Haiti is run by 6 individual churches, each with its own coordinator and all under the supervision of our Haitian Director, Kerline Jules

*Board of Directors: Jeff Buursma, Dan Rinzema
Nancy Tuit, Jody Vogelzang, Carol Woltjer*

From Mary Ruth,
a senior YEP student*



Many times, I wonder how I could thank Rescue One (from RO program to YEP) for what they represent in my life, but "for sure", **even if I would spend the rest of my life writing, I still can't get enough words to thank you for doing so many things in my life.** They are so many and great.

Rescuing a child born into a poor family and growing up in a hopeless neighborhood like mine and making her who I am today is like allowing me to be born again. My integration into the Rescue One program is a blessing, not just for me but for my whole family because a mother with 8 children on her shoulders without a father to help her is not easy. All day long it was sadness and despair but, thanks to Rescue One, I found relief and I could see joy in my mother's face when she was preparing me to send me to school. Before that, school was for us (my family and I) a luxury thing. A few years later this joy increased much more because for the first time there was going to be a high school graduate in the family. It should be noted that I am the sixth child of the siblings.

The blessing did not stop there. Studying at a university was just a dream for me and my whole family, because we couldn't even afford a year of primary school much less for college. However, that dream became a reality because of the YEP program. **I went to one of the best universities in the country,** and today I feel proud because in a few days I will finish my nursing studies. All this has been possible thanks to your help because me and my whole family have been hopeless. I hope to continue my studies so that I can specialize in community health for 2 years so that I can be more competitive in the marketplace. **I promise to continue to make you proud and try to bring my help when I can to the Foundation so that you can continue to help the hopeless children like I was years ago.**

Thank you for the color and the smile you put into my life and the hope you put into my family. I would like you to know that of all the children you try or want to save, **I AM ONE. YOU SAVED ME.**

May God continue to bless us more!

**YEP is the Youth Empowerment Program for continuing education for post high school students*

RO is the Rescue One program for elementary through high school students

*"Christ has no body now on earth but yours,
no hands but yours,
no feet but yours,
Yours are the eyes through which to look out
Christ's compassion to the world;
Yours are the feet with which he is to go
about
doing good;
Yours are the hands with which he is to
bless men now."*

St. Teresa of Avila

Prayer Corner

Donors, as you read this newsletter, you can see that this program is bathed in prayer and that the Spirit is blessing us with his presence. You can see that we have amazing, Spirit filled leadership. In spite of the turmoil in Haiti, there is joy in the Lord and in what He is doing. Join us in praise for that and continue to pray for our director, for each of the six church programs, for the six coordinators and for each of the students. Pray for safety for our dear friends there.



From Kerline, our Director in Haiti:

This (past) year had its share of challenges. But God gave us all more grace. We are grateful for what He has done. Because of Him, we are still standing. We have ministered and we have been so much encouraged by you and by the transformation stories we received from the stakeholders in Rescue One ministry. As I reflect on this year, I stand in awe of all that God has done for us. And we are looking forward to seeing His amazing power and love at work in the coming year. This verse comes to mind in such a time as this:

"Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." ***Philippians 1:6***



Mary Ruth when she was recruited into the Rescue One program

The Rescue One Board **thinks you** for your compassionate and generous support. Rescue One is a small light bringing God's grace into the lives of 80 Haitian children. Your check can be made out to the Rescue One Foundation, a 501(c)(3) corporation. Donations can be sent to PO Box 8174, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 49518 or you can donate by PayPal on our website. All contributions except for printing and mailing costs go directly to Haiti.