



Rescue One

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The Rescue One children enjoyed a fun-filled Christmas celebration in spite of the chaos surrounding them in Port-au-Prince

Pray this verse for our Haitian friends:

He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak... Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength, they will soar on wings like eagles, they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

Isaiah 40:29 ad 31

Joy and Chaos



It takes very little media exposure to know that the situation in Haiti is tumultuous. Gangs roam the streets terrorizing the population; people furtively take to the streets of Port-au-Prince to scavenge for food and other necessities.

What the media doesn't show you is the other side of the story. Like Jesus' parable of the wheat and the tares, we see the evil sown side by side with the good, the good brought to the Haitians by loving people such as you through agencies such as Rescue One. In the midst of stress and turmoil, the Haitians carry on as best they can. It is only in the strength of the Lord that they continue.



Our Director in Haiti tells us this: "The situation here overwhelms us and fills us with anger. We are not strong enough to face such violence, we cannot pretend to be, but we are trying to survive. Last night was particularly difficult; we couldn't sleep. I tried to stay in touch with my sister, my brother and some young people in the program who were really worried because gang members were close to their homes. By God's grace, they are safe this morning."

Our friends in Haiti are buoyed up by God's mercy through your gifts. These gifts are tangible evidence of our loving, compassionate Savior. Pray that the Lord will renew their strength and that they may see his mercies new every morning. Thank you for your support.

*Board of Directors: Dan Rinzema,
Nancy Tuit, Bill Warners, Carol Woltjer*

Prayer Corner

Please pray over our entire newsletter. Thank God for each drop of grace and mercy that he sends into the lives of the Haitians. Give thanks that all of our students as of this writing are currently in school and university.



Include these petitions:

- The students are experiencing much trauma. Coral came under heavy fire while returning from the hospital with her mother. Everyone was running and someone running next to her was hit by a bullet and died instantly.
- Andrea, currently a 12th grader, has been a part of the RO program for 11 years. Her mother left her living with her father but due to mistreatment, she chose to live with her father's cousin. Now the husband of this cousin no longer wants her in the home. The cousin has reached out to RO seeking a solution because she doesn't want conflict in her household. We are desperately trying to find a place for Andrea so that she can complete the school year. The situation is extremely difficult and she is in shock and constantly in tears.
- The students in the Bolosse Church program are facing extreme insecurity. A violent conflict between 2 gangs could erupt at any moment. Last week the children had great difficulty returning home from school because of gunfire.
- It takes our Director in Haiti, Handelsona, an entire day to do the banking and related errands. There is no quick trip to the ATM in Haiti. Pray for her safety.



The playground equipment is a big hit.

A Joyous Christmas Celebration

The celebration this year took an innovative turn with the organization of a festive picnic. Sixty-seven children, 6 volunteers and 4 coordinators came for a day of festivities where they could relax, play freely and strengthen their bonds.

One student served as the host; Jonathon shared an inspiring meditation on the meaning of Christmas for Christians, emphasizing the spiritual essence of the holiday. The children dazzled everyone with their performance of traditional Christmas carols and there was a moving play addressing themes of love, generosity and perseverance.



Twenty-four children under the age of 12 received carefully selected gifts including shirts, pants, sneakers, underwear and socks.

This event was filled with joy, hope, sharing and unity in the spirit of Christmas and the values of the RO Foundation.

Our friends in Haiti send each of you their overwhelming thanks for helping them celebrate the birth of our Savior.

Students are thrilled with their gift bags.



An Apology

The board regrets that your receipts were delayed and that your checks were posted late. The post office was not helpful in getting our mail forwarded in a timely manner.

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 85 Haitian children. You may donate by PayPal on our website or 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. All contributions except for printing and mailing costs go directly to Haiti.