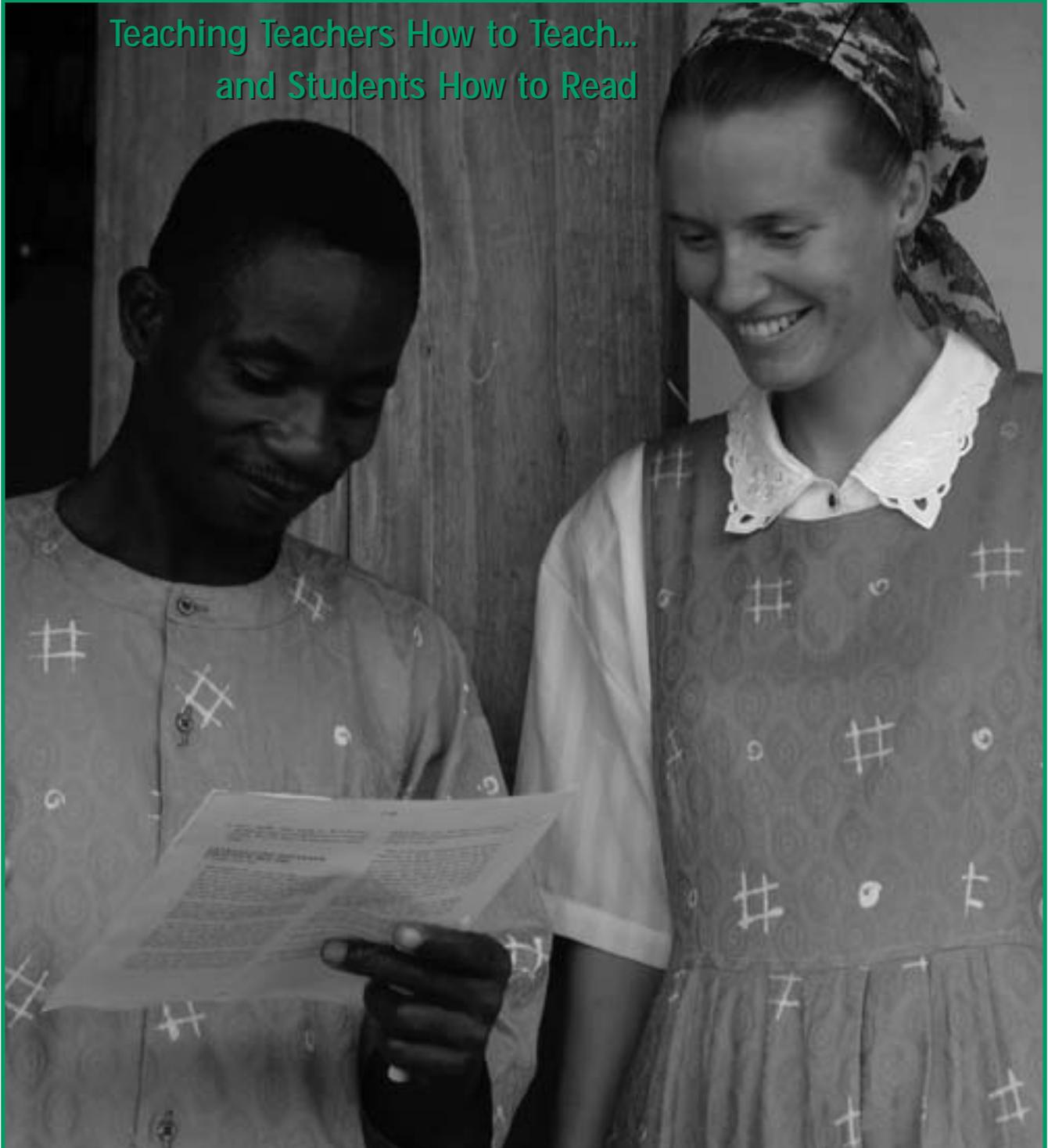


# Charity Christian Missions



December 2002 Newsletter • Volume 6 / Number 5

## Teaching Teachers How to Teach... and Students How to Read





Charity Christian Missions

“For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same my name shall be great among the Gentiles...for my name shall be great among the heathen, saith the LORD of hosts.” Malachi 1:11

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Charity Christian Missions, in its early days of ministering the gospel in Africa and Haiti, came across a major obstacle in training up mature Christians and church leaders. How can they preach if they can't study the Bible for themselves? And how can they study the Bible if they can't read? In both countries the seeds of a vision were planted in different ways and sprang forth. Today the fruit of this is becoming more and more evident. This issue features articles that focus on the history of these schools and the crucial part they play in the quest for a healthy, independent New Testament church.

IN THIS ISSUE...

Three Years at Victory Christian School
Teaching teachers how to teach... (Ghana)

“You Can Read!”
Teaching students how to read... (Haiti)

Haiti School Sponsorship
Here's an opportunity to invest in a child's future at school and beyond. Each person who sponsors a child receives a picture of a child on a prayer card.

Our Shoes Have Become Old
A big thank you to all who supported the shoes project for Haiti. By the way, how far does a child walk every year over those mountain paths anyway?

CROSSING CULTURES

Bonding, Blending, and Blessing
It's the people that make a culture colorful. The Haitian people express their emotions in many different ways: from singing in church to wailing at a funeral, from buying at the market to visiting the sick. Come and walk with Ada Fisher as she lives and moves among these dear people.

Come and Rest
Missionaries on the frontlines of battle need a place to come and rest.

Wondering if you missed an issue?
Probably you didn't, because we did not have an October 2002 issue. God bless you, and thank you for your interest, prayers, and support!

# Three Years at *Victory Christian School*

by Rosella Witmer



*“Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all. Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to*

*give strength unto all. Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name.”*

*I Chronicles 29:11-13*

**G**od is so good! When we first opened the doors of Victory Christian School three years ago this September, we had no idea that God would do such great things as He has done. God has

blessed that work very much, and I thank Him for it. He alone deserves all honor and glory. He is the One who gave us the vision for this work, and the One who enabled us in the many areas to begin and continue in this work.

## **Beginning of a Vision**

Some years ago we were looking at the local church in Wawase and desired to have some of the nationals lead out in the church. But we were faced with some problems. Although some of the brothers were converted, they didn't know how to read, or else read very slowly and haltingly, even after going through nine or ten years of school!

We had some questions: “If they have gone through years of school, why aren't they reading?” “Who will teach and preach if they can barely read their own Bible?” And we wondered, “How will they be able to feed the flock if they are not able to glean from God's Word themselves?”

Among the sisters there were no able readers. There was a great need to teach them. Who will teach them?

Another area that we saw as a great need was with the youth. We would talk with young people, and there seemed to be no fear of God. Their lives were full of sin—deep immorality at a young age. Many of them felt there was no way out for them. We recognized that we must get to

them sooner, planting the Word of God in them from a young age!

A third area of need was to find work for a few young people in the church who had broken through the norm and come through school with a fair education. Securing work in a land where jobs are limited for anyone is difficult. How much more so for the Christian, since so many jobs require bribery to be able to keep the job.

It slowly settled in our hearts that God would have us start a school there. He gave us a vision of a Christian school in a dark community. We could teach and train the children in a godly way, planting a love for God and a fear of Him in their young hearts! We could also help them to learn how to read well and teach them good study habits. We could teach them God's Word freely in the school. And we could provide work for a few young men. We could teach and train those who would be the future leaders of the church! Oh, what a blessed opportunity the Lord gave us!

We decided to name this new school Victory Christian School. It seemed so fitting. We were expecting victory over several different areas: illiteracy, immorality, spiritual darkness, and more. God is helping us to live up to that name. Praise the Lord.

At that time I was working in another private school in Ghana, but when we were given permission to build our own school, I came back to Wawase to take a position of

teacher, teachers' trainer, and principal of the new school. This position seemed big to me, but I trusted the Lord for wisdom and strength. We decided we needed to take a look at Ghanaian schools in general to see why these children were coming through school without learning much, and what we could do to avoid the same thing.

## **Taking a Look: Why are Students in Ghanaian Schools Not Learning?**

In the schools many teachers are not caring about the children at all. They are in it for the money, taking many days off work without notice. The children come and play around all day until it is time to go home, not having had one lesson that day. Students are also taken advantage of by being forced to work at their teachers' farms. A big problem in schools is the "ghost teachers." Government records will show that a certain school has six teachers, while in reality there are six classrooms with only three or four teachers. The teachers that are there use two names and collect the paychecks for the other two or three "ghost teachers." And several classrooms have no teacher.

Another problem is very noisy classrooms with much disorder. In some schools

there seems to be an official "yeller." When the noise pitch gets to a certain point, one of the boys yells out above the other noise, "KEEP QUIET!!" Sometimes it quiets down.

In private schools the classrooms are overfull. The overall education in private schools is somewhat better, but still far from what it should be. More students in a classroom means more money in proprietors' pockets.

Other reasons for such poor education include: underpaid staff, disorderly curriculums, lack of books and supplies (mainly because they have been sold on the black market), and poor teaching methods.

General expectation for education is also very low. I asked a boy whom I guessed to be about ten years of age if he can read. He seemed quite surprised that I should even ask, and told me of course he can't yet. Many times they are not even expected to really read until fourth grade.

## **What Can, What Should We Do?**

We needed so much wisdom. But God is always faithful in giving it when we ask.

First of all we needed to train teachers! We realized we needed to train our teachers in better teaching methods, since the methods they were used to were not working. Other areas we worked on right from the start were: how to keep order and quiet in a classroom, how

to discipline a child in love, and how to teach reading by phonics. We worked on going through a curriculum in orderly fashion, laying a foundation and building thereon. We

taught them to plan their work and follow that plan. And we tried to give our teachers a vision for their students.

I was so thankful for all the hours and the years of experi-

ence I had in teaching here in the States. God had been preparing me for a work that only He knew about at that time. He is faithful.

## Then and Now

### *September 1999*

1. We gave some intensive training to our three newly hired teachers. We opened school with 37 students, with new ones coming weekly.
2. There were three eager teachers, but with many questions: "What is phonics?" "Why do they want us to teach that?" "Take the children away from the class to discipline them, then sit down to talk and pray with them after you spank them?!? Why?" "We need to ask permission to take the day off?!"
3. There was lots of discipline or straight talks with children regarding filthy and immoral talk, even among kindergarten children. There was much insulting each other to their faces, calling each other fools, animals, and Satan. (We were often very shocked by the things we had to deal with in KG and 1<sup>st</sup> grade children.)
4. There were many reports on "two boys are fighting!" or "one boy and one girl are fighting!"
5. All the children are well able to tell you a number of "Ananse stories," which is something like a fairy tale. Though some have a good moral, many of them are very disgusting and not at all good.
6. A few students are enrolled who can read slowly, but most don't read at all.

### *September 2002*

1. We are still giving training to teachers—some to all the teachers, more to the new ones. There are now six national teachers (five men and one woman) and two missionaries working there full time. Enrollment has gone up to 199. More students are being turned away because we limit our class size.
2. There are some of the same teachers, still eager, but with good responses to those questions: "I wonder how far I could have gone in school if I had been taught with phonics? That would have helped a lot!" "If there is one thing I have learned from the missionaries, it is how to discipline children." "My students know that I will be here for them, and that I am teaching them every day!"
3. There is still a need to discipline some in this area, but to a much lesser degree, and mainly in students who are newcomers. Many children are a lot freer and have much clearer countenances.
4. There are still some reports like this, but not nearly as many. More often now we hear, "Madam, this boy beat me." When questioned, he will respond that even though he was beaten he did not fight back. And some respond that God doesn't want us to fight, but to love.
5. The children are still able to tell many "Ananse stories," but not because they learned it at school. Many children are now able to quote whole chapters from the Bible, and KG children are reciting the books of the Bible.
6. About 160 students are reading, many fluently! Parents and other people in town are asking our teachers if it is true that the kindergarten children are actually reading real words. And our teachers are happily replying that it is true.

## Further Vision

If these children learn to fear God and know God at an early age, that will spread to their homes, their families, their neighbors, and to the village. These children are growing up having a foundation of Bible knowledge — plus being able to read and study well—and may well be leaders of godly churches in the not-too-distant future. As they see what can be done in a school—indeed, see such a contrast in schools—there is much potential for turning out many more Christian teachers, and hopefully many more Christian schools.

## In Closing

As time went on and the work and the responsibility of the school grew, I felt more and more that the position of authority that I was in was really a position for a man to fill. I prayed for God to raise up a man to take my place, and God has answered that prayer. In May 2002, Eric and Martha Cherry and their two



children came to Wawase. Bro. Eric is now the “headmaster” at the school, and I am quite confident that the school will continue to grow and flourish under his leadership. Praise God that the transition went so smoothly. God is so good! I

believe God has many more good things in store for the school. He is not finished yet. We look to Him to lead on. He is the One who gave us the vision, and He is the One who will bring this vision to full fruition! Praise the Lord. □

- ◆ Pray that God would continue to bless the work of the school.
- ◆ Pray that many students would turn to Christ.
- ◆ Pray that our teachers would continue to be godly examples to the students.
- ◆ Pray for Eric as he leads out in a school in a foreign land, a strange culture, and in a school system very different from that in the States.
- ◆ Pray for Joy as she faithfully continues to help out in many areas in school, often doing a lot of the “behind the scenes” work.
- ◆ Thank God for His faithfulness during these three years.

# “You Can Read!”

by Harold Herr

**Y**ou can read! I can read! Remarkable! Exciting! Or is it? Just think. Those squiggly little scribbings we call letters stimulate thoughts, images, fears, blessings, entertainment, directions—yes, even eternal values in our minds and hearts.

Daydreaming often is not profitable, but right now come with me; let's daydream. First, let's go to a foreign country, say, China or Russia or Haiti. Pick up any printed page, be it a songbook, Bible, or some written instructions. Look at the signs along the roads. They are probably “Greek” to you. If they were in English, you would be OK.

Go a step further in your daydreaming. Imagine for a moment that you are not able to read or write. What would change in your way of living? Delete every book, magazine, every computer, every written instruction from your home. In your mind recount for one day the processes that required even a smattering of reading. No longer can you: use your Bible or your devotional book; read those instructions, the road signs, or the maps; use the computer; write that letter; read that storybook; do that research,

and on and on and on and on! What a drastic change would come to your present lifestyle!

The impact, the power, the eternal influence (good or ill) of the written word supercedes our puny insights. Why did God use the written Word, the printed text, to give His message to us?

Yes, YOU CAN READ! Remarkable? Exciting? What do you think, now? So much for the sermon.

Kick the daydreaming! Plant your feet on real world. The above is true for about 70% of the Haitians; even fewer can read back in our remote mountains. It is the dream of every parent, every child to be able to read and write.

## Backward Glance At Our Schools

In 1993 a major coup erupted in Haiti. Bruce, who was instrumental in helping to start what is now Christ to Haiti Ministries, was working for Christian Aid Ministries. During this time he was accosted to be conscripted as a security guard in the military police. Instead, Bruce fled Port and went into hiding with his mother in Ti-Guoave. He learned about an uncle in remote Ailigue. (He had been in the US for about 18 years





and did not really know his family well.) He met his uncle Matthew, and together they walked the 14 miles to Ailigue. Bruce rapidly found a spot in the heart of his illiterate uncle, Pastor Matthew, who was Levi's now deceased father. He roamed the hills with the pastor and actually became a second pastor to the people. They loved this man who seemed to have authority, who could speak Creole, English, French and Spanish. In a right way he stole their hearts and the heart of Pastor Matthew.

Bruce was always a man of vision. There was no school at Ailigue. He longed for the children to learn to read and write. In 1993 he launched the first school with 17 pupils and three teachers.

Pastor Mathew, even though mostly illiterate, had been able to educate his children in Ti-Guoave. At this time Levi was a young, flashing youth, able and high

salariated, working as a security guard in a prestigious hotel in Port. His sister Raymonde had training as a secretary and learned culinary arts. She also worked for the pastor of a large influential church at Port.

Visionary and persuasive, Bruce challenged and persuaded both Levi and Raymonde to forsake their respectable and somewhat lucrative positions and come with him to the humble "stomping grounds" of their birth. There they pooled their assets in local commerce with, beans, coffee and pigs and started small schools at the requests of the local people in various more remote areas. They used their meager profits to pay the teachers and books.

The school at Ailigue grew by leaps and bounds, especially after the revival and spiritual awakening took place when Pastor Rick Hess was at Ailigue. Those convert-

ed wanted their children to learn to read and write. Most had a voodoo, Catholic background. They did not want their children any longer under the influence of the priest and the Catholic Church. Often the priest or his helpers punished them if they did not also come to their services. A test of two powers ensued and continues as such. The small outreach schools also grew in numbers as their churches grew.

The funds generated by the trio in commerce hardly touched the salaries (even though individually some outreach teachers received only \$90 to \$200 Haitian per month—or \$18 to \$40 US). They got in arrears with teacher and supply payments. It was then that the mission agreed to finance all the existing schools.

The present school at Ailigue has an enrollment of about 500 pupils; about half attend the morning session and the rest, the afternoon. Pupils in the outreach schools number over 400.

Schools are an integral part of the package of church and home building just as in the US. They not only learn to read and write, but there is also Bible reading, instruction, hymn singing and praying.

For many children coming from almost barbarous and inhumane backgrounds, the schools also become their first introduction to decent, humane, respectful living and interaction. It will be difficult for you to begin to fathom

*continued on page 13*

# Haiti School Sponsorships



In the mountains of Ailigue stands a tinned roofed structure of concrete block and stone, a magnificent building by Haitian standards. This building functions as school house during the week and church meeting house on Sunday and is the outgrowth of the church of Jesus Christ in these mountains, to which the Lord has graciously allowed us to minister. The school is a natural extension of our mission work in this country (which is 80% illiterate), for it provides the young ones with an opportunity to learn to read the Bible. The school has four grades, which include children from ages four to twenty-five. Currently there are about 550 students being taught in two sessions, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. The government requires that any child attending school must wear a uniform and shoes, luxuries most mountain people cannot afford.

We have found many opportunities to minister in the mountains of Haiti. As souls abandon their voodoo

and turn their hearts to the Lord, the churches grow and so does the desire of these new Christians to learn more of Him through His Word. Seven smaller churches further back in the mountains are attempting to run schools with very little in the way of educational materials, meeting under thatched roofs supported by four poles with no walls. We would like to see these churches grow also.

The cost to support a child's schooling for a year is \$120. That support includes a uniform and shoes, a trained Haitian Christian teacher, schoolbooks and supplies, and one meal a day (often the only meal they will eat that day). If you would like to help with the support of one or more children, you may do so by making one annual payment or by quarterly or monthly contributions. We will send you a prayer card like the one above for each child you sponsor. You may select those you wish to sponsor by age and gender. Annual contributors will receive a receipt by letter and quarterly and monthly contributors will receive a checkbook-size packet of reminder receipts and contribution slips. At the end of the year you may elect to responsor the same child if they are in school the following year. All contributions and inquiries should be sent to:

Charity Ministries  
Attn. Haiti School Sponsorships  
400 W Main St Ste 1  
Ephrata, PA 17522

# HAITI SCHOOL SPONSORSHIP FORM

## PAYABLE TO

Charity Christian Missions

## SEND TO

Charity Christian Missions  
Attn. Haiti School Sponsorships  
400 W Main St Ste 1  
Ephrata, PA 17522  
U.S.A.

## PREFERRED METHOD

### OF PAYMENT

- Monthly • \$10 per month
- Quarterly • \$30 per quarter
- Annually • \$120 per year

Name _____		Date _____
Address _____		
(address continued - if needed)		
City _____		State/Province _____
Zipcode/Postal Code _____		Country _____
Phone _____		
Email _____		

- |            |   |           |
|------------|---|-----------|
| STUDENT 1. | <input type="checkbox"/> Male / <input type="checkbox"/> Female | Age _____ |
| STUDENT 2. | <input type="checkbox"/> Male / <input type="checkbox"/> Female | Age _____ |
| STUDENT 3. | <input type="checkbox"/> Male / <input type="checkbox"/> Female | Age _____ |
| STUDENT 4. | <input type="checkbox"/> Male / <input type="checkbox"/> Female | Age _____ |

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- |            |   |           |
|------------|---|-----------|
| STUDENT 1. | <input type="checkbox"/> Male / <input type="checkbox"/> Female | Age _____ |
| STUDENT 2. | <input type="checkbox"/> Male / <input type="checkbox"/> Female | Age _____ |
| STUDENT 3. | <input type="checkbox"/> Male / <input type="checkbox"/> Female | Age _____ |
| STUDENT 4. | <input type="checkbox"/> Male / <input type="checkbox"/> Female | Age _____ |

# Our Shoes Have Become Old

**P**ierre is a Haitian child who walks nearly two hours each way to school. He walks on grueling, rugged, rocky, steep, and often muddy trails. He goes barefoot at home but the government requires shoes, socks, and uniforms to attend school. Let's have a math class! If Pierre walks three miles one way for nine school months five days a week, he would walk 5,702,400 feet or 1080 miles each year. In addition, he probably wears the same shoes to go to church. Just a bit of imagination tells you that shoes wear out rapidly with such use. Pierre could say honestly, "Our shoes are become old by reason of the very long journey." (Joshua 9:13)

**SHOES! SHOES! SHOES!** A few months back we knocked at your heart's door to share shoes for the poor children who attend the schools at Ailigue. You have responded with openhearted generosity. To date over 400 pair of shoes have been contributed. Others have shared their dollars. Over \$2600 has been earmarked for "Shoes for School Children." We can only say, "Thank you, and God's blessing be yours for opening your hearts and your wallets."

Pierre with his parents is deeply blessed by your sharing. Perhaps he could not have the privilege to learn to read without your gift. But the Lord Jesus says, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." So who gets the greater blessing? □





# Bonding, Blending, and Blessing

*by Ada Fisher*

I never realized how stuck I was on the idea that *my* culture is right until I was exposed to another culture. Seeing the different but beautiful ways of the Haitian culture helped me to understand that the way I was taught to cook, to buy, to sell, and to talk is not “the only” way, but is just one of the many ways amidst the varied cultures of the world.

I have reflected upon what was most outstanding to me upon entering my “new culture.” My mind reverts back to the Haitians’ way of expressing their emotions. They are a very expressive people, and I am humbled as I watch them unashamedly adore and worship at the church service. Seeing them lift their hands to the heavens and all pray in unison seemed like a confused jumble the first time I heard it. Curiously I opened my eyes to watch. I saw some kneeling, occasionally clapping their hands and earnestly praying; others were

standing, swaying their bodies and praying quite forcefully. To me it seemed like they were in a contest to see who could pray the loudest. They weren’t worried who might hear them; they were just pouring out their hearts to God. I wondered if their God might be deaf, but when talking to some of them, I learned that they wonder if our God doesn’t make us happy!!

Just as they are expressive in the church services, so they express their emotions at a funeral. Memories of my first funeral in Haiti are deeply etched in the journal of my mind. It was definitely a “cultural shock.” I had been here less than two months when a young woman for whom we had been caring died. What wailing and screaming I observed as the family beat on the side of the house and ran down the trail at a break-neck speed, some needing three to four grown men to hold them down. It looked like nothing but confusion to me. How my

heart was stirred as I realized the hopelessness of these dear people without Christ. God’s arms of salvation and deliverance are open to them, seeking to draw them to Himself.

It is not unusual to be awakened in the wee hours of the morning by singing, shouting, and hooting as a group of men go marching up the mountain trail. Are these men mad? Are they on the warpath? A newcomer may think so. But upon closer observation, you realize it’s a group of innocent men on their way to work in the gardens! “Do these people have NO respect for others’ privacy?” I ask with a feeling of frustration as I sleepily blink at the disappearing figures in the early morning hours. As I now lay in bed thinking of these early morning workers, my mind goes to the poverty of the country. The Haitian people are a very diligent people and are very hard workers. The men put in long, hard days to bring food for the family; often the wife and children are also helping out. Many of them find the next meal by going out to the garden and bringing in some yams, etc.

I hear loud excited voices, all seeming to talk at once as I approach the clinic to give the evening meds [medicines]. As I open the door, a feeling of disgust and unbelief sweeps over me. The room is packed

with “sympathizers” and curious onlookers. The undesirable stench of sweat and the intense heat is enough to make me feel nauseous. The heat level is so high it makes my glasses foggy. An animated discussion is going on topped off with peels of laughter from time to time. I stand at the door. Angry feelings and concern for my patient rise up within me as I behold the scene. I’m trying to form the right words in my mind to let them know how disrespectful and unthoughtful they are.

Before the words spill out I glance at the sick person, expecting her face to portray the same feelings. But wait. The sick person isn’t disturbed at all by the loud voices or the intense heat in the room. Instead she is lying there with a look of peace on her face, occasionally joining in the laughter. My angry feelings are now replaced by curiosity. I take a step closer as I learn another cultural lesson. This group is not being

disrespectful I observe. Rather these church people and others in the area are showing kindness by coming to visit, “showing that they care” to the sick person and her family who live four hours walking distance from here. My heart is touched deeply as I see the mother of the sick girl (who is sitting in the corner) rise to her feet and hand a dish to one of the crowd. I know immediately that the owner of the dish has brought food for these strangers at the hospital.

My thoughts drift to the widow who gave the two mites, and how Jesus told the crowd that she had given more than the rest. Was this gift of food given out of the same heart as the widow’s mites? Likely so. The sick girl drifts off to sleep in spite of all the noise. She isn’t disturbed by the loud continuing conversation; she only feels the love of these visitors who moments before were strangers.

I now sit and listen to the conversation as stories of

younger days, market sales, garden harvests, and the death of loved ones are told. I find myself softly laughing with them and occasionally asking questions! My attitude has totally changed as I sit in the midst of the crowd in this hot, smelly hospital room, observing a beautiful way of expressing love and concern. I bow my head and silently ask the Lord’s forgiveness for my judgmental attitude. “Give me a heart like Thine, Lord.” The crowd disperses, says good night, and disappears into the moonlight. I also say good night, quietly lock up the clinic, and head back to the house. My mind is full as I reflect on the valuable lesson I learned tonight in the hot clinic room.

May the Lord be glorified as I blend my life into the lives of the dear Haitian people whom I have come to love and appreciate very much. We covet your prayers as we encounter many similar incidents in this field the Lord has called us to serve. □

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*continued from page 8, “You Can Read!” by Harold Herr*

how uncouth, yes, uncivilized many are. But praise God the gospel does change the hearts, the thinking, the wrong culture of Satan’s strong grasp upon these people.

This attack upon the enemy’s kingdom is such a valuable complement and addition to the work of church building. Not only do teachers have to be paid and

books and supplies purchased, but also the government burdens the families by requiring special uniforms, socks, and shoes for each pupil. Many of you have been very generous in your blessings to the pupils and homes of these deeply needy, struggling families. Some pupils are also able to receive a good meal each day. Bless you for

your loving care.

Yes, YOU CAN READ! I CAN READ! Remarkable! Exciting! Let’s keep helping these poverty-stricken families to learn to read. Hopefully some day they will be teachers and financial supporters for their own schools and churches. □

# COME and REST

by Emanuel Esh  
Mission Board Chairman

**Jesus said, “Come aside and rest.”**

**I**t is well known that missionaries need a time of rest. Jesus Himself was weary of the crowds at times. He sometimes called his disciples to come aside and spend time away from the people and the heavy demands of ministry.

Today we know it as furlough—a time set aside for rest for the frontline soldiers, a time for the missionaries to go back to their home country and church.

The battle can be tough and very wearing. Missionaries usually give it all they have while on the field. Some live in very difficult remote areas. For some, the spiritual battle is at times overwhelming. Soldiers can only be on the front lines for a certain length of time. This varies with the intensity of the work in which they are involved. A scheduled time of rest can be very beneficial to their spiritual, emotional, and physical health.

For some missionaries, furlough comes every year; for others, it is only once every three or even five years or longer. Missionary stamina, difficulty of the field and mission policy all play a part in how often or how long a furlough should be.

## Culture Stress Coming Home

Many times the missionaries feel out of sync with what is happening when they arrive back home on furlough. It may have been three to five years since they were in the local church. There usually are many changes affecting them that we don't realize, such as new faces in the church, old ones missing, and perhaps a new preacher behind the pulpit. The home church and people have changed. The small boys and girls are now

teenagers, and the teenagers are now young men and young ladies. There are new babies, and some are living in different homes. There are new ministries and new thrusts being made by the church. These things are not bad; they should be so in a vibrant church that is growing in the grace of God.

But the missionaries remember things as they were years ago when they left for the field. Most likely they are reminiscing how it used to be and are looking forward to stepping right back into the place they were before they left.

But now everything is changed. Someone else has taken their place and is doing the work they used to do. Someone else is living in the house they used to live in. Sometimes they are given a place in someone's basement or spare room to call “home.” Someone in their kindness gives them a “spare car,” which may or may not work at times. “Spare furniture” is provided. Most of us can easily “spare” an old mattress. They are “missionaries,” you know.

Everyone seems so busy with family, home-school, church life, business, and the upkeep of their homes; and the missionary has a hard time fitting in. Few seem to have time to come and visit, or share an encouraging word with them. Few seem to understand or feel for them as they struggle with the many changes that really seem so “insignificant” to us.

Instead of the local church supporting them, many missionaries on furlough are expected to go on deputation. This means that they need to visit the churches that have been sending support in order to keep the funds coming. They are supposed to make a good impression and give spiritual talks. Sometimes they are traveling all over the country trying to drum up their sup-

port. They are expected to be the speakers at weekend meetings and conferences. Some are expected to get a job to support themselves while they “rest” and still go and preach on weekends and talk about the work they have been involved in on the field.

Brethren, these things ought not to be. I suggest that we support them when they are abroad **and** while on furlough—in both prayer and finances! Perhaps the missionary wants to get a part-time job in order to work with his sons, in order to teach them some skills, etc. But is it right to expect them to fully support themselves while at home on furlough, or to try to raise support through deputation? May God make us sensitive to their deepest need while they come home for rest.

## What Should We Do?

One thing is certain: furlough should be a time of rest. It should be a time of unhurried relaxing with the immediate family in a place they can call **home** for a season. It should be a time when all their needs are met by the local church or mission society. It should be a time when the local church takes up its responsibility to minister to them in every possible way. It needs to be a time of heart-warming love and care for them. It needs to be a time of spiritual, emotional, and physical rejuvenation.

There should be a suitable house set aside for them to live in. There should be appropriate vehicles supplied for the family. There should be money laid aside for them to use. The daily needs such as food, clothing, gas for vehicles, utilities and rent, plus their personal needs such as medical and dental check-ups should be included. Remember, they need to rest and build up new strength for the battle that they will soon be facing again.

We thank God that he provided a good-sized home to rent for the Ross Ulrich family while they were here on furlough. Furniture was donated or bought to furnish the house. A maxi-van was bought for their family to use. A mini-van was kindly donated and used as a second vehicle. They did not need to go on deputation to raise support. However, Ross did take up a part-time job while here, as did his son Michael. Our

desire for them was that they would be able to rest and gain new strength for their return to the field. I trust they were able to return to the field well rested. On September 3<sup>rd</sup> they returned to Ghana for another term of service for the Lord Jesus Christ in His harvest field. May God bless the Ulrich family as they return to the field.

## House Needed

Now that they have left, we need to find a place to store the furniture until the next missionary family comes back on furlough. Plans are for the Daniel Kenaston family to arrive back home for a six- to eight-month furlough beginning in January. With seven families on the field and more scheduled to go, it seems as though we will have a continued need for housing for the missionaries on furlough. The mission board has agreed to make this need known. We are looking for a good-sized house somewhere near the Leola or Ephrata area, either to rent or buy. Do you know of a house that we could rent for three to five years? Or perhaps someone would feel led to either invest in a house or donate one for this purpose. Would you pray with us that God would meet this need for the missionaries? If funds were provided, we would consider buying an appropriate home for this need.

Our goal at Charity Christian Missions is that furlough truly would be a time of rest. We do encourage the missionaries to feel free to go and visit some of the supporting churches as they desire. It is a good way to encourage support as they show slides, tell about the work, touch hearts, and share the vision that God has given them for the lost. But by no means do we want to put any burden on them to feel the need to go out and try to raise support while on furlough. Some missionaries are more stressed-out during the time of furlough than when on the field.

To our soldiers on the front lines: when you come home on furlough, we want to do all we can to make it a time of blessing and rest for you.

Once again we at Charity Christian Missions take this opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks to all those who support this ministry. May God richly reward you with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. □



# Announcing...

Charity Christians Missions

## MISSIONS CONFERENCE

***February 13-16, 2003***

*to be held at*

**Ephrata Business Center • 400 W. Main St. • Ephrata, PA 17522**

Raymond Burkholder will be sharing Thursday through Sunday at 7:00 pm. He is a missionary serving with Olive Branch Mennonite Missions in Grenada.

There will be morning and afternoon sessions on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Some of our missionaries will share updates from the field during these sessions.

*For additional information or lodging, call (717) 721-7775 or 1-800-227-7902*



Charity Christian Missions

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“Nobody can force a single soul...to turn to Christ. All that (we)... can do, is to lift up Christ before the world, bring Him into dingy corners and dark places of the earth where He is unknown, introduce Him to everybody, and live so closely with and in Him that others may see that there really is such a Person as Jesus....”

*Elizabeth “Betty” Stam*

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