



HAITI MISSION, INC.  
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**JULY/AUGUST 2014**

*"To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived.  
This is to have succeeded."* *Ralph Waldo Emerson*



## Our first Double!



Hello,

In the midst of the economic and embroiled media debates on how things should be done, HMI has done its part to bring peace to a troubled world. You won't read or hear about it in any media reports, but there are two more very happy and much safer families in Haiti today. HMI has established another milestone in its consistent commitment to the poor of an obscure village by the name of Numero Deux, Haiti to continue working with them to improve life for their families and community. This month our construction

team was able to accomplish the goal we set to build two houses - A "Double" - Quite an accomplishment for HMI to not only be able to raise the necessary funds, but also, for our Haitian construction crew to be able to overcome all the typical obstacles when trying to do anything in Haiti including weather delays and to complete both houses by the end of June. We completed another home in July for the Bazard family and will shoot for another "double" in August. Our campaign to raise enough personal commitments to build 20 - yes you read right - 20 houses this construction year is slowly but surely coming together. We have been blessed with almost another \$10,000 dedicated for home construction over the past two months leaving us down to \$27,000 to fully fund our matching fund needs. Be patient and be open. God is working and touching hearts. We know the \$\$\$ will come.

*"The first "double" build in one month has been a tremendous blessing to the families that received the homes and the families of the men who actually do the construction. A true win-win situation.*



## Teachers

It has been ten years since HMI began our first school in Numero Deux and Ravine Sable. There were no schools in the area at that time. The parents of the communities wanted education for their children with the hopes that a better life would be waiting at the other end of that process. Education wasn't on the agenda of HMI at the time. We were focused on the daunting task of trying to improve the water situation and get potable water closer and more readily available to the families. The communities begged us to try. A group of parents that had high school educations or the equivalent offered to teach for free for a year if HMI could find some funding to pay them something the next year. As luck and fate would have it, we came up with a plan that allowed us to begin what now is the St. Bridget school system in the villages. We put out an appeal and with enough commitments, we began paying nine teachers \$30 per month. Almost too ridiculous to state publicly but the teachers were satisfied and we got started. Lots of things happened in those years. We began our shoe share program where we would bring shoes for the kids. We also would bring treats and small gifts on every mission trip. Those of you that have been following the saga over all these years know that we eventually would raise money for buildings at Ravine Sable and a state of the art school at Numero Deux. By the grace of God and your generosity, we now have 19 teachers and 365 students at the two campuses receiving a good education and getting fed a hot meal every day.

We eventually were able to raise the teachers to \$75 per month which is where their salaries have been for about six years now. The current salary of a certified teacher in Haiti is \$200 US.

So here is the long range plan. First and foremost, we have to pay all our teachers a little more. Our goal is to raise enough from this appeal to be able to budget \$100 a month for each of the current teachers and to add one more teacher who would train the children in various aspects of animal husbandry and agronomy. Fr. Joe and the teachers would come up with a written plan based upon Haitian governmental standards to have the teachers that are not certified to work towards certification over the next few years. As they reach the various goals they would receive a little additional financial stipend until they ultimately could get to \$130 per month.

We feel this modest increase in base salary and incentive raises based upon standardized certification will steadily improve the education the children receive and be in accord with just wages and accountability.

It will take roughly \$5000 a year to give the raises. A number of you have faithfully committed to sending support for teachers. Thanks and God Bless! The funds we receive from this month's newsletter will be used to fund the teacher raises. God bless you again for your kind consideration of this important matter.

## *The Miracle*



The life of Rebecca Claire Fakier and the life of HMI have been a fascinating odyssey which has brought untold blessings to the families of Numero Deux, Ravine Sable and numerous other remote villages in Haiti. As you may or may not know, July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2003 was the day she entered Paradise and began working along with all the heavenly angels and saints to help the poor and needy here on earth. For some reason, her main focus seems to be the children of Haiti and her main instrument to accomplish that seems to be Haiti Mission, Inc. (HMI) During the month of July, Faie and I visited with Leah Hornsby and her daughter Hannah regarding their remarkable experience with Rebecca. The following is that interview and their story.

### **The story of Hannah and Rebecca by Leah Hornsby (Hannah's Mom)**

Rebecca Claire Fakier and Hannah Hornsby were best friends in first grade at St. Bernadette School in Houma. Their relationship was such that when Rebecca had to leave to receive treatments at Sloan Kettering Memorial Cancer Center in New York, Hannah promised to pray every day for her. When Rebecca returned home and Hannah saw her in such a debilitated condition, she was very upset that God had not answered her prayer.

On the morning after Rebecca died, Hannah had an eye appointment with a children's specialist in Baton Rouge. Hannah and I were running out the door and the phone rang with the news from a friend that Rebecca had passed. I said "Thanks for calling" and when I turned around with tears in my eyes; Hannah had the biggest smile on her face and says, "Rebecca is in Heaven!" I said "yes, she is." Hannah says still with a smile, sighing, "She is not hurting anymore."

When we arrived at the doctor's office, while waiting for the doctor to come in, Hannah asks, "Mom, what do you think Rebecca is doing up there?" I said, "Oh, probably playing, laughing and looking at how beautiful everything is."

(As a side note, Hannah had worn glasses since she was three years old. Never once did she complain about them. She didn't really know life without them. She was blind as a bat without them. When she was first given glasses to wear they were +8 which is very strong.)

Out of the blue, Hannah says, "I don't want to wear glasses anymore." Jokingly I said, "Girl, Rebecca hasn't been up there that long to pull those kinds of strings." In walks the doctor. While examining her, he asked her to take off her glasses. Normally when Hanna would take off her glasses, one of her eyes would immediately turn in (lazy eye). When she took them off this time, the doctor looks at her eyes, makes her follow a popsicle stick with a sticker on it and says, "her eyes are straight!" I look up from the magazine that I was reading, not believing what I was hearing. I look at her and sure enough HER EYES WERE STRAIGHT! The doctor then asks her to read the letter chart on the wall which she had never been able to do without her glasses. She begins to say every letter and every shape, every number large and small! I could not believe what I was seeing and hearing. He then dilated her eyes and still she could read it all without her glasses. The Doctor then says, "She doesn't need to wear glasses anymore." I was in complete shock! Hannah was on cloud nine.

When we got home, a friend of mine called to tell me about the funeral arrangements. When I was discussing the arrangements with my husband John, I was concerned about how Hannah would take seeing Rebecca in the casket and seriously considered not taking her to the funeral. She overheard our conversation and said, "No, I am going and I want to bring Mrs. Laura some flowers." So we went get flowers. On the way to the wake, I looked in the back seat and Hannah was tying her glasses to the flowers! I could not contain myself! We get to the wake and I tell Hannah that we don't have to go to the front that we can just sit in the back and pray. She then asks me, "What is this line for?" I said, "It's a line to see Mr. David, Mrs. Laura, and Rebecca. So, Hannah immediately says, "I have to give these flowers to Mrs. Laura and I want to tell Rebecca goodbye." So, we get in line and when she gets to David, he makes Hannah feel like she was the most important person there by scooping her up in his arms and saying, "Hannah! Thank you so much for coming! If you ever need someone to talk to or need help with anything, you talk to Rebecca because she will always be listening." Hannah says, "I know!" and excitedly tells him and Laura the story about the eye doctor and shows him the flowers with her glasses attached. Laura then takes Hannah and me to see Rebecca. She placed the flowers with Hannah's glasses next to Rebecca and showed Hannah all the pictures of the months Rebecca had spent in the hospital. It could not have been more special for Hannah and I cannot thank the Fakiers enough for giving her that moment.

Since Rebecca's passing, I have taken Hannah to the eye doctor when I take her younger sister Madeline who has a similar condition as Hannah. One of the strangest things is that when Hannah's eyes are not dilated, she has 20/20 vision. When they are dilated, she needs glasses to see. Numerous doctors have been puzzled and say they have never seen anyone with such eye muscle control as Hannah has. Thinking they would help her reduce the strain on her eyes, they prescribe glasses but Hannah never wants to wear them saying she sees better without them. In 2013, when Hannah went to Dr. Eustice, a children's specialist in New Orleans, he told her that she did not need glasses or contacts and did not need to have her vision checked again until she was 30.

Rebecca and Hannah continue to be friends in a mystical and spiritual way. There have been numerous events throughout Hannah's life that she has come to realize that Rebecca is walking alongside her. One of the most dramatic was that for many years Hannah did not know that Rebecca's middle name was Claire yet she kept having Claire come into her life. When she had to pick a Confirmation name, Claire was her choice. When she went to a Faith Camp experience several years ago, she was assigned the St. Claire cabin. All these moments have helped strengthen Hannah's faith. We will always be thankful for this special Angel that God has mysteriously and wonderfully put into our life.

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This newsletter is dedicated to raising funds to help the teachers in our St. Bridget School system in Numero Deux and Ravine Sable. Whatever you do will be wonderful!

Yes Deacon Lloyd, I want to help the children in our schools get a better education by encouraging the teachers and offering them incentives to improve their skills. Good Luck and God Bless!

**Here is my donation to use for the teachers in our schools:**

\$1000 \_\_\_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_\_\_ \$250 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

I am willing to commit \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to teacher support on a regular basis.  
(monthly, quarterly or yearly)

This monetary gift is made in memory of \_\_\_\_\_  
please send an acknowledgement card to: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

FROM: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ packets of Rebecca's prayer cloth and devotional material.

\_\_\_\_\_ Send me envelopes to be a monthly "helping hand":

\_\_\_\_\_ I will be a prayer partner and pray for the Haiti Mission.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please put me on your email/info list. email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I am interested in going on a mission trip.

Call me @: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**Haiti Mission, Inc. does not discriminate because of race, religion, sex, age, disability, national origin or financial status.**

*"He who has compassion on the poor lends to the Lord,  
and he will repay him for his good deeds." Pvb 19:17*

**THANKS FOR HELPING!**

**"FAIE'S FACTS"**

Let us remember as a new school year begins that the Almighty can change:

**A MESS into a MESSage;**

**A TEST into a TESTimony;**

**A TRIAL into a TRIumph; and**

**A VICTIM into VICTory**

*"Therefore, encourage one another  
and build one another up,  
as indeed You do."*

*(1 Thessalonians 5:11)*