



93 Million Outside

**Katie Cotten
& Lennart Erikson**

Ninety-three million children of school age are not in school. In reporting this number UNICEF also says that the majority of these children are girls. But this is only part of the story. In the third world countries where Star of Hope works, an unacceptable amount of children in school today will quit before completing the fifth grade, again mostly girls!

In many societies girls are considered less worthy of education than boys. Often this is because in those societies, the boys are seen as the future bread-winners for the family. Some parents even believe it is a waste to educate a girl who will just get married.

Without the ability to read, your life becomes very dependant.

You must depend on what others are telling you. Being unable to read a newspaper, understand an electric bill or read the instructions on a can of baby formula causes deep problems. This lack of education will affect not only the girls themselves, but their children and families in the future.

A key part of our efforts around the world is to provide a basic education. Today in eighteen countries, a basic education is being offered to children who otherwise would grow into adulthood illiterate. Investing in the lives of deserving children is never a mistake. By simply sending Christmas cards designed by the children you can help fund scholarships for children in these countries. By sponsoring a child or making regular contributions you can help see that these bright young boys and girls continue to be educated.

Looking for the perfect Christmas gift for someone that has everything? Star of Hope has a way for you to give a gift to someone that has nothing.



(More information on Page 3)

Christmas in July

By Tony Boursiquot **Prayerful in September**

It is exciting to report that despite the multiple storms that devastated some of our projects in Haiti this past year, our students have scored above the national average on final exams! The dedication of the teachers, working in adverse conditions, is inspiring. Small children showed up for school immediately following the storms and wanted to learn. Some sat on broken concrete blocks while the teachers worked with whatever they rescued from the rubble. Others, such as the students in Boyer school that had a roof replaced prior to the storms by a team of youth from Ellinwood, Kansas, came back to intact school rooms. Child sponsors also gave extra gifts which enabled us to do some special things at Christmas with the 6,000 children in our projects.

These events helped point the way to the real meaning of Christmas, the birth of Christ.

Following the storms that racked Haiti, hunger and starvation were defeated by the generous gifts of donors. Through our network within Haiti, food and supplies reached those who needed it most. Often we brought the first help to arrive in a community. The storms also damaged roads, homes, churches and our schools. Once again donors have stepped forward to help. Haiti Love and Faith Ministries sent a team to catch up with needed maintenance on the Love of Jesus Girl's Home. Star of Hope® sent a team that made improvements to the facilities used by Faith Children's Home, also known as the Carrefour orphanage. These teams not only provided a service but

(continued on page 6...)



Haitian Christmas Cards Available

Star of Hope is launching a new project this year. We have a need for educational funding for the children in all of our projects, especially the country of Haiti. Therefore we have had the children draw Christmas pictures that we then put on the front of a nice card and duplicate. We are also making it optional to personalize the inside with a message and will be happy to supply you with all the cards you need this year.



The proceeds received from this project will go toward continuing education for the children that drew the pictures. I hope you will please consider getting your Christmas cards from Star of Hope this season.

Visit our web site to view different samples of the cards.

www.starofhope.org

RESULTS & REPORTS

Goats & Chickens

The best gifts to give



Above: offspring from 2008's Christmas gifts to this little girl and her family



Above: Serge Alexandre and his children with their two goats given to them in 2008

By: Tony Boursiquot

Livestock production is a major source of household income for rural Haitians. In addition to helping meet living expenses, income from animal production is used to pay school fees and unexpected things such as illness. Thousands of chickens and goats were swept away by flood waters during the storms last year. Because of this we chose to make available these two most popular animals as our Christmas project.

As people around the world chose to give a goat or chicken for Christmas they could only imagine the effect. All combined, 344 families received an animal! The 440 chickens that were provided went to 220 families.

Each family that received a chicken promised to "pay it forward". The agricultural specialists in Haiti told us that rural Haitian chickens average 30 offspring a year.

Each family that received the chickens is now "paying it forward" by giving two of the baby chicks to another family who did not yet benefit from the project.

Star of Hope Haiti was able to also distribute the 124 goats that were given. In general female goats were distributed. Each community also received one genetically high quality male goat. We teamed with another mission organization in Haiti that is attempting to improve nutrition by improving the quality of goats. These goat specialists told us that a healthy goat will produce up to six offspring a year.

Just like the people who received chickens, the goat recipients are "paying it forward" too. They each gift a baby goat to a family who needed one but didn't get one. It is so pleasing to see these families and children learning to give out of their poverty.

Serge Alexandre lives in Rigaud, Haiti and had quite a year before he was blessed by someone he doesn't even know. When hurricanes passed through his area, Serge was devastated by the 7 feet of water flooding over his crops and animals.

Serge was not sure how he was going to support his family, how to get back on his feet. When the goats were delivered to his home he and his family vowed to take care of these precious gifts. They planned to use the offspring as a savings account for medicines, children's schooling, food and emergencies.

Trade School Project

True Success and ongoing project!



“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Ephesians 2:10.

When Katie asked me to write a little paragraph for the newsletter I could not think of what to write. My heart has been so full of love from everyone that I cannot seem to find the right words to express it. Then I came across Ephesians 2:10 and realized that **God prepared your hearts in advance to do these good works** by sharing your money with the girls so they could attend trade school. I had one individual call me and ask how many girls wanted to attend the trade school and at that time we had 11. She donated enough so that all 11 could attend. After these girls

started going to school, 4 more decided they wanted to go too. We received enough money from several sponsors to let all 15 of them attend.

I received letters from the girls at the Love of Jesus Girls’ home and they were all so thankful to everyone for donating the money for them to attend trade school. In two of the letters the girls shared with me that they have been praying for this for along time and did not know how they would get the money to go. They always trust in the Lord for they have faith their prayers will be answered. They also pray for us so we will be blessed to keep supporting them.

I want to thank each and everyone of you who stepped out in faith and helped these girls with

their education. We will soon be starting regular school which always takes many more people to reach out and help with these expenses such as **uniforms, books and supplies**. Please pray about this and if anyone feels that God has prepared them to help with this mission please let us know.

May God richly bless you.

Connie Klein is the president of the Haiti Love & Faith Board



RESULTS 5 & REPORTS



This is a letter from Sylvana, a Haiti Love & Faith girl that has been blessed with funding to attend a trade school.

08/05/09

I Am Sylvana Domond, I have 19 years old, and I learn music.

Joyfull to me to write you, Cause Jesus live in me and he make so good thing for me.

How are you? your family and your activities?

and everything is okay for me by Grace of God.

I want to thank you first for your help, that made me happy, and God will bless you more and more. please, I want to tell you, the music school is for 1 (one) year, so I don't know if you will be okay to finish to pay it for me.

I remember, last year I spok that to God, I this year God do it for me so, you are a blessing for me and for us.

May God bless, keep you in this joy forever.

Love: Sylvana Domond.

(...Continued from page 2)

brought encouragement to the Haitian team and churches.

When a work team comes to Haiti we look for ways to include them in the lives of the children and the community. It has been fun to watch local Haitian construction men watching the foreigners use hurricane ties and screws to provide strength to the roof. In Boyer they weren't sure how they would help. After three tropical storms pounded the roof, it help firm. Now these men are thinking of ways to accomplish the same thing with local materials.

School in Haiti has just opened for the year. Once again the challenges of meeting the needs are great. We strive to be more efficient and more capable in all we are doing. Your help is so important. Without you, we can accomplish nothing. Child sponsors provide the majority of the funds used in the operation of our schools. Today we face a severe shortage as prices have continued to rise, making it harder to provide for the needs of the children.

I want to make a special request of you. Consider how it would feel if you couldn't send your children to school because you just couldn't find the funds to meet what we would consider a small amount for supplies and fees. Star of Hope® is searching for donors who can find it in their heart to make a one-time donation to help provide a "Back to School" gift. There are 6,000 children who need help. Would you help one?



Cooks at Carrefour Orphanage-cooking with new burners provided by First Baptist Church-Ellinwood Kansas

Part of the new roof with skylights that was put on in July by the work team



Did you know that you could receive this newsletter in an Email? If you would like to "Go Green" and not receive any more paper newsletters-we would be happy to add your name to the list. By doing this you will be not only helping the environment, but each penny saved on our end, helps us make donations go even further.

On the included coupon sheet simply put your email address along with your name and write **GO GREEN!**

As a donor, your support makes a tremendous difference in building a future full of many opportunities for the kids in Haiti and also for their parents.

 **star of hope®**

P.O. Box 427

Ellinwood Kansas 67526

www.starofhope.org