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ON THE GROUND



BENEDIC MAXIME
Operations Manager
Camp Marie, Haiti

Project Living Hope came to the community of Camp Marie by the hand of God to change the life of the people. PLH is the first organization to settle in Camp Marie serving and ministering to our community.

I was very excited when I heard PLH would build a vocational school to help the youth find jobs so they can build a life and take care of their family. PLH already has an English class in Camp Marie, and I see that the students like it a lot. PLH uses soccer, basketball, and other activities to show the people who God is. I want to see my community become like one of the beautiful towns in the USA. With the work of PLH, we are seeing changes happening in our community and especially in our kids

PLH is a good project. It treats its employees well, makes disciples, and shows us how to take care of our family.

What is God's plan for our life? I can say it is an opportunity to show God's love. I know many challenges can come on the way of PLH's plan, but we know that God is still in control. That is why I just come to bow my head to ask you to keep PLH in prayers every day so we can continue to see change in our Camp Marie community.



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Project Living Hope had a lot of exciting plans for the year 2020. At the end of February, my family and I returned to Haiti ahead of the construction teams that would come pour the foundation for the vocational center and multi-purpose building and start work on our guesthouse. I was excited about launching the PLH soccer academy which is designed to allow for more discipleship of each youth. Additionally, I was most excited to resume a men's group with the PLH team and others in the community. Last year, PLH's men's group was going through a series called "Stepping up: A Call to Courageous Manhood" and we were almost done. My hope was to finish that and then start another one called "33 The Series: A Man and His Design." The men's group had been a great opportunity for the PLH team to spend time together in the Word and learn about God's plan for us as men.

When I got back to Haiti, there was some frustration among the young adults in the community who were looking for jobs but could not find any. They felt that PLH should give each of them the opportunity to work. One day, I arrived at the PLH campus to find red spray-painted messages all over the temporary gate as well as on a wall in town. This was disappointing to me and it angered a lot of people in the community.

The next day eight of the young men who had committed that act came walking to the property wanting to talk to me. I figured they wanted to make a point and possibly try to scare me into giving them a job. When I saw them coming, I closed my eyes and asked God to clear my mind and heart and approach them in a Christ-like manner. I felt a peace about their presence on the property but also felt God telling me that He was bringing me an opportunity. As I approached them, I listened to their concerns and frustrations about not working and needing money. After they spoke, I kindly told them that they could pick two people from the group to work this week but that they must learn the PLH culture and must come to our men's group that evening. They decided to give us four men to work for the salary of two, and that night all of them came to our men's group.

Our study that night was, "What is God's plan for your life?" I can definitely say it was an opportunity to show God's love. You can see why I am looking forward to our men's group. We had 26 men there that night. Unfortunately, after that night the Haitian government prohibited meetings of more than ten people because of COVID-19.

Before Haiti closed down its borders, the construction team was able to pour the concrete slabs for the vocational center, the multipurpose building, and our guesthouse. Sara and I remained in Haiti with our kids. PLH suspended all of its programs as was required by the Haitian government for the safety of the population and I took the opportunity to work on building the guesthouse. My days were busy managing what was going on at the property. Sara and the kids would come to the property several days a week to check on the progress and make recommendations.

So just like for all of you, 2020 has not looked like we hoped it would, but we know God is still in control. My family and I plan to return to Haiti in October 2020 and hope to move into our guesthouse.

Please keep PLH in your prayers. Covid can't stop good. Covid can't stop God's plan for each of our lives.

I leave you with John 14:27. Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

Guesly Dessieux
Executive Director and Founder

