



**WHITE  
FIELDS**



*Overseas Evangelism & World Ministries  
P.O. Box 1089 Joplin, Mo 64802-1089*

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*Supported by Christian Churches and Churches of Christ*

**Reggie Thomas~ Founder/Director**

**April 1, 2008**

## **Our Visit To Haiti**



We are thankful to God that He gave us the privilege of traveling to Haiti once more to visit our beloved brethren. We began the work of the Christian Church in Haiti during January 1972. Since that small beginning some 36 years ago we have seen the work of the Christian Church grow and multiply in unbelievable ways. From one small church in 1972 we see that the work of the Christian church in Haiti now numbers over 600 congregations.

### **Dr. Don Ott teaches the Preachers**

We had two purposes in making this trip to Haiti. One was to introduce Dr. Don Ott to the brotherhood in Haiti and to give the Haitian Preachers the privilege of hearing Dr. Ott teach the word of God. Dr. Ott has worked with White Fields as an Evangelist for many years. He has traveled with us into many other parts of the world. But this was the first experience that Dr. Ott had of ministering in Haiti. A large crowd of Preachers attended each day as Dr. Ott skillfully taught the lessons. We will let Dr. Ott tell this part of the story in his own words elsewhere in the newsletter.



### **A SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY VISITING THE JESUS LOVES ME HOME**

The second purpose in making this trip to Haiti was to visit the Jesus Loves Me Home. This was a "sentimental journey" for Esther and Lori. It all dates back to 1978 when Esther's heart of love for the children of Haiti led to the establishment of the Mapou Christian Orphanage. For twenty years we devoted all of our vacation time every year to working at the Mapou Christian Orphanage. With the help of our beloved brethren of the Hickory Valley Christian Church in Chattanooga, Tn., as well as many other friends we were able to build a beautiful complex of buildings at Mapou including the boys and girls dorm, kitchen, parents home, and medical complex plus the Church and School building. During all these years of building and progress our Haitian partner was Jeanrilus Delicat who also served as the Haitian Director of the Mapou Christian Orphanage.



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## A Sentimental Journey~ Visiting The Jesus Loves Me Home

Unfortunately Jeanrilus' life was cut short as he died prematurely in 1995. While Reggie and Esther were conducting his funeral service, the unscrupulous and ungodly relatives of Jeanrilus----with greed as their motive----came and destroyed the orphanage and stole all the beds, tables, chairs, electrical wires, plumbing, toilets, and showers, and when we returned to the orphanage following the funeral there was nothing left. Reggie and Esther moved the orphans to Gonaives to a temporary shelter.

In 1989 Lori had decided to take on the Orphanage as her ministry. At the time of Jeanrilus' death, She changed the name of the orphanage to JESUS LOVES ME HOME. Lori and her husband spent several years purchasing land and building a new set of buildings at a safe location in Gonaives. Finally within the past 3 months the new property has been almost completed and the orphans have moved into their new home.

This trip was the first time Esther and Lori had been able to see the newly built JESUS LOVES ME HOME. It was a joyful homecoming for them!!!!!! How we wish you could have shared the welcome as Prospere and Clotide (the orphanage parents) screamed and cried for joy as they tearfully welcomed Esther and Lori and Lacey.

### CONCERNING THE PLIGHT OF ORPHANS



James 1:27 SAYS "Pure religion before God the Father is this: to visit the fatherless and motherless in their affliction and to keep oneself unspotted from the world." From this scripture and many others we understand God takes special notice of the fatherless and motherless. Orphans who are forsaken and neglected are special objects of God's love and attention.

Sometimes the situation in Haiti has been overwhelming. Now is one of those times. Listen to the way Brother Solonique (one of the Christian church preachers in Gonaives) describes the present situation:

"These days the hunger is more crucial in Haiti. Those of you who have been in Haiti may wonder how worse it could be? It is. The famous word in the mouth of everyone now is

"Clorox." Well, you know Clorox is made to whiten/clean, but when you put too much Clorox it tears, ruins and destroys. This is the one that the people are living. The hunger is the one they label as "Clorox." It is tearing people's stomach. The situation is so critical that there is no quick fix unless, we would have a flood of rice, beans, corn, spaghetti and the like which come into the country to distribute freely. The prices are sky high. Not too long ago, we were buying the bags of cement 6, 50 USD. Well, it became 7. Then I spent less than one week outside of the country, when I came back, I needed three bags of cement, I paid 7, 50/each. Imagine. A gallon of cooking oil was also 7 USD, but now they sell 8, 40 USD. I am offering you price change in a week span. I could do that for rice, beans, etc. So the hunger is catastrophic. I am afraid of what the consequences might be. Any help in term of bringing relief to these people is welcome and will be appreciated."



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### A Sentimental Journey~ Visiting The Jesus Loves Me Home

We want you to know that Brother Solonique has not exaggerated in describing the present plight of the Haitian people. They are indeed hungry. We found that the price of food is as high in Haiti as it is in Joplin, Mo. But even worse than that is the fact that food is not available even at any price. We went into the supermarket in Gonaives where we used to find many of the same items for sale that you would find in America-----but now the shelves are bare!!!!!!! No food for sale even in the supermarket!!!!!!!!!!

#### Breakfast For The Orphans

On the Thursday before Easter we went to the Jesus Loves Me Home at breakfast time to see what Prosper and Clotide were feeding the orphans. We found all the orphans sitting patiently while their breakfast was being prepared. It was one large white piece of bread for each one, and Prosper was spreading a big piece of butter on each piece of bread. This along with a glass of colored water (flavored grape juice) was their breakfast. And the children were grateful for it.



#### MORE HELP NEEDED FOR THE ORPHANS

When Reggie and Esther began this orphan work in Haiti in 1978 they asked for \$10 per child per month to feed them, clothe, them, and educate them. They have never asked for more. But in the meantime the prices in Haiti have gone up more than 800%; in 1978 a bag of cement cost \$1.00. Today the same bag of cement costs \$8.00. In 1978 a Coca Cola cost 10 cents. Today it costs \$1.00. You can easily see that the \$10 that it took to raise a child in Haiti in 1978 now costs \$80.00 per month. Unfortunately we have not been able to ask the orphan's sponsors for that kind of money. Many of the orphan sponsors are widows, retired couples living on fixed incomes, and they cannot afford to give more. We are simply saying that we need to find more sponsors, more churches, more SS classes, and more women's groups who will help us to provide for these dear orphan children. The people of Haiti are starving and our dear orphans at the Jesus Loves Me Home will also starve unless we can find the money to provide food for their hungry mouths.

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# My Reflections On Haiti~ Lori Darnell



This is the first time in many years that I have been to Haiti with both of my parents. Because of this, a moderately easy, laid back schedule & the VERY long car ride, we were able to look back on Haiti & our many trips & experiences. This was nice for me because I haven't had anyone with me that remembers that long ago!

My joy on this trip was watching Lacey interacting with the people of Haiti & the all the children at the Jesus Loves

Me Home. I saw the exact same joy, excitement & love in her eyes & actions that I remember feeling at her age. I watched as she taught the children to play volleyball with a basketball. I remember when I taught my friends at Mapou how to play softball with a shovel handle & tennis ball. I watched as she showed the kids some of her dance moves & they laughed & excitedly followed her & tried to do the same thing. Then they started showing off for her. They made her sit down to learn Creole & she repeated it and taught them English. It was really fun to watch. Although the emotions are the same, the Haiti my daughter enjoys today is a very different Haiti than the one I enjoyed at her age!



When I look back, it is amazing to see the progress the Haitian people have made. The mud huts have mostly been replaced by larger cement block houses. Tattered & worn clothing replaced with a little nicer clothes. The streets are packed with motorbikes & scooters to serve as quick taxis to replace walking miles & miles. Gone is the red hair & bloated stomachs. More businesses have popped up on every square inch. Everyone has cell phones & there are internet cafes or internet in the homes. I never thought I'd see the day!

But don't let these advances fool you! While we talked in amazement over all these changes, we also had to face the cold, hard facts, that while Haiti has made great strides & accomplished things that we never thought possible, they have taken many steps backward. . The saddest part is that it is completely out of their control.



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# My Reflections On Haiti~ Lori Darnell

What used to be a fast 2 hour drive from Port-au-Prince to Gonaives takes 4-6 hours. Because the asphalt is ground to almost nothing in most places, there is dust everywhere. I'm not sure how the vegetation along the side of the road survives! In some places the vegetation looks as if it has several inches of snow (or volcano ash) covering it. There was a thin veil of dust hanging in the air at all times. The Haitian people have to live in this everyday. I fear they will have even more respiratory problems in the future.



We are so thankful for the well at the orphanage. The children have clean water to use at all times! Because of all the dust & remnants of Hurricane Jeanne, the water in Gonaives is worse than it has ever been.

Food is scarce in the Gonaives area. The road conditions play a factor in this, but so does the lasting effects of Hurricane Jeanne. We were told that the soil was very bad & no one could grow fruits or vegetables in that soil. We were at market several times a day & we did not see any fresh produce at all. Lacey asked for some fruit for breakfast & we were told they didn't have any. Prosper has a lot of fruit trees & a vegetable garden at the orphanage. I watched them cut down some papaya for a later meal. In a month or so they will have a bumper crop of mangoes! He also had corn growing that would be ready sometime soon. Fish was something else that was missing from the market! We were told we could not have fish for supper! That was very unusual! We have heard that Haiti has over fished it's waters & the fish never had the time to reproduce.

Prices for everything in Haiti have become ridiculously expensive, from food to schools to soap to houses to cement. A bag of plain cement is \$8 US. A 70 lb bag of rice now costs \$58 US. To feed our 30 children at the Jesus Loves Me Home 3 times a day for one month, it now costs \$2,571 US. It will cost us \$6000 US to send the kids to school!

**WE NEED HELP!!!** You cannot believe how incredibly grateful we are for the supporters of the Jesus Loves Me Home! They have been very faithful since 1978! They have been with us through the good & the bad. We love each one of them!



**But WE NEED MORE HELP.** There is no other way to say it. I will start publishing a needs list every month. The needs are tremendous! Food is a big issue! Schooling is HUGE! The children need clothes & medicine. Unfortunately the airline has restricted us & we cannot carry these items as we used to. This is another big problem! I'm in the process of trying to find feeding programs & clothes/shoes distribution. If you know of any, please let me know!

It was so wonderful to be back with Prosper & Clotide & all the children. Despite their harsh living conditions they still had the biggest grins on their faces & so FULL of love! We are planning to return to Haiti as soon as possible!

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## The Reluctant Missionary ~ Dr Don Ott



"Tap! Tap!" "Where am I?" "HAITI!" Every visitor to the western third of Hispaniola, an island in the Caribbean, knows that Haiti's most popular form of transportation is the "tap-tap." They are compact pick-up trucks, mostly Toyotas, with 12 to 15 people crammed into the bed or dangling off the side. When passengers reach their destination, their "tap-tap" signals the driver to pull over. These share the road with cars, trucks, buses, donkeys, goats, carts, pedestrians, bicycles, and an unbelievable number of motorbikes. To say you drive on the right side in Haiti is misleading; vehicles drive all over the road to dodge huge potholes and gaps in the pavement. The 90-mile trip from Port au Prince to Gonaives on Friday, March 15 took four hours!

This was my thirteenth short-term missions trip and first visit to Haiti. "The Lord of the Harvest" has given me ministry opportunities in seven countries outside the USA: Russia, China, Cuba, India, Liberia, Iraq, and now Haiti. I preached seven times for four different churches, and taught about 25 hours of leadership seminars for preachers. The expression "reluctant missionary" refers to the fact that these missionary journeys are arduous and exhausting, not the glamorous "vacation" that some imagine!

Roosters crowing and traffic noise usually woke me up about an hour before my travel alarm went off at 6:30. A cold "shower" from the PVC pipe that protruded from the wall (like washing off with a garden hose) was an eye-opener! After breakfast at 7:30, there was a dusty, noisy, stressful drive to the church building that hosted the leadership seminars. Haiti was an interesting place to do my first driving in a foreign country. At times you are literally surrounded with motorbikes passing you on both sides and emerging from side streets. Electricity and equipment problems interfered with video projection, but importing the French Creole Scriptures into the PowerPoint presentations on the laptop made it easy for the interpreter. Most of the seminar material was on "Ready for the Lord's Return!" from 1 & 2 Thessalonians, with some additional material on Pastoral Counseling.

Afternoon temperatures were in the 80s and 90s. There was time for a brief rest back at the hotel between 4:00 and 5:30 before leaving for the evening revival meeting. Only two of the four churches where I preached had electricity, so lamps and a Coleman lantern provided illumination at night. One meeting place had a dirt floor, with tin and canvas draped over poles for a roof. Outdoor toilets are the norm outside the hotel. It was usually 9 PM by the time I got back to the hotel for dinner. Preparations for the next day usually took a couple of hours, so it was after midnight before going to sleep. Reggie and Esther Thomas, and Lori and Lacey Darnell were in Gonaives Monday through Thursday to visit and work with the children's home. We stayed at the same hotel and shared mealtimes together.

Haiti's economy is apparently out of control. Reggie said in years past it was possible to visit Haiti for as little as \$200. This trip was over \$2,000 per person, as much as a mission to India halfway around the world! Imagine paying \$70 per night for a hotel with no hot water, no phone or English television, unreliable electricity for air conditioning, and no threshold under the door so mosquitoes have easy access. Dinner was usually \$10 or more, and with insurance it was almost \$90 per day to rent a vehicle. Despite this inflation, it seemed that virtually everyone had a cell phone! You could be preaching under a tin roof by the light of a lantern, and see the glow of cell phones in the congregation.

Haiti apparently does not need mental hospitals. Potential patients are given a job as bus drivers! The old school buses, often brightly painted, rumble down the bumpy roads at incredible speeds with horns constantly blaring. Good Friday is a special day for voodoo, Haiti's most prominent "religion," and the streets were filled with parading revelers. Haiti is a "world apart" less than 700 miles south of Florida. I woke up in Gonaives at 4:30 Saturday morning, March 22, and arrived home to Russellville, Arkansas at 1:00 Resurrection Sunday morning. Pray that "the Lord of the Harvest" will send many workers into the white-ripe harvest field of Haiti!



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## Growth Requires Change

In Mk.4: 28 Jesus speaks of the different stages of the growth of grain. In verse 31 He compared the growth of the Kingdom to the growth of a mustard seed. In the beginning the mustard seed is small but over time it grows to an enormous size. It has been this way with White Fields. Reggie began with a few Revivals in his youth and now in his mature years his ministry has flourished into a worldwide ministry.



For too long he has carried a load too great for any one person. Now growth requires change. More people will be required to take on more responsibilities to carry on the great work that the Lord has given to us all. As we begin to take new steps of change for greater growth, we would like to share with you some of the people and events that are occurring.

On Feb. 28, 2008, the White Fields Advisory Council met in an all day meeting to conduct the annual business meeting of the White Fields Overseas Evangelism ministry.

The following members had been appointed: Barry Kermeen, Barbara Barger, Don Ott, Tom & Laura Mullenix, Ronnie Hoyer, Don & Kay Reed, Blythe & Becky Robinson, Cliff Hazard, Doug Willis, Rick Deighton, Lori Darnell, Reggie and Esther Thomas. Tom Mullenix was elected Chairman and Becky Robinson, Secretary.

The committee reviewed the financial report for the year 2007. All aspects of the ministry were discussed including the overseas evangelistic trips, the church building projects, the orphanage projects, and the Bible College ministry.

An Executive Committee was chosen. Members are: Tom Mullenix, Cliff Hazard, Doug Willis, Blythe Robinson, and Ronnie Hoyer. These men are to serve as the decision-making body for the year 2008. Ronnie Hoyer is to serve as the Office Manager.

A period of time was spent in "break-a-way groups" planning for the future aggressive work of White Fields Overseas Evangelism.

Reggie announced that due to his age he would be "slowing down" and "stepping back" to let someone else, or others, "step up" and assume the duties he has been fulfilling the past 42 years. The Advisory Council voted to give the title DIRECTOR EMERITUS to Reggie.

We will continue to give you more information concerning the activities of the Advisory Council as the work progresses.

With your prayers and continued support we, by God's grace, look forward to greater growth in His Kingdom. Join us on our journey, remembering "Growth Requires Change."

## Growth Requires Change

In Mk.4: 28 Jesus speaks of the different stages of the growth of grain. In verse 31 He compared the growth of the Kingdom to the growth of a mustard seed. In the beginning the mustard seed is small but over time it grows to an enormous size. It has been this way with White Fields. Reggie began with a few Revivals in his youth and now in his mature years his ministry has flourished into a worldwide ministry.



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## Launching Out Into Un-Reached Nations

As the Apostle Paul said, 'To the **regions beyond**'. There are, to our knowledge, 115 nations where the New Testament church of Christ – Christian church has not been planted. These nations have no witness to **non denominational** New Testament Christianity. They have never heard of the **plea to restore** the New Testament church in all its doctrines, practices and conduct. They have never heard of the **divine (New Testament) requirements for man's salvation**.

We want to **partner** with any and all missionary efforts having the same goal. Let us **join hands** to see our motto fulfilled – '**To take the gospel to every nation before Christ returns**'. *It is time to put aside selfish aims and petty differences and unite to accomplish our Lord's commission.* There are still over 6,000 un-reached people groups that have no permanent or regular gospel witness. Millions have never heard the gospel even ONCE. Does anyone have the right to hear it twice before those who have never heard it once? Many who have heard of Christ, sad to say, have never been told what God requires of them to be saved and to receive the Holy Spirit, e.g. Acts 2:38.

We are looking for;

1. Churches to **adopt** an un-reached nation. Maybe some member has a contact in an un-reached nation, a special interest, a particular burden or leading to select a nation. Once we hear from you we will partner with you to make the preaching of the gospel and planting of a church a reality. Between the two senior White Fields evangelists alone, we have had **100 years of experience in 100 nations**.
2. Associate workers, evangelists, preachers, teachers, students - anyone who will **travel** as a short term missionary with a team to witness, preach, teach, sing, play an instrument or just share.
3. A church family in each congregation who will become a living link **prayer partner**. Someone who will invite a couple of other families once a month or bi-monthly to a White Fields prayer and praise evening where topics of praise and points for petitions will be supplied.

Please contact our office for a copy of the list of un-reached nations.



**Immersion in 2008**

**4,794 have been immersed into Christ during 2008. White Fields world wide ministries now assists 310 native evangelists in 33 different nations. These evangelists, along with our American and Australian team members, report 4,794 souls immersed into Christ for the remission of sins in January thru March. It is a great victory and we give all praise to God. Thank God for His victory and for the souls won to Christ through the power of His gospel.**



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