



The Prescribed Life...,

By Malcolm Henderson, MD

“Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers”. -1 Timothy 4:16.

Endurance is a word that is inseparable from the Christian life and inherent to our new birth in Christ upon our salvation. Why are these words so frequently used in Scripture, and what are we enduring? Endure is used 94 times in the New Testament and for good reason. As missionaries, the extent to which we endure is the extent of success experienced in building God’s kingdom on this earth.

The word endurance has a slightly negative connotation to it though. We wouldn’t say that we endure a cruise, or that we endure opening gifts at Christmas. In those cases we would appropriately use the word enjoy—we enjoy a cruise. On one hand, endurance suggests a sense of unpleasant difficulty with levels of suffering possibly involved. But on the other hand, the word endurance, unlike enjoy, also alludes toward an eventual goal or reward that justifies whatever is being endured. Enjoyment is temporal and of the moment—we aren’t still enjoying a cruise months after it’s over. But we do endure over the course of our lives for a reward that awaits us in heaven. Paul reveals this in 2 Timothy 2:3-4, **“You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.”** Paul frequently uses military analogies to speak of the Christian life. This is because we are at war—we battle the enemy every day, and therefore we must engage in war time living and endure this life of trials, tribulations, and hardships.

The author of Hebrews reiterates this thinking, *“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and **let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith..”** (Hebrews 12:1-2a). *Anyone who has run any distance knows that when your chest hurts and your legs are burning that you must endure to finish the race. If you stop running to catch your breath or give your body a break then you will not only lose the race, but there is a good possibility that you will never finish it!**

As Christians we are not quitters, because we know that this does not please our Father who set our customized race before us, and only we can run it—there are no substitute runners. If you don’t run, the Kingdom building work that God had assigned you won’t get done through you and you will miss the opportunity to glorify God with your life. Queen Esther discovered this when she expressed an unwillingness to go before the King in obedience to what God wanted her to do because it could mean her death. As she expresses her fears, her uncle Mordecai says, *“If you keep silent at this time, liberation and deliverance will come to the Jewish people from another place... Who knows, **perhaps you have come to your royal position for such a time as this.**”* (Esther 4:14). *What timeless words!*

Your existence right now, in 2015, in your city, state, and country has purpose, and it’s a purpose that was decided before the world began (according to Ephesians 2:10). So, like Esther you have come to your current position in this time of redemptive history for a purpose. Will you back down and take the easy apathetic route, or will you stand in the face of the enemy and fulfill your divine purpose on this earth saying with the prophet Isaiah, **“Here I am, send me!”** (Isaiah 6:8).

As we look forward to returning to Haiti for the remainder of this year, I look forward to having the honor of performing my Divine assignment, I am excited to see what God will do through our obedience, and I will pray daily for endurance to finish the race that God has set before me in 2015! Are you excited for your life’s assignment? Does your heart leap in your chest at the thought of God working powerfully through you to accomplish His will? And have you made up your mind to endure despite facing the weapons the enemy has prepared for you? These weapons shouldn’t frighten us as we should actually expect them. I find solace in the words of God through Isaiah, *“Look, I have created the craftsman who blows on the charcoal fire and produces a weapon suitable for its task; and I have created the destroyer to cause havoc. **No weapon formed against you will succeed.**”* (Isaiah 54:16).

*So join us in the Lord’s work to destroy Satan’s kingdom on this earth. I do not plan on retreating or ever backing down, but rather enduring “the race that has been set before” me! I pray that everyone who reads these words resolves in their hearts right now to endure, to never draw back, and together we will change the world! “My righteous one will live by faith; and if he draws back, I have no pleasure in him. But **we are not those who draw back** and are destroyed, but those who have faith and obtain life.”* (Hebrews 10:37-39)

Hello, CHARIS family!

As we get ready to return to Haiti for the remainder of this year, my thoughts turn toward all of you who haven't had the opportunity to go on a mission trip with us over the last year. I don't want anyone to feel out of touch with what God is doing through all of us, so I thought that I would use this newsletter to update everyone on all of our ministries, and what the plans are for the remainder of 2015.

EDUCATION

The children of Haiti continue to be blessed both spiritually and physically through the education ministry of CHARIS. We are currently supporting 4 schools:

Macary Community Christian School: 850 students (Primary & secondary), Cost: 2,000 US dollars/month, plus provision of food.

Bon Berger Community Christian School: 130 students (Primary only), Cost: 1,000 US dollars/month, plus provision of food.

Little Rabbits Christian Pre-school: 100 students (2-5 years old), Cost: 500 US dollars/month, plus provision of food.

DuPont Community Christian School: 145 students (Primary only), Cost 600 US dollars/month, plus provision of food.

Thus, God, in His perfect goodness, has blessed and honored CHARIS with 1200 of His children to watch over. All of these children are hearing the gospel in school and, additionally, they are praying, memorizing Scripture, and singing hymns in school, all in conjunction with their traditional education. Many of the children in our schools are orphans, and thus this is the only form of 'family' that they experience. Additionally, for most of the children, the in-school meal that is daily provided by CHARIS, is the only meal that they receive each day.

So this ministry is truly a blessing to the respective communities that receive the benefit of free education, as CHARIS pays the teacher's monthly salaries relieving the student's families from the cost burden of education, which, in almost all cases, is too much to bear. The cost of this program is high though, and does require the generosity of donors like you. **We humbly ask that as you read about the various ministries in this newsletter that you pray and ask God if He is calling you to be a part of this work. CHARIS is 100% donor supported, and since our personal support comes from distinct sources, 100% of any money that you give toward a ministry will go directly to that ministry!** With that said, we are currently in need of funding for the DuPont school. We are feeding the children at this school, but have yet to find a donor to provide the 600 dollars a month to keep this school open. DuPont, as a community, is as isolated as they come, and these children are going to school and using rocks as chairs, and torn tarps as walls and ceilings resulting in the children and teachers getting soaked during rainy season. These 145 precious children need your help, so please prayerfully consider helping with this 600 dollar/month need.

All of the schools that we support are consistently in need, whether its benches, desks, chalkboards, chalk, etc. any money that you give toward education will be utilized in a way that will truly bless the 'least of these'. In 2015 we are asking God to provide for the schools that He has given us, and to furthermore provide additional schools for us to help. The reason that we are praying and asking God to provide more schools for us to support is because the impact that this program has on the lives of these children is substantial! Without access to school, the scourge of poverty comes down harshly on these young lives. Without school these children become inevitable victims of sex traffickers, prostitution, child slavery, and vodou priests and priestesses. If these predatory realities don't snare them then a life of crime will and the desperation of starvation will lead to a complete exposure of human depravity as these children will steal and even kill in a frenetic effort to survive. So saving children from the streets, and giving them hope is work that we consider incredibly important as it has both temporal and eternal significance! If you are interested in hearing about our self-sustainability goals that this program is meant to support and eventually lead to, feel free to email me and ask: mhenderson@charis4haiti.com.

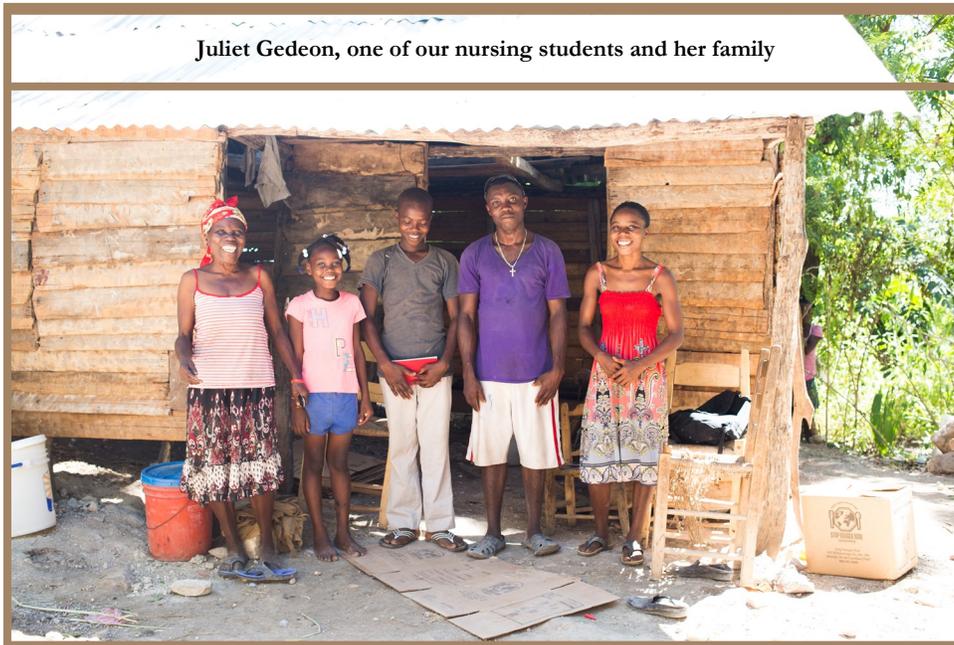
Little Rabbits Christian Preschool: Located in Peredo—a village steeped with vodou, 100 students all 2,3,4 & 5 year olds.



DuPont Community Christian School: 145 students (1-6th grade). Students walked 3 hours down the mountain to receive the donated boxes of beans.

MEDICAL

Evangelism has dominated so much of our efforts over the past 3 years, that even though medical ministry has been performed, it has not been developed to the degree that we desire—but that is about to change! Allow me to first catch everyone up to speed with what is being done now. A little over a year ago CHARIS began a program that offers young Christian Haitian women the opportunity to go to nursing school under full financial support. These women must show leadership ability, they must desire a better life for themselves and their families, they must possess a proven work ethic, and they must be born again Christians who will use their nursing skills to care for people in a Christ like manner. Once identified, via the above mentioned criteria, CHARIS enrolls the young woman into nursing school in Jacmel (the biggest city in our state of Sud Est). The enrollment fee is 250 US dollars and then 50 dollars a month for the 9 month school year. **The program is 4 years long, the 250 dollars is owed at the beginning of every school year, and the 50 dollars a month covers the programs tuition and the local transportation cost to get her to and from school.** This, of course, is a great opportunity for you as a donor. The cost per month to change a young woman's future and provide her with a very marketable skill set, is less than we spend on our daily coffee! The agreement is that these women work to triage patients at our porch clinic that we perform twice a week. The community comes to our literal porch, the nursing student takes down their complaint, takes their vitals, and, if the problem is simple (aches, pains, colds, etc.), then she will treat them with over the counter medication that we bring from the States (Advil, Tylenol, allergy medication, Tums, Zantac, Aleve, etc.). If the problem is more complex, surgical, or she is not comfortable with what she is seeing, the nurse in training will refer the patient back to me to care



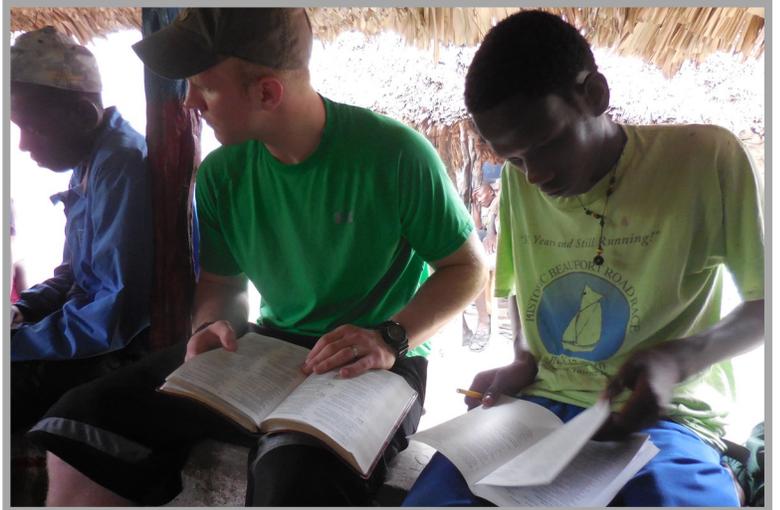
for. After she graduates, she is required to work with CHARIS for the number of years that she was supported, which is 4 years. After 4 years, she can decide to stay on with us, or go out into the national work force with a recommendation from CHARIS. So that is where we are right now—supporting young women through nursing school, providing a porch clinic for the poorest of the poor in our community who can in no way afford to go to a clinic or purchase medicine. My desire for this upcoming year is ambitious, but it is God's work and therefore nothing is too big or difficult to perform if He wills it! I have spoken with various corporate field partners about this, and they appear to be on board. My desire, that I have prayed about and felt peace about is to develop mobile clinics which could lead to permanent standing clinics if needed. My field partners would donate some sort of off road vehicle capable of pulling a load of supplies. John Deere gators have been discussed, and a vehicle like this is what is desired. Initially we would identify isolated mountain communities that have no access to medical care, doctors, or medicine. We would bring supplies into the community using the off road vehicles. I would ideally want to bring our nursing students, nurses, American nurse practitioners (some have expressed interest in committing to doing this), and any general medicine doctors I could get. We would then drive into the community, set up our mobile clinic, and line the community up and assess the overall health needs of that unique community. CHARIS would then provide what they could at that point, but more importantly, it would give me the knowledge that I need to write up proposals to hospitals, health care providers, and pharmaceutical companies to supply for the given community. If the need was excessive, a permanent clinic, staffed by one of our nurses would be established. If an established clinic was put in place, then I would be in constant contact with the nurse staffing the clinic receiving the requests and needs that would stabilize the community from a health care perspective. **Of course, everything we do is used to spread the gospel, and thus Bible distribution, and evangelism would coincide with the development of a medical outreach to the given communities. Therefore, if you are a medical professional, phlebotomist, CNA, or just have an interest in medicine, we would love to have you come to Haiti to help in this area of overwhelming need. If you are not so keen to work physically in this area, donations are always needed for medicine, supplies, and transportation costs into these areas. Even though we are completely gospel focused, we must remember that optimal health optimizes the human capability to hear, understand, and receive the gospel—that old adage goes, you can't save a dead person.**

EVANGELISM

Evangelism is the sole reason that God called us to work in Haiti. All of the humanitarian exploits, feeding programs, schools, and clinics are great, and they are definitely necessary to both optimize the Haitian's quality of life, and relieve the people of tragic realities that are purposed to hinder the proper hearing and understanding of the gospel. **In essence, everything that CHARIS does in Haiti is for the purpose of reaching people with the saving gospel of Jesus Christ!** Whether we are sharing the gospel of Christ with people as they are having a tumor removed on our dining room table, or Christ's name is being lifted up to children in the classroom, the focus never changes. We exist to glorify God, and if any of the work that CHARIS is performing in Haiti isn't accomplishing the revelation of His glory—than our work is futile and exists as filthy rags before our Lord! **I say all of this to bring to light the understanding that despite the compartmentalization of ministries in this newsletter, it must be understood that the gospel and the sharing of its saving truth saturates all that we do, and that will always remain a non-negotiable aspect of CHARIS!**

I want to update everyone on two areas of the ministry of CHARIS that focus directly on evangelism, and they are the vodou ministry, and the house church ministry. The vodou ministry, which involves directly engaging vodou priests and priestesses in spiritual conversation with the common goals of sharing the gospel, and building relationships with the priest/priestess, his/her family, and their community. This ministry has been incredibly successful, but don't for a minute give any man credit for this. **We are in the spiritual farming business—all we do is plant seeds—the growth of that seed is not within our power.** The words of the Apostle Paul are relevant here as he references the mission work being performed by himself and Apollos, *"What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? They are servants through whom you believed, and each has the role the Lord has given. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth."* (1 Corinthians 3:5-7).

With that said, the Holy Spirit is doing amazing things within these camps of demons. Vodou priests engage in direct relationships with demons. Through the beating of drums the demons can be summoned, they can actively possess individuals, and they have incredible levels of power which they are freely allowed to display in the form of healing, astral projection (soul leaving the body), animating dolls or animals, and killing amongst a host of other horrifying manifestations. **Thus, it may appear to be a foolish venture to walk into the literal dwelling places of demons and attempt to share the gospel with those who are in bondage to these demons and have been for generations that, in some cases, span centuries. But in mission work we must realize the power and authority that exists within us through the Holy Spirit.**



If our Christianity is only relevant and claimed when things are comfortable, safe, and secure, then we are no better than a boxer who claims to be an unbeatable champion but has never actually gotten in the ring against an opponent. When I open Scripture and read passages like *Isaiah 41:10*, (*"Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you; I will help you; I will hold on to you with My righteous right hand."*), and *Colossians 2:9-10*, (*"For the entire fullness of God's nature dwells bodily in Christ, and you have been filled by Him, who is the head over every ruler and authority."*), I choose to believe those words with complete faith. If those words are true—and we know without a doubt that they are—then what should I be afraid of? What should any of us be afraid of? So as soon as I open the Bible and share the gospel with these victims of demonic lies and bondage, something amazing happens. Their countenance changes, they appear almost relieved, and more times than not, they ask me to tell them again with a child-like giddiness. Regeneration of the heart happening right in front of me—what an honor this is to witness!

No rites have to be read, no buckets to spit the demon into, no convulsing or heads spinning, and no shouting of Latin phrases. Exorcism is simple—open the word of God, speak it out loud, and the demons flee. Just consider how simply Jesus rid people of demons, and we have His Holy Spirit living within us! *"When evening came, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed; and He cast out the spirits with a word..."* (Mark 8:16). Just think about it. If a prince was kicked out of the palace and stripped of his authority and told that he could never return, but he went out into the country and began to exercise princely authority over the residents there, he would get away with it until one thing happened—someone from the royal family showed up. A true son of the king would identify the fallen prince as someone with no authority, and this truth, once revealed, would free the people! This is all that I have to do in the vodou camps. I am a son of God, and I, like all of you who are saved, am a member of the 'royal family'. Therefore, when I show up, the demons must flee because their defeat, that has already occurred, is exposed, and the people are saved through hearing the truth of who their adversary really is—a defeated, hell bound, fallen spirit!

We have seen hundreds of vodouists come to a saving faith in Christ, and the devil is being actively beaten. Stay true to the true mission of Christ, *"The Son of God was revealed for this purpose: to destroy the Devil's works."* (1 John 3:8). Currently we are actively evangelizing 13 vodou camps, having weekly Bible studies with the vodou priests and their families. If I am in the States, my partner in this

ministry, Destiny Mavoy, carries on the weekly studies and reports back to me about what is going on in the camps so I can pray specifically and effectively.

So this year we are praying and asking God to provide us with access to 20 more camps at a minimum. The village of Peredo, where we are currently performing this ministry, has 56 vodou priests, and I am praying that by the end of 2016, every one of these camps has been reached with the gospel, and that several churches will have been planted. Right now we are in need of a church to be built in Peredo, and a vodou priest has offered me his land, free of charge, to build a church! What a win for Christ!! **In the same location where the drums were beaten to summon demons and their lies and plans were propagated unopposed, a church is now going to be erected and their previous 'territory' is now won for Christ!! The light is truly penetrating the darkness, and people's eternal destinations are being changed—praise God for His Sovereignty, and we thank Him for allowing us, in our fragile humanity, to not only perform this ministry, but to see the fruit of the labor!** Your prayers and support are making this ministry effective, and I want you to think of yourselves as the warriors for Christ that you were born to be. When any of us wake up in the morning, Satan shudders knowing that more of his plans will be destroyed by the glory of the light of Christ that shines through our obedience!!

The other arm of direct evangelism that CHARIS performs involves our house church. I'm sure that all of you remember that we started the house church in obedience to what God was telling us. In Haiti we witnessed the regrettable cultural practice of religious ostracism based on poverty. The poorest of the poor, who couldn't afford to buy 'church clothes' (dresses for women, and slacks/button up shirts for men), were not allowed to come into the church. (In many cases this was probably a blessing secondary to the level of heretical syncretism that exists at most Haitian protestant churches—but I regress). So after praying God placed it on our hearts to open our home to give these social 'outcasts' a place to call their church home.

We based our thinking on **1 Samuel 16:7, "But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look at his appearance or his stature, because I have rejected him. Man does not see what the Lord sees, for man sees what is visible, but the Lord sees the heart.'"** Therefore, we combed through our village announcing our house church 'opening'. The first week 56 people attended, and now, a little less than a year later, over 200 people are attending, and there is obviously not enough room in our living room to accommodate this many people.

The people are so excited about their new church that meets in our living room that they have asked if we could have church every day. Well, as much as I would love to allow this, I can't when I consider the many other responsibilities of our ministry. But, we do have 4 services a week—Sunday morning, Sunday evening, Wednesday evening, and Friday evening. Some of you who have attended our mission trips have gotten the privilege and joy of witnessing these services and watching people, who literally have nothing, crying out to God in complete faith and desperation. It is a beautiful thing to experience this and I truly believe that this simple group of young Haitian Christians, who definitely qualify as the 'least of these' in our world could definitely teach our current mega church, rock and roll worship, million dollar sound system, seeker sensitive, non-reverent American church culture a thing or two when it comes to authentic worship and prayer. **So it goes without saying that we are in need of a church building to meet the demands of the growing attendance and the spiritual hunger that our community is displaying.** For many of them it is the first time that they are hearing a true gospel, and we are seeing true spiritual change within our community result! **From amoral to moral, from selfish to selfless, from hateful to loving, and from darkness to light. This is the bride of Christ, and we are making sure that we are preparing her for her Groom!**

Our plans for the upcoming year is to find land, purchase it, and build the church. Of course, we need your help to accomplish this, and I can't think of a better way to utilize your money then to glorify God through supporting the erection of a beacon of spiritual light-- a place for His worshippers to congregate, fellowship with one another, and edify the body of Christ in Haiti. This is the definition of Kingdom building work on this earth and we would be honored if you would help us bring this project to fruition!



COMMUNITY

The development of Christ centered communities lie at the heart of the mission of CHARIS. **We have a strong belief that God does not send His missionaries out into the world to Americanize communities.** The culture of individual ethnic groups is unique, beautiful, and should not be destroyed, altered or deemed as 'uncivilized' by Western arrogance. The only exception to this rule occurs when culture is supporting and/or sustaining evil. For example, there is nothing wrong with dancing in church, as the Haitian people are very celebratory and energetic in their worship—so even though this may be 'strange' to your average conservative American evangelical Christian, it is a form of cultural expression within Christian Haitian worship and should be respected. On the other hand, Haitians consider the practice of vodou as cultural, but calling vodou cultural, is a brilliant tactic of Satan. By making vodou

Our many mission trips this year have encouraged community, brotherly love, prayer support and cultural-sharing.

synonymous with Haitian culture, Satan has simply wrapped the worship of demons in a nice pretty package and called it culture, which the world tells us to both tolerate and accept, and anything less would be cultural discrimination. This is when we, as Christians, must act in our role as God's watchmen and refuse to exchange our concern for the souls of our human brothers and sisters for the lies that are being sold under the banner of 'social tolerance'. We must represent God and His Word on this earth, but in order to do so we must know what His word says, and on this issue it is clear, *"Don't participate in the fruitless works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what is done by them in secret."* (Ephesians 5:11-12). **Therefore, CHARIS is taking an active, obedient role in creating Haitian communities that, through the sharing of the gospel, will become founded in Christ as they remain held up by the continued cultural practices that make Haiti the beautiful and unique place that God meant it to be!**

CHARIS is currently involved in community development both spiritually and physically. One such involvement is our sponsorship program that is quite unique as it veers away from traditional methods in this area. The reason that our program is different is because we inquired of God and obeyed what He told us to do. Our prayer sponsorship program was created—no single children and no money, but rather, families and prayer—thus the **'CHARIS Family Prayer Sponsorship'** program was born, and we were not honestly prepared for the success that this model was going to reveal. Since there are no men in any of the family photos, many of you have prayed for the male figure to return to the family—it is happening! Many of you have prayed for salvation—it is happening. Many of you are praying for homes and consistent food for your families. Well you will be happy to know that there are several additions to homes beginning to go up, and CHARIS has been being blessed with containers of food from the generosity of my uncle. In fact, we are receiving 84,000 pounds of food in a few weeks and your families will be fed in response to your prayers.

Observing this program actually convicted me, and I would like to share this conviction with you. How we have lost sight of the power of prayer in American Christianity, and what I absolutely love about this program is that not only Haitian families are benefitting from your prayers, but all of you are getting to witness the miraculous power of prayer! It is my hope that this spurs all of us to a whole new level of faith, and a determined commitment to daily prayer for all aspects of

our lives and those who God has placed in our arenas to receive our prayers for them. Thanks to everyone who has agreed to pray for a Haitian family, and I can also tell you that we have had dozens of individuals come down to Haiti and actually spend time with their Haitian family who they are praying for and this has been impactful in every one of their Christian walks—I encourage all of you to do the same—if you are able, come to Haiti and visit your family—the blessing will be reciprocal, I promise!

If you haven't yet signed up for a Haitian family to pray for, I encourage you to go to our website (www.charis4haiti.com), click on the **"Do Something"** tab on the home page, and scroll down to sign up for a family to pray for. You will receive a family card in the mail, and 3-4 times a year you will receive an email from my wife, Joy, updating you on the status and current prayer needs of your families allowing you the opportunity to pray both generally and specifically for your family!!



Donate Online or by Mail: (One Time or Monthly)

To make a secure online donation using your credit card, log onto www.charis4haiti.com or send a personal check or money order to the following address:

CHARIS, Inc., 3015 E. New York Street, A-2, #295, Aurora, IL 60504

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Mission Statement

CHARIS operates in complete obedience to God, giving Him His rightful place in determining the path and goals of His ministry that He has, by grace, allowed us to perform. Thus, CHARIS, primarily focuses on the unseen spiritual needs in Haiti, and secondarily on the seen physical needs, always remembering that our success is completely dependent on the will of God, the gospel of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit working effectively through us, His willing servants.