

EBENEZER GLENN ORPHANAGE



It's a New Year

HELLO 2019!

The year started off with a wagon ride and lots of fun and food, followed with movies and playing games during New Year's week. The children returned back to school after Christmas break and teams worked alongside of Ken to get the kitchen cabinets built for the four finished housing units. We were finally once again able to get cement blocks and continue the construction on the four houses. Our fundraiser for the Palms of Victory Housing Units ran from Nov - February and brought in roughly \$25,000. We want to say thanks to all who dug deep and helped us to raise this amount. However, we still need \$75,000 to reach our goal and hopefully many of you will be able to contribute as finances allow and God leads you.

EGO is alive and thriving because of you!

EXCITING NEWS!

Other exciting news for January was the placement of Majuste Mercurie, as the Interim Pastor at Tabernacle of the Activities of God. Many of you already know him as the husband to Talante, our client nurse. He is a man with compassion and understanding and a love for the Lord that guides and directs him.



During February, Marla and Samantha returned to the US to take care of taxes and have Samantha's bridal shower; however, due to the outbreak of riots shutting down the country of Haiti from February 7 - 23; they were unable to return. The following is a post written by Cindy Corell, mission co-worker at PCUSA, and we think she says it better than we ever could:

The trouble is that there really isn't a "normal" anymore. Opposition forces had called for demonstrations for March 7, but they didn't materialize. Now there is word that tomorrow (March 8) might be a dangerous day. President Jovenel Moise and Prime Minister Jean-Henry Ceant are still offering plans to bring the chaotic economy to some order, but we haven't noticed any differences. Inflation is still close to 15 percent. The gourde, though it has increased in value, is still at 80-82 HTG to the dollar on most days. The highest it reached was close to 87 to \$1 at the height of the protests.

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NEW WEBSITE UPDATE!

We are so thrilled to finally be able to share with you our new EGO website! Thank you to our amazing team of people who helped make this possible- we hope you love it as much as we do! Check it out today!



NEW CHURCH BENCHES

The last team to EGO this winter was from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and brought the funds to build eight church benches for a new church in the mountains of Gonaives. A shout out to our oldest boy, Kervens, for the awesome welding job on these benches. Ken and the boys have delivered them and they began using them Sunday, March 10th.



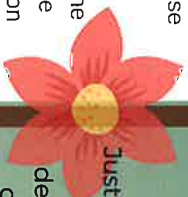
The new church benches!

Gasoline right now is readily available, but diesel is more difficult to find. It is understood that the U.S. company bringing in the fuel will need cash payment for the next delivery, and no one is confident the government will have that cash (more than \$1 million) on hand. The Petro Caribe funds scandal is no closer to resolution. It was the spark that ignited the surprise violent protests of early July 2018. The scandal encompasses the disappearance of more than \$3.8 billion dollars from a Venezuelan program that reduced the cost of fuel to Haiti and lent billions of dollars to the Haitian government to reinforce the country's economy and social systems. But none of those improvements came to be, and now the bill is due for repayment.

Deep government corruption, leading to skyrocketing inflation, the devalued currency and the recurrent fuel shortages (which lead to electric power and cell service shortages) has left the populace furious. Radical opposition parties have led most of the protests, but everyone is on edge, whether there are protests in the streets or not. The U.S. State Department has held the Threat Level Alert at 4 since Feb. 14. A visit on March 1 from Under Secretary of State David Hale did little to assuage fear the threat level will remain at its highest level. This is the same threat level as Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Yemen, South Sudan and Syria. According to news reports, Hale was here to encourage dialogue among Moïse, Ceant and opposition parties.

American Airlines, Delta and Jet Blue already have reduced flights to Haiti. Much of the economy here depends on those visits, so taxi drivers, hotels, resorts and restaurants are hurting for business. So we wait. We don't know if the protests will begin again tomorrow, and if they will, if they will be calm. If you are planning a trip to Haiti in the next few months, reconsider. At the very least if you intend to come: please stay in touch with your hosts; keep up with current events; register with STEP through the U.S. State Department website; consider any type of travel and/or evacuation insurance coverage you can find (more difficult to come by under the Threat Level 4). Make arrangements to fly to places far from Port-au-Prince because criminal activity is on the rise and traveling groups can be targeted; consider that if you are stranded in-country by dangerous protests, you will be taking up valuable resources of food, water and other necessities.

Most of the time right now with the appropriate precautions, being in Haiti is safe. The problem is that can all change in a heartbeat. Haiti lives under a heavy cloud of uncertainty. It's scary and frustrating. And it is the latest in the long, long string of injustices against the people of this country who work so hard and dare to dream of a better way. Prayers, as always, are covered.



John 16:33 (NIV)
"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Just so everyone understands, at no time during these demonstrations was the ECO compound or the town of Dessalines in any danger. Ken and the children of ECO are all safe and doing well. The problem lay in getting into other cities for food and medicines or to the airport, due to blocked roads. Marla was able to get funds and much needed medicines into Ken to help them continue to purchase food and necessary hygiene items, thanks to the wonderful help of Missionary Aviation Fellowship (MAF).



KITCHEN CABINETS

Our teams hard at work on the new kitchen cabinets!



Thank You for you spiritual and financial support!!
Because of your generosity we can continue to spread the gospel by word and deed in the greater Dessalines, Haiti community. THANK YOU!!

Donate by check to:
ECO Business Office
1726 Gun Club Road
Caro, MI 48723

Donate online at:
www.ebenzerglennorphnanage.org

ECO FAMILY UNIT FUNDRAISER

Building a Better Kind of Care

ECO has been home to hundreds of children over the last 4 decades. Raising many from infancy to adulthood, equipping them to be responsible leaders and contributing members of their communities. Over the years we've learned a lot about how healthy children develop and we've seen the the negative impacts of large institutional type orphanage settings. It's time to move the ECO children into a better kind of care, group family care. We are building family unit homes on the ECO compound that will each be home to 6 children of varying ages and a host parent(s). Family size care! **Check out our website and fb page for more information! THANK YOU!!!**



WWW.EBENZERGLENNORPHANAGE.ORG

As we spring ahead with our time this week and look forward to the rainy season and all the wonderful produce that it will bring, we ask you to continue to pray for ECO and the country of Haiti. Please consider giving a little bit extra over the next two months to help ECO; as we make our food purchases in a country where the price of food has almost doubled since last year.

With love and gratitude,

*Ken & Marla Drowley
& the rest of the ECO Family*