

END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR **UPDATE**

As we come upon the end of another school year, we reflect on God's blessings at the JAK Academy and our partner schools throughout the year. We are extremely grateful to those who choose to serve the children of Haiti through an annual school sponsorship.



Our sponsorship letters were recently mailed out and we hope that you continue to sponsor and give an education to the beautiful children of Haiti. If you do not currently sponsor a child and would like to, please contact Breanna, our Missions Coordinator, at breanna@mission-haiti.org.

We are also looking forward to our annual supply distribution that is coming up next month! We are looking for 1,400 backpacks and many pairs of shoes to bless students in the Mission-Haiti sponsorship program with! If you have any items that you would like to donate, please contact **Tim Mulder** (tim@mission-haiti.org) or **Emily Berndt** (emily@mission-haiti.org). We need your help! †



If you feel led to donate to Mission-Haiti, please visit mission-haiti.org/donate.

NEW TEACHERS **AT JAK ACADEMY**

Mission-Haiti has been praying that the Lord would fill our open teaching positions at the JAK Academy. The Lord, always faithful, has provided three incredible ladies that will be joining the JAK Academy teaching staff and the Mission-Haiti family this summer! We are very blessed that these ladies chose to join our team in Haiti and share the desire to make a difference in our students' lives. Let's get to know them!



Krista Hovland

Krista is from Thompson, Iowa, and recently graduated from Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa. While at Northwestern, Krista had the opportunity to do her student teaching in Papua New Guinea. Krista was drawn to Mission-Haiti when she visited the JAK Academy in March. On that trip she learned about the work Mission-Haiti is doing and saw a need that she could help fill. She instantly fell in love with the students, the missionaries, and how each thing they do is done with a Kingdom purpose. Krista is most excited to live in the Ti Rivière community and is looking forward to meeting community members and seeing her students outside of school.

Favorite verse: Psalm 107:2 – “Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story, those He redeemed from the hand of the foe.”



Marissa Wiese

Marissa is from Orange City, Iowa, and also recently graduated from Northwestern College. She fell in love with the country of Haiti on a trip she took in high school. Marissa has always wanted to use teaching as a way to serve others. She was drawn to Mission-Haiti because she saw an opportunity to accomplish this alongside an organization that is rooted in faith and building the next generation of Christian leaders. Marissa is most excited about becoming immersed into Haitian culture, doing home visits, exploring a new part of the world, and worshiping alongside brothers and sisters of all ages in each other's languages – one of the most beautiful pictures of God's kingdom uniting.

Favorite verse: Romans 8: 28 – “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.”



Paige Baker

Paige is from Luverne, Minnesota, and recently graduated from Augustana University in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Paige has a huge heart for children and has been working with them her whole life. She first visited Haiti when she was a junior in high school and instantly knew that God was calling her back. When she visited Mission-Haiti and the JAK Academy, she was drawn to our staff's love for God and hearts for service. She saw the hearts of the people in Haiti and knew that it was the place for her. Paige is most excited about meeting the students at the JAK Academy and creating relationships with their families and other members of the community.

Favorite Verse: Philippians 2:3-4 – “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.”



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NEW MISSIONS COORDINATOR: **BREANNA BURKLUND**



Breanna Burklund has recently started her new position as the Mission-Haiti Missions Coordinator. Breanna graduated from Augustana University in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, in May 2018. She comes to us with a passionate desire to serve others, as well as a lot of experience. During her time at Augustana, she had the opportunity to work as an intern for AsOne Ministries and was able to spend four months serving in Africa earlier this year. Breanna was drawn to Mission-Haiti because of our staff’s passion to serve and the mission that our organization embodies. She saw that everyone was on fire for a good cause and wanted to be part of it. Breanna’s main responsibilities will include taking over the sponsorship program and organizing and leading short-term missions teams.



Favorite verse: Isaiah 6:8 – “Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”” †

MEDICAL CLINIC **UPDATE** ▼



The building phase of Mission-Haiti’s new medical clinic is complete and the finished product is exceptional! We are very pleased with the design and layout of the building, and we believe it will help us efficiently serve those with medical needs. The next step in the process is staffing the clinic. We have hired Bethany Perissien as the clinic administrator and are currently interviewing for the lead physician position. We have a couple Haitian

candidates that we believe would be an excellent fit for this role! Following this, we will be hiring two nurses, a lab technician, pharmacy technician, registrar, Haitian administrator, housekeeper, and a grounds crew, creating many new jobs in our community. Over the summer, we will be hiring and training the staff, and furnishing the clinic with the hope of seeing our first patient in October! †



▼ **THANK YOU, KRISTEN**



For three years many students, eager to learn, have entered the PK2 classroom to the greetings of Miss Neufeld. Students came and went day after day not fully understanding the many different ways that Kristen has impacted their lives – but one day they will. They will think back about their time at the JAK Academy and remember their PK2 teacher and how much fun they had learning in her classroom. They will remember what she taught them about school, life, and most importantly, Jesus.

Kristen’s impact goes far beyond the classroom as well. She came to Mission-Haiti with a huge heart and a desire to serve people. Over the past three years, that is exactly what she has done. Many community members have been impacted tremendously by Kristen’s kindness, love, and compassion toward others.

Team members have enjoyed Kristen’s passion for service and her genuine joy that comes through Christ. Last, the Mission-Haiti family has gotten to learn from and grow with a woman who is strong, courageous, and whose love for the Lord knows no end. We have no doubt that Kristen, rooted in faith, will continue to serve the Lord in everything she does.

Kristen’s journey to Mission-Haiti started with a simple email that she received as she finished her education at Redeemer University College in Ontario, Canada. Over the next couple of months, Kristen spent

a lot of days and nights in fervent prayer discerning God’s calling and whether she was being led to Ti Rivière. God revealed His plan to her and with the certainty that her calling was Haiti: a place where she knew God would stretch her, grow her, and bring her closer to him. She left her family, her closest friends, the man she had just started dating (now her fiancé!), and took a leap of faith trusting in God’s glorious plan for her life.

In the three years since she took this leap, Kristen has called Ti Rivière home and has been a loved member of the Mission-Haiti family. She has given her all to the community and the JAK Academy, which she says has become her heart and soul. From the first day she met her students in 2015 they have been more than just children coming to school every day to learn. They are her inspiration. They empower her, and have taught her: what it means to find joy in all things, what it means to rely on Christ’s strength in weakness, and what it means to have the faith of a child.

This is just one of the many things she says she will miss most about Mission-Haiti. She says she will miss her sister, Cassie, her missionary family, and her orphanage family. She will miss the little things: the early morning rides to school, watching the sunrise outside her classroom, spending time with the children in the community, visiting the elderly, and the pure joy of the Haitian people that only comes through Christ.

Kristen will be moving back to Canada at the end of the school year to marry her fiancé, Denzel Blair. The two have been dating long-distance for three years, and are excited to start their life together. Their hope and prayer is to someday return to Haiti together and continue to serve with



Mission-Haiti. Kristen would like to come back to the JAK Academy to serve the students as she has for the past three years.

The way Kristen has served the community of Ti Rivière, her students, and Mission-Haiti with her whole heart will be missed as she moves into the next chapter of her life, and we will always be grateful for the years that she gave us. Kristen has been an incredible role model for the children of the JAK Academy and the Mission-Haiti orphanage, and anyone else who has crossed her path. Ti Rivière is truly a better place because of Kristen’s faithful service to the community and, most importantly, to the Lord.

Thank you, Kristen, for the lasting impact you have had on so many people. Thank you for embodying what it means to follow God’s calling. Thank you for living out our mission to love Jesus, love others, and make disciples. Most importantly, thank you for being an example of what it means to be a disciple of Christ. †