Outreach Partnership Program Updates

Thank you.

Thank you for showing up.

Thank you for celebrating the small joys and big wins, finding creative ways to fundraise, advocating for the mission of Outreach, sharing our story, being a mighty voice for this important work and partnering with us to support local leaders and community-led groups who are developing lasting solutions to poverty-related issues.

We envision a world where communities are working together to overcome the challenges of chronic poverty and your partnership makes this vision a reality. Thank you! We are proud to present you with this partnership update so that you can get a glimpse of the good that your generosity makes possible in the country you choose to support. **Enclosed you will find a copy of your 2020 giving report which includes a summary of the contributions made towards your partnership throughout the year.**

Finally, we've also enclosed a recognition gift as a token of our appreciation for your continued support! We hope that this gift finds a place where it can be proudly displayed and shared with those that made this possible.

2020 was a challenging year for all of us, but if anything, we've learned that together we can do hard things. Thank you for your continued partnership. Through grace and grit, we will continue to change the world together. From everyone in the Outreach family, thank you for your trust and support. You make so many good things possible!

*We hope you enjoy this March 2021 edition of the Partnership Program Updates! If you need more resources to share with your group, please visit our website at **outreach-international. org/resources.** If you have specific questions about your giving report or just want to say "Hello!", please contact Marsha Penrose at m.penrose@outreachmail.org.*

School's Back in Session in Haiti

The 2019-2020 school year in Haiti was afflicted by unforeseen interruptions and unusual challenges. In the fall of 2019, political demonstrations and unrest in Haiti kept many students out of school. Later, COVID-19 led to nation-wide school closures from mid-March to June 2020. In Haiti, and internationally, students missed a significant amount of school.

While many school teachers in Haiti went without pay for months during school closures, Outreach continued to support the dedicated teachers in our School Program and, together with Community of Christ, provided meal kits for over 300 families during the summer months.

A SHIFTED SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Only 62% of people in Haiti over the age of 15 were considered literate in 2016 (UNESCO Institute of Statistics) and virtual learning is nearly impossible due to limited internet access. Making up for missed school days, therefore, is of critical concern.

To make up for lost time, schools reopened in August 2020 - a month earlier than usual. As mandated by the Haitian government, students wrapped up their 2019-2020 school year between August and mid-October, then began the 2020-2021 school year in the first week of November. Rather than ending as they normally do in June, classes will extend through the end of July 2021.

For many families in Haiti, lost income due to COVID-19 put school-related expenses out of reach and kept students from returning to school in the fall. In the 63 Outreach-supported schools, however, school enrollment numbers have decreased by less than 1% since last school year. 5,728 students are back in school, and schools are taking extra health precautions to ensure that they can stay in class. School staff are promoting mask-wearing, physical distancing, and handwashing in order to protect students and teachers. Additionally, the 19 school feeding programs are up and running again this school year, providing 1,748 children with hot meals each school day.

Despite the challenges over the past year, children attending the 63 Outreach and Community of Christ-supported schools feel fortunate to be able to attend school with the support of generous people like you!