



## GraceNotes

Chez Moi Orphelinate de la Grace  
Port-au-Prince, Haiti  
Grace Scholarship Fund

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### Greetings from student, John Smith Deshommes:

Merry Christmas, dear friends! I am so grateful to all of you at Grace Missions, Inc. for making it possible for me to be a student in the School of International Diplomacy at Academie Nationale Diplomatique et Consulaire (ANDC).

I have chosen to be a student of diplomacy and international relations because such a career will give me many opportunities to help Haiti develop good relations with other countries that will prove invaluable to all involved.

As a student of diplomacy, I am learning to be observant, to analyze complex situations, and to enter into dialogue with others. So far I have taken 12 courses giving me 24 credits in courses such as Geopolitics, Humanitarian Rights, Political Sociology, English, Spanish, General Geography, International Relations, Diplomatic History, and Diplomatic Correspondence, to name some of them.



My grades are quite good and often excellent. I'm happy to report I've earned an A+ in Spanish and Statistics, A's in Sociology and Microeconomics, a B in accounting, a C+ in Justice and Judicial Procedures, and a C in Introduction to Political Science.

I want you to know that I study long and hard as a university student because I dream on day of being a representative of Haiti who serves his country with dignity and excellence. With your help, I hope to become an outstanding diplomat.

Please keep me in your prayers just as I give thanks to God for all that you are doing on my behalf. I promise to keep you posted as to where God is leading me.

If you wish, befriend me on Facebook!

*John Smith Deshommes*

## BUCKS FOR BEDS CAMPAIGN

by Sherri Greer

Thanks to your generosity through donations, and to the Faith Lutheran Church Mission Endowment Committee for their gifts, our dream and goal of new mattresses for the orphaned girls at Chez Moi Orphelinate de la Grace has become a reality. Thanks be to God!

We have funds remaining which we will use to have these new mattresses pre-treated for insect infestation and to purchase mattress covers. And, if we still have funds left over after these purchases, we intend to buy some very necessary fire prevention equipment and possibly pay toward a small loan owed by the Grace Missions, Inc. Board. The loan was for emergency expenses at the orphanage.



## LETTERS OF THANKS

by the Girls at Chez Moi

Each one of the girls at Chez Moi has recently written to say "Thank you" to everyone who loves and cares for them. Here are four girls whose pictures you will enjoy seeing and whose "Thank you" comes from their hearts to you.



*"I love you all who are supporting me. Thank you for your patience with us. May God bless you."*

*Dalina*



*"I love you much with all my heart, and Jesus loves you! Merry Christmas!"*

*Charlanday*

*"Thanks! I love everyone who helped me. Merry Christmas!"*

*Edna*



*"Thank you for what you have done for me. Merry Christmas!"*

*Tania*



## **BREAKFAST SERVED TO SUPPORT CHEZ MOI ORPHANAGE**

**by Andy Harnack**

On Sunday, December 8, members of St. John Lutheran Church, Griffin, GA served breakfast to over a hundred parishioners, the proceeds going to Grace Missions, Inc. To all who baked, grilled, made coffee, set the tables, washed dishes, and helped clean up, we say, "Thank you, St. John!" Don't hesitate to do something similar at your church!



## **NEWS ON STUDENT STEVENSON DIMANCHE**

**By Ellen Granum**



Dear readers of GraceNotes,  
As we want each of you to feel a closer connection with the 18 girls and the 4 young men whom we support, from time to time we will go into a bit more detail about one of them. Recently Stevenson Dimanche has had a fairly harrowing experience seeking treatment for his eyes that only a resident of a third world country might have experienced. About three months ago, one of the other young men wrote, "It hurts me to see how hard it is for Stevenson to see when he is studying." At that point a decision was made by the Board to send Stevenson to the Dominican Republic (D.R.) for a more thorough examination. Easy enough you might think, but in a third world country things are slightly different.

Stevenson says:

"It is not as simple as it used to be. It is very hard to get a Dominican visa as these two countries have problems together, so the D.R. does not let a lot of Haitians get into its country now. I have my tickets and they cut the road. A lot of Haitians have been killed in the D.R. The company just called to tell me that they are sure we will make the trip this week. Sometimes I feel like crying to have glaucoma in my little age."

Our Board president, Pat Mundt, responded this way:

"I really think it is going to be a prayer answered that we sent Stevenson to the D.R. His situation is indeed a medical emergency. He has been examined by an ophthalmologist and a specialist in retinas. He has had six or seven different tests. The doctors are now consulting. It is beginning to appear that he may not have glaucoma, but a disease of the retina which can result in total blindness if not treated. Evidently there is fluid in the retina which will have to be corrected surgically. This determination will be made tomorrow. Stevenson's trip to the D.R. was financed by metal art sales. His expenses to stay longer are more than anticipated (more living expenses and numerous medical tests). I have asked Larry Shultz, our treasurer, to wire Stevenson \$900 to cover the additional expenses, but there may be more. Servants of Christ Lutheran church in Indianapolis is sending funds to help cover his medical expenses. Stevenson himself offered to give up a semester in school to save money. We hope this will not be necessary. We are making a critical investment in Stevenson's future. He wants to be an ophthalmologist. The treatment he is now receiving will help insure that future. He has made his professional dream known to the D.R. physicians, and he has educated them on the enormous need for medical care in Haiti."

Stevenson has since reported:

"I got my injection inside of my eyes. It was so hard for me, but I accepted it for having my treatment. I have all the pictures to send you, and I also have all the receipts available for you. I am ready to send them whenever you want me to. I have also the pictures of my retina trouble. I got everything to prove (payments). After a long day in Dominican, I was tired but I could not stay to take any rest after my treatment. I had to come to Haiti quickly as I had 2 exams today from 8o'clock, and I have 2 other exams again this week. So while I was in D.R. for treatment, I got all my books and notebooks to study with my right eye. On my way back to Haiti I was thinking about what kind of sentence should I start with to thank you for your amazing help for my eyes to see. I am asking how we can make you happy when we will be done with our career to be a real professional. You don't only help us to reach college, but you help us go forward with everything! Let me thank you again a thousands of times!"

Again, Pat wrote back to Stevenson:

"We love you and are so very proud of you. And we are very, very grateful to the doctors who correctly diagnosed the problem with your eye and treated it. That you are so faithful to your dream of becoming an ophthalmologist is ever evident in your seriousness about your studies. You thank us with your seriousness of fulfilling your dream."

Since this correspondence, Pat has informed the Board that "Stevenson is back in Haiti." She received a message telling her that he had the injection to "glue" his retina together and that he was returning to Haiti to be back in time for two university exams in the morning. Pat is quite right to say, "This man is a 'trooper'."

## **MORE GOOD NEWS ABOUT JOHN SMITH DESHOMMES**

**by Pat Mundt, President, Grace Missions Board**

Grace Missions, Inc. scholarship student, John Smith Deshommes, has been chosen by his university, the National Academy of Diplomatic and Consular Affairs, to be a part of a social education movement that partners with the Leadership Institute of the USA. Dr. Miguel Moreno was the speaker in a seminar John Smith attended recently. Dr Moreno is the Director of the Leadership Institute of the USA. Students chosen to be a part of this social education movement, and that includes our John Smith, will, in time, visit government institutions in the United States. John Smith will first attend several seminars in Haiti followed by some seminars in Virginia, and some in Washington, DC. The schedule is not known at this time.

We are so proud of John Smith and not the least bit surprised that he has been selected for such a special honor and education.

## **HELP!**

**Rent in Haiti is paid in advance. What this means for Grace Missions, Inc. and how you can help.**



In Haiti, it is customary to pay yearly rent for large accommodations in advance. Grace Missions, Inc. is obliged to pay \$10,000 annually in order to provide housing for our 18 girls at Chez Moi Orphanage in Port-au-Prince. To make such a payment in 2013, we had to borrow \$6000 on a six-month bank loan; we now need to repay that loan at \$1000 monthly. In December your contributions made it possible for us to return \$1000 to the bank; our debt balance is now \$5,000. If you are blessed financially, will you help us repay the entire loan as soon as possible? To help Grace Missions repay this loan on time, send your contribution earmarked as 'loan repayment' directly to :

**Grace Missions, Inc.  
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## **PS: A NOTE FROM THE EDITORS**

Dear friends of Grace Missions, Inc.,

We hope you have enjoyed this issue of GraceNotes. With a new design allowing for more extensive coverage, we packed this issue of GraceNotes with interesting information and good news. Don't hesitate to send a copy to your friends.

*Ellen & Andy*