

RESTORING HOPE

a ministry to ORPHANS

HopeUpdate
February 2004

A Short, But Significant Life

Dear Friends & Partners in Ministry,

You may remember that in the December newsletter, we celebrated the arrival of Delouie at the rehabilitation centre in Chilliwack. Two weeks ago, he suddenly but peacefully left his challenges behind and went home to his Heavenly Father.

I first met Delouie at GLA orphanage, high in the mountains above Port-au-Prince. He was in deep trouble. As a baby, a hypoxic episode left him severely impaired so his widowed father had left him at GLA. At age 3 he could still not walk or speak. He was heavy for the nannies to pick up, so he sat in his chair all day. The orphanage could no longer care for him so he was soon to be moved to a facility for disabled orphans.

I have written extensively elsewhere about the treatment of such children in various orphanage systems; without the advocacy of parents, many are exposed to horrendous neglect and abuse. Haiti is no different.

Delouie's general health was very good, and it seemed clear that bringing him to Canada was the only way to change an otherwise inevitable outcome.



During his time in Canada, Delouie's life changed. He began to speak – in fact he hardly ever stopped. In his walker he was fully mobile. The King family who were caring for him received as much love as they gave, and his incessant smile touched everyone he met.

On February 24th, about 200 people gathered at Chilliwack Alliance Church to say farewell to this very special boy. We did not expect Delouie to die, and so there were many tears. But we also celebrated a profound and positive change - not just to the outcome for Delouie, but for those who through him, had caught a glimpse of what can happen when we reflect God's heart for the abandoned.

Please pray for Frank & Esther King and their family. They truly open their hearts and lives to all the children at the centre and we pray for God's peace as they grieve.

Pray also for all the orphans of Haiti – especially those we know at the GLA and Kenshoff orphanages. Amidst the present unrest, their situation has become even more perilous.

In His service,

Stephen

URGENT – Help Needed!

We need to increase our shipments of clothing boxes; we have immediate opportunities to expand existing programs and the possibility of several new ones on the horizon.

We urgently need volunteers to check and sort the clothes, do any minor repairs, provide short-term storage, and drive consignments over the border for dispatch by US Mail.

Details of the Volunteer Program will be circulated in the next few days. If you live in the Lower Mainland/Fraser Valley area please begin to prayerfully consider how you would like to be involved.

Y's Men International

For the past two years, the Y's Mens Clubs of the Pacific NorthWest Region have chosen Restoring Hope as their World Service Project Partner. For the 2004/5 project we will be asking them to assist with the provision of additional beds for the HIV unit, Special Orphanage #7, Moscow.

Please pray for continued effective cooperation with this very generous group. We are truly blessed by their support.

Haiti Rehab Program

Some of the children waiting to come to Canada for assessment are at serious risk. The exodus of missionaries and other foreign nationals due to safety concerns has left many orphanages with little medical expertise.

With the administrative collapse of some Haitian government services, it is currently impossible to get passports for these children. Some countries including France and Spain are making special concessions to allow the temporary immigration of medically fragile orphans. We are asking the Government of Canada to make similar concessions. With their cooperation we will make immediate arrangement to transport the most fragile of the waiting children. We are very thankful that this program is currently well funded with generous partners having contributed over \$13,000 since December.

RESTORING HOPE

18039 58A Avenue, Surrey, BC V3S 1N7
Phone 604-576-6823 Fax 604-576-1108
Cell 604-728-2112 info@orphans.ca

WWW.orphans.ca