

Merry Christmas from the Mompremiers--2011

United Christians International

12/10/2011

Unitedchristiansinternational.org

Psalm 66:1-2, 4

"Shout for joy to God, all the earth! Sing the glory of His name; make his praise glorious... All the Earth bows down to you; they sing praise to you, they sing praise to your name."

Dear friends and family;

A different kind of December

It's important to me to tell you what it was like growing up in Caiman, Haiti—even if you've heard me say it before. December is the month dedicated to more vodou worshipping than any other month. Children of vodou practitioners came back so that they can worship a particular god/spirit where they were born. December, in my childhood, meant lots of drums each night, many people drinking, people paying lots of money for sacrifices, and people not bathing because their god told them not to. This went on all around me and, let me tell you, it was not a time of 'good cheer.' But, this is not true of Caiman today.

"When we look at these kids singing, we realize how different their lives would have been without the gospel!" --JeanJean

In February 2005, UCI started its ministry in this area. The top priority was to share God's Word. Through God's blessings, God's Word has worked in the hearts of the people who were lost in the fear and domination of vodou. There are no witchdoctors practicing in our area. In fact, we have 2 new singing groups that have formed in our church. I can say, conservatively, that 80% of the kids in this group are sons or daughters of former vodou witchdoctors or practitioners. When we look at these kids singing, we realize how different their lives would have been without the gospel. The groups are called Union des Freres (United Brothers) and Coeur d'Ange (Hearts of Angels). Please pray that these kids continue to grow in their love of God and stand firm in their witness.

We would like to travel to other churches and tell the story of how an area can change with just the gospel. If every church in Haiti could share the gospel with those caught in vodou, what a revival that would be! Pray that Christians won't be afraid to witness or think that those in vodou deserve their fate.

When we looked at the kids and youth in our community, we saw a need for good Biblical training—not just for theology majors or pastors-to-be, but also for every future leader. Without Christian farmers to

Christmas gifts

Thank you to all of you who have sent Christmas gifts to the children in Haiti. By my estimate, I will have over 700 gifts to give out this Christmas! I can't wait. All the kids in UCC school, UCI's 7 nutrition centers, our 2 churches and 4 other local churches, 2 local schools, and a children's gardening group will be receiving a gift of love. What a wonderful way to share Jesus's gift of salvation with the children. Pictures to come in the next newsletter!

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Union des Freres singing "We're not singing for anyone but God"



take care of our environment, teachers to teach the Bible in school, mechanics with a heart to serve, nurses and doctors who show care, and lawyers, carpenters, cooks, and all others who want to help their communities, our world will not be transformed by God's love. With that in mind, we have started construction on the School for Bible and Trade. Westgate Church of San Jose, CA caught the vision for training future Christian leaders and is funding this project. Here it is:



Thank you to Westgate and to all the others who have supported us in prayer for this endeavor. Our goal is to give men and women good Biblical and practical training that will allow them to return to their communities to start 'wholistic' ministries where God plants them. We want to develop these leaders so that they look at their fellow man body and soul. Jean Jean's goal is to tell each of the students how UCI started. We want to stress the dependence on God; we don't want to stress that it depends on one set method. God can work in many ways, but the key is to let God lead and to follow. God brought UCI through many difficulties and has taught us many good lessons that we want to share with others who have a heart to serve.

Today, our hearts are full of the true blessings of this season. You probably didn't live in a community that was predominantly vodou. Nevertheless, God's love transforms all who receive it. Reflect on what God has done for you in your life. Think about what life would be like without Jesus's gift and praise the Lord for grace that He gives us. Don't take the Christmas season for granted! Jesus was a real baby and is alive today as he was 2000 years ago.

May the rest of 2011 be filled with blessings and have a great New Year.

The Mompremiers



UCC 2nd graders in computer lab



UCI employees celebrating Thanksgiving—Haiti style



Pump irrigation garden
And this is the dry season!

Merry Christmas to you all

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