

NICAISE & MADELEINE AVIGNON FALL 2024 NEWSLETTER

We appreciate the opportunity to share with the families of Woodland Hills Church some of our challenges and successes, hopes and dreams we experienced and treasured in our hearts over the last 3-4 months.

MISSION WORK FOCUS

Many of you may know about the difficulties the country of Haiti has been facing, especially over the last 3-4 months. Violent armed gangs continue to wreak havoc in and around the capital city of Port-au-Prince and even further in other departments such as the Artibonite region. The insecurity situation in the country has worsened despite the presence of multinational troops assisting the Haitian national police and army in the fight against the gangs. The south of Haiti where COFHED operates is still practically cut off from Port-au-Prince, a situation that has fanned the flame of galloping inflation with sky-high prices for most goods and services.

Despite this terrible scenario, our COFHED team on the ground, just as before, continues to move forwards with our organization's operations of service to marginalized families in many areas such as education, healthcare, farming and environmental protection, economic development via microcredit lending, and continuous training and coaching of community leaders. We and our engaged communities continue to make progress in our joint activities for the benefit of children first and foremost and for the well-being of families in their respective communities in general. For more information about our community work progress, you are invited to look at our **COFHED Impact Report for Fiscal Year 2023-2024**.

What we hope and dream for in our hearts is that the people of Haiti would experience some peace and security for their lives. If one were to ask the average Haitian in Haiti what her or his deepest desire is, the answer would undoubtedly be security for Haiti. This answer would top even other basic needs such as food, healthcare, and housing. So, we invite you all to continue to pray to our God in Jesus' name for peace and security for Haiti.

A little bit about ourselves



Some of you may be aware of my (Nick) struggle with prostate cancer. After undergoing radiation therapy, my PSA levels continued to rise. This summer, a new treatment plan was suggested, and I began chemotherapy immediately. Thankfully, both my mind and body are responding positively to the treatment, as my PSA levels have now dropped three consecutive times to zero. This is the target my oncologist was hoping to achieve. With this significant milestone, he has given me the go-ahead to return to Haiti for mission work. We are incredibly thankful for this substantial health improvement and remain deeply appreciative of the prayers of our friends and supporters as we seek complete healing from this illness.

Our Grandchildren



Elodie

Berlinda



Sabine



Voltaire



Joshua

Gabriel

At this stage of our lives, we seize every opportunity to see and spend some time with our grandchildren. They are so adorable, each and everyone of them, 9 total! Over the summer, we had a chance to be in MN for some time and we were privileged to see them and cherish them. We always pray for these young, precious lives, asking the Lord to bless and protect them along with their moms and dads and families. Time spent with them was the highlight of our summer!



Cooper & Madi

Coda & Jace



Leo

Meeting with friends in North Carolina

We took a break from work to meet with some dear MN friends of ours, Nancy and Tim McNeil, in Bryson City, NC. We all enjoyed a peaceful and relaxing weekend in the town countryside, and we had a lot of fun on a Smoky Mountain Train ride overlooking the beautiful Tuckasegee River down below. We'd do it again!



Having lunch on the train during the ride

OUR GRATITUDE

For more than 20 years, Woodland Hills Church has demonstrated immense love and support for us and our mission in southern Haiti. We truly appreciate this unwavering commitment and do not take it lightly. God only knows how He will bless this church community for their faith in Jesus Christ as they help cultivate the seeds of God's Kingdom here on earth. Thank you for standing by our side!



Smiles from students of Le Jardin des Rossignols community school in Raymond, southern Haïti.