

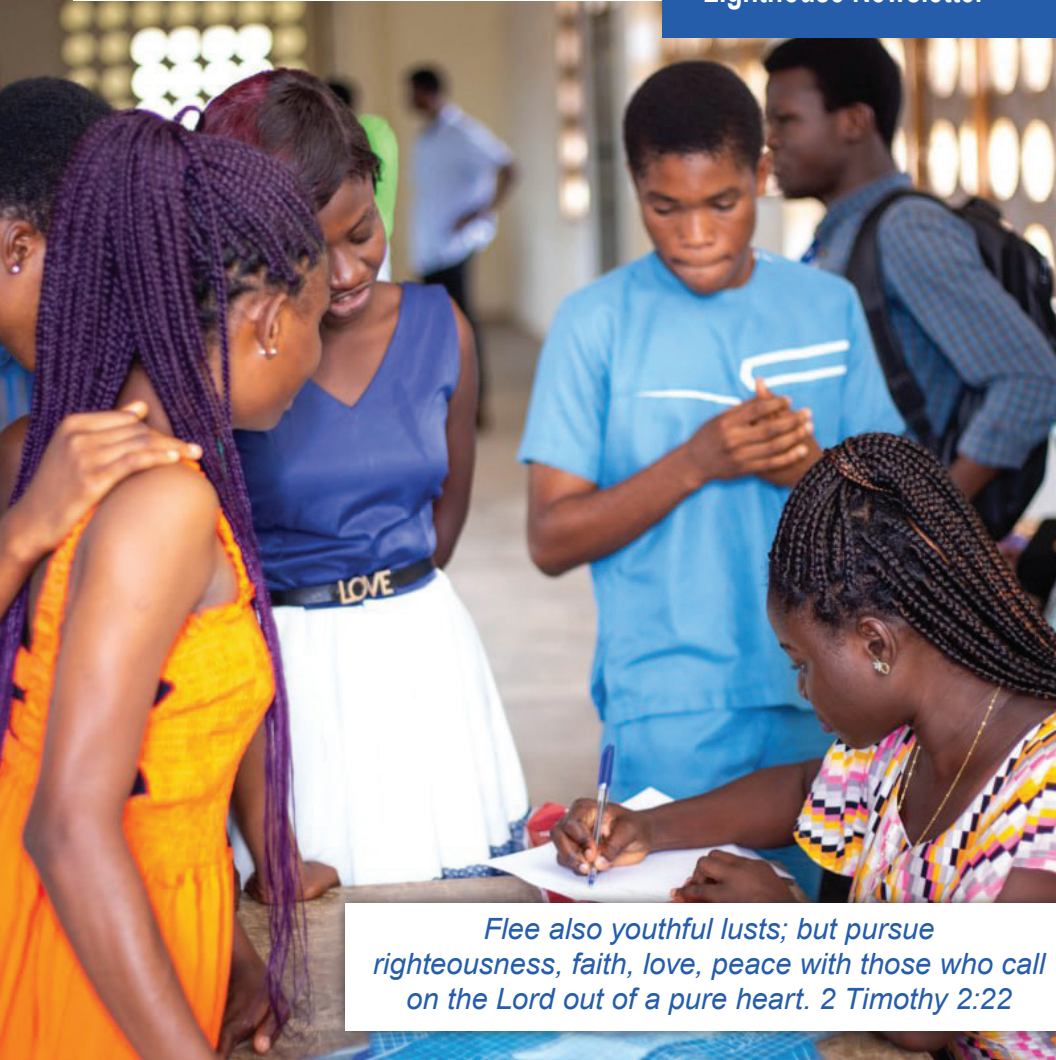


LIGHTHOUSE

MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

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Lighthouse Newsletter



Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. 2 Timothy 2:22

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Redeemed Vocational School

Lead me by your truth and teach me, for you are the God who saves me. All day long I put my hope in you. Psalms 25:5

Our only hope continues to be in God. Every day we humans make this world a messier place to live in. This has been a rather depressing newsletter to write. Life here in Haiti has not improved. Some things are about the same and some things are more complicated.....

The gang situation in Haiti remains unchanged. They still control the road to Port and anyone passing through pays for the 'privilege' if they're lucky enough not to be kidnapped. Everything is expensive and difficult, and everyone is trying to leave.

For the past 2 years we've done most of our shopping in Santo Domingo: Car parts, food, school supplies, etc..... however,

in September the Dominican government closed their borders to Haiti. They said it was in protest of an irrigation canal that Haiti is building for a river that originates in the DR and passes into Haiti. I'm not sure if they think their water levels will be affected or if they think Haiti won't buy as much produce from them if they grow more of their own. I tend to think that it served as more of an excuse to deport Haitians than an actual reason for the border closures. (Relations between the DR and Haiti have been strained for a long time. Many Haitians are living there illegally, but to be fair, the DR makes it impossible for most Haitians to fulfill their visa requirements. A visa can cost up to \$800 US dollars, is only good for one year, and requires you to stamp back into Haiti every thirty days. Dominicans are a warm and welcoming people, but they are also





capable of extreme racism. The most chilling example I've seen is watching them laugh and make fun of the trucks full of Haitians being deported. It's an unsettling experience.) The DR reopened their border after almost a month, but they only welcome Haitians to come buy from them and that's it. Haiti retaliated by closing their border until the DR agrees to a more 'normal' agreement. And so, we are at an impasse..... waiting to see who wins this 'stare down'. Personally, I think Haiti should hold out for 5-year visas and 6-month entry stamps.

Since the border closure we've been making a ten-hour trip over extreme mountain roads to Jacmel for all our banking and shopping needs. In some ways it's easier, (I only have 1 currency to deal with instead of 3) but it's a super exhausting trip.

On a much lighter note, Redeemed Vocational School had an excellent year. We graduated a hundred students in September. Graduation is always a huge blessing – it's a chance to celebrate with our students and appreciate everything they've learned and accomplished. Attendance was probably at least twice as much as last year. I'm guessing maybe 1000 people attended, and every vehicle in our small town was there. It was a little overwhelming to see just how many lives our little school has touched.

Rejoice with us for every blessing God has poured out on us and pray for our country. Pray for Peace and for a competent and fair government.

Hoping in God,

Wismith & Rebecca Joseph

Journey into Significance Conference

In our search for meaning and purpose in life we often find ourselves turning to the wrong sources, filling our minds and bodies with various substances and activities to fit in with our peers, fix ourselves, mask pain, avoid truth, escape from reality, or indulge our lusts; but never attaining the lasting satisfaction and true peace which is only found through the healing power of Jesus Christ. The pitfalls and temptations associated with our increasingly connected world are being felt in Ghana as well as in the rest of the world and social media has taken peer pressure to an entirely new level.

With your funds LMI was able to support a program that facilitated a conference for junior high and senior high graduates and dropouts. The conference provided a platform of trust for those already addicted to seek help from the facilitators (speakers) and other professionals. Teaching was giving on how the youth can avoid

negative peer influence and equipped them to be able to influence others with good virtues. The importance of taking academic work seriously was stressed. It created a space for them to strengthen their relationship with our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. A sampling of the topics used at the Journey into Significance conference: Born of God, Identity and Self-worth, Time Management, Peer Pressure and Sexuality, Substance and Drug Abuse, Developing Leadership Principles and more.

One of the facilitators wrote: "With my experience as a youth Pastor for close to two decades, I realized most of the children who get into various addictions fall within the range of children entering either the high school or universities. I have seen very great kids with wonderful talents turning out to be serious drug and sex addicts. This bleeds the heart of many parents and other significant others who have higher expectations

for their wards as they go higher in the education ladder. This is always the case because parents and significant others spend a lot of time providing for the physical needs of these children neglecting the cultivation of very important virtues that will help these younger ones to make productive





decisions as they face new people and new environments with different challenges and temptations. Apart from the afore mentioned, the rate of addiction defense rolling on social media erases the guilt of addiction thereby drawing many including Christian young folks.

These and many others inspired the idea of the Journey into Significance conference. The BIG question was how to equip our youth in the churches who fall within the scope of this program to be able to stand the many temptations they are bound to face at higher levels of education and also how we can use them as significance ambassadors to also impart to their peers positively in any education institution they happen to find themselves. Even though we are looking at negative peer influence combat, the information this conference looks at communicating will be useful at all settings of life.”

It was encouraging to see some

of the participants approach the facilitators and confide in them some of the dangerous addictions they were battling. The youth had one-on-one interactions with the facilitators who identified those that had good standards and committed to good living, those who are facing the temptation of going the wrong way because of situations and environment, and those who have serious addictions and need help to reform. At the end of the conference they were scheduled for follow-up counselling. The youth who had high school experiences shared their testimonies with the junior high graduates and were able to encourage each other.

Pray that today’s youth in every nation would grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ and the strength of the Lord; rising up as faithful servants and courageous warriors in the kingdom of God.

Faustina Finds Faith

Faustina is a ten-year-old girl. She is living with her grandmother in the village. However, Faustina has a medical condition that keeps the fluid in her head from draining. This makes her head much bigger than average.

“Grandma, what are you doing?”

“I am finishing the sewing I promised Madam Pearl I would complete. It’s too bad you fell again yesterday. You don’t remember when she came for a fitting, do you?”

“No, I guess not.”

“I know you do the best you can, Faustina, but you have been getting worse recently. You’ve fallen unconscious three times this week. I’m not getting stronger, either. I can’t carry you inside when you have a spell.”

“I’m sorry, Grandma.”

“I know, I know. It’s nothing you can do. I’m worried it’ll happen when you’re out on the street or beside a gutter. You could get killed. Faustina, the only thing I see happening is that you go live with your mom again.”

“Oh Grandma, Mom has four children to take care of already. Do you know how old Blessing is?”

“She’s six months already. Remember the day we went to visit her?”

“Yes. She was only one month at the time. She was just starting to smile. What do babies do at six months?”

“She’s probably almost sitting up

by herself. You’ll have to find out when we go in two days.”

“Two days? Hallelujah!” Faustina skipped with joy. Suddenly she stopped.

“Grandma?”

“Yes, dear?”

“I will miss you. You’ve been so good to me. I’ll try to be a good girl for Mom.”

“Good for you, Faustina.”

Faustina was able to move in with her mother no problem. The three boys and baby Blessing were thrilled to have a babysitter as they had been left to themselves a lot. Mom still needed to go to the sawmill to pick up a load of wood scraps. These she took to a wood burning sight where the ladies worked together to bag charcoal. Faustina’s mom had taken only several days when Blessing was born. There was no extra cash around and she could not afford to lose a day of bagging.

Faustina’s dad had passed away when she was three. She only remembered him faintly. The twin’s dad was helping to send them to school, as well as Blessing’s dad was helping her.

Faustina hoped she would be able to go to school some day. With her condition she did not have much hope of being able to work to support herself. Already children were poking fun at her. They were calling her

strange and running off.

Faustina told Kojo, "Someday I am going to be completely healed so that I can do things like other girls do. I feel so useless!"

Kojo smiled and nodded. "Soon," he mumbled. He knew Faustina needed courage to keep going, even though he didn't believe she could. Only yesterday her body had twisted and convulsed until he was sure she was dying, only to have her wake up and ask what he was doing staring at her like that!

"Who's that coming?" Faustina stared. "That's the lady Mom was talking with after church last Sunday! Mom isn't here today."

"Hello," Caro greeted the little girl sitting in front of the house. "How are you?"

"We are fine. How are you?"

"I'm doing fine as well. Faustina, I talked with your mom on Sunday and she gave me permission to talk with you. There are a few things I need to know from you, then there is a possibility you will go to school."

"School? Me? Really!" Faustina glanced cautiously at Caro. "Wow."

"Yes. There is a program called LEAF (Lighthouse Education Assistance Fund) They make it possible for people like you to go to school and even to have a surgery to repair the tube that doesn't let the fluids drain. Has your mother been doing something to see if you could get better?"

"She took me to a herb specialist one time. She said she had the right mixture of herbs that could cure me. We used up all the herbs and there was no change. Then there were so many other things that needed to be paid we didn't go again.

That evening when Faustina's mom came home everyone was eager to meet her. "Mom. Mom. A lady named Caro was here. She said Faustina is going to go to school. And Mom, she said she knows of a doctor that could do a surgery for Faustina so she wouldn't have this condition anymore."

"What do you think, Faustina?" Mom studied her quiet daughters face. "Are you willing to make it happen?"

"That's what Caro asked, too. She said, 'do you think you will be serious, Faustina?' and Mom, I said, 'of course!'. This is the best thing that could happen to me."



Board Report

“Behold the tabernacle of God is with man, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, God himself shall be with them and be their God” Revelations 21:3.

It is one of the greatest wonders of God, In spite of all His infinity, He chooses to fulfill His will on earth through the hearts of sinful man.

Kingdom work is all encompassing. A calling that reaches into every area of our lives on a daily basis. The cup of cold water , the kind word spoken, to the protecting of each other’s souls. How shall we answer this call ? How shall we complete so great a mission? As we approach the Christmas season I have to think of God’s prophecy , “and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us” Mathew 1:23.

Even today through God’s spirit ,He is able to build us up and preserve us. It is His promise to preserve us that is most precious. Our homes , our marriages , our churches, our schools, not only locally,

but worldwide.

As the spiritual warfare continues, the needs can seem overwhelming but I need to remind myself that this is God’s Kingdom, this is His work, and He is faithful and has the power to fulfill His work and to preserve it.

When I consider the work that is being done by the organizations that Lighthouse Ministries International has partnered with, I see God working. When I see the support from our local community, I know God is working. “this is the Lord’s doings and it is marvellous in our eyes.” Psalms 118:23.

Thank you, and may God bless you for your prayers, your support, and your generous donations this year. It is our prayer that God can continue to bless this Kingdom work and preserve it like He did with David. “and the Lord preserved David withersoever he went“ 2 Samuel 8:14.

Marvin Weber



A special thanks to Calvin Frey for his 10 years of service on the LMI board.

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