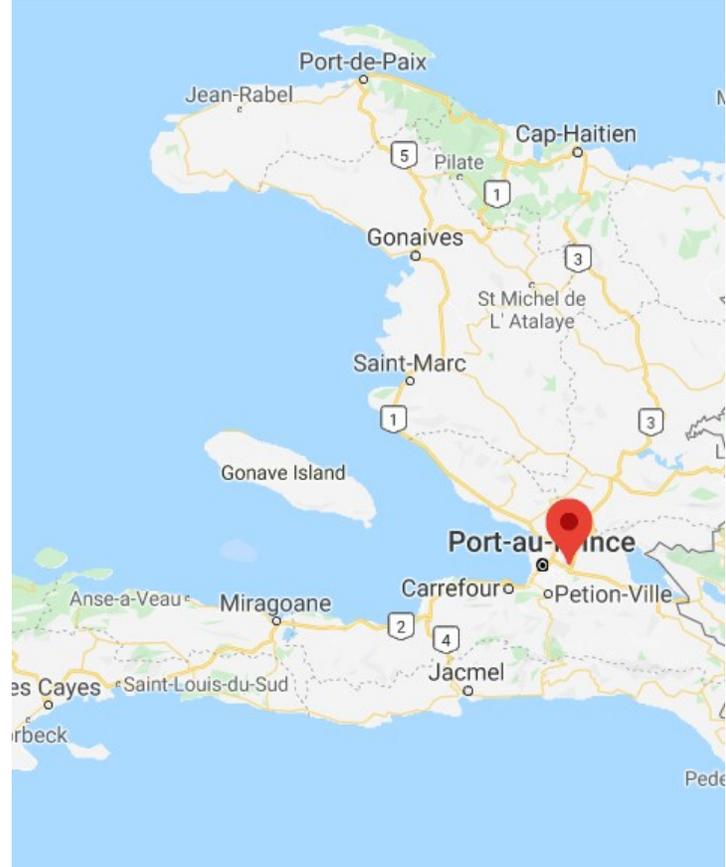


Canaan is located just outside Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Many people resettled in this area from tent cities after the earthquake in 2010. The population is estimated at 289,000 people, and around 5,000 people live in the hillside area surrounding the partner church.

The community's land is parched, and few crops are grown here. Some families raise goats. The biggest challenge is access to clean drinking water. Many people purchase water which is difficult with the small income families earn. As a result, people often collect rainwater and do not filter it properly, causing diseases. There are few latrines, so most people use the bush. The closest hospital serves 100,000 people, and the people have limited access to health services.

The majority of the community members identify themselves as Roman Catholics and the rest as Protestants. Many families also practice voodoo, a mixture of Caribbean and African practices. Pastor Lea leads the congregation at the newly built Wesleyan church. The church is very active in the community with Sunday services, midweek services, Bible studies, children's activities, and home visits for prayer.



Village Profile

The partnership with Eastern Hills, Encounter Church, Rivertree Community Church, and the Western New York District began in August 2018 with the focus on developing the school and community surrounding the Wesleyan Church. In 2020, Houghton Wesleyan Church joined the partnership.

Completed Activities 2018

School

World Hope International (WHI) partnered with Global Partners to complete the construction of the school. The primary roof structure existed with the plan to have 15 classrooms. The property was repeatedly flooding with rain, so the first construction project was a retaining wall to keep the water out. Instability and the inability to travel in-country caused many delays with the construction.

The Wesleyan school is currently utilizing the church building while waiting for the new school building on the property to be finished. Partitions are used to separate classes from Pre-K to Grade 7. In 2018, 100 kids registered at the school, and 65 children regularly attended.

Water

There is a large cistern in the front of the property filled with purchased rainwater to bathe the kids, wash hands, etc. There is no lock, so the community is also filling buckets from the same cistern. They purchase separate water to drink. WHI's Director of Water and Sanitation assessed the possibility of drilling a well and identified a local organization to do the drilling.

Latrine

The latrine on the property now has a functioning toilet, and the community is no longer filling buckets here as a water source.

Completed Activities: Jan - Sept 2019

Peyi Lok (Country Lockdown)

Starting in February 2019, Haiti faced violent protests throughout the country, with many demanding the resignation of the president of Haiti, Jovenel Moïse. Demonstrations worsened with food and gas shortages paralyzing Haiti. Many non-profit and aid organizations ordered evacuations because of the extreme unrest and violence. WHI halted all travel for US-based staff and mission groups.

Water Borehole

WHI partnered with Blue Ridge International for Christ to drill a well. After being drilled, the water was tested for quality and was found to be brackish. While it will need to be desalinated to be safe drinking water, the water can still be used for construction, washing clothes, hand washing, and household use for the community members. Solutions for a simple and sustainable desalination system are still being explored.



Church

The Wesleyan Church, led by Pastor Lea, is attended by 60 people, and most of the children from the congregation attend the Wesleyan school. The leaders reach out to the community to bring more children and their families to the church and school.

Child Sponsorship Update

The new school year started with great hope in September for 100 children, of which 22 were sponsored through WHI. All one hundred students received uniforms and basic school supplies such as a notebook, pencils, and pens provided to the school and teaching materials. Unfortunately, the country experienced another violent lockdown in September that caused schools to be closed until early December. Gangs with guns were often seen on the main road outside the school, causing roadblocks.

Construction of the School

Two classrooms were completed with concrete floors and block walls. In addition, the perimeter wall and the area for a security gate were completed.

Completed Activities: Nov 2019 - March 2020

Holiday Celebration

The children celebrated the new year after the holidays in January with activities including devotions, a parade, jokes, sketches, a movie, and an awards ceremony. WHI provided prizes and food for students to enjoy. After a very tense few months, children were happy to return to school and celebrate being together.

Solar Power

WHI partners with Sonlight Power, an organization that uses solar power to share God's love with the world's most vulnerable communities, to provide solar power to partner schools in Haiti. In February, one of the representatives visited Canaan to evaluate what system would be needed to power the school after the construction is completed. Recommendations were made for panel placement and the construction of a small building to house the battery system safely.

School Closure

Innocent people continue to suffer as violence from protests and gang-related activities persist. While schools resumed in December, frequent roadblocks and demonstrations still occurred. On March 19, President Moïse announced two patients had been quarantined after testing positive for the COVID-19 virus. All airports, schools, factories, places of worship, and seaports were immediately closed to halt new virus cases. WHI staff shared information in Creole with community coordinators to help prevent the spread through hand washing and social distancing.



WHI- Haiti Staff: Kensley and Luciano

Kensley is a leader in the National Wesleyan Church and is currently serving as the Director of Education for Haiti's Wesleyan schools. Kensley has enjoyed building a relationship with the leaders in Canaan to help achieve success in the school and the Child Sponsorship program. With his outstanding leadership skills, Kensley continues to support WHI as a Communications Consultant on the Child Sponsorship team

Luciano (pictured right) joined the WHI Child Sponsorship team as the Child Sponsorship Program Manager in February 2020. He is a graduate of Kingswood University and a great addition.

Completed Activities: April - September 2020

New Addition to the Canaan Community

Pastor Lea and her husband, Hubert, welcomed a new healthy baby boy named Twist-Asberry on July 14th. Twist-Baer (4 years old) is a proud brother. We are so grateful for their health and safety!

Back to School

Children were delighted to return to school in August for the first time since the closure in March. The 14 teachers (9 in primary school and 5 in middle school) welcomed back 100 children dressed in their colorful uniforms. WHI supplied buckets for handwashing, soap, bleach, and masks to prevent the spread of COVID-19. There are currently 24 sponsored children in Canaan.

Construction Update

Dan Irvine, WHI Country Director, traveled to Haiti and visited Canaan in August 2020. We are currently waiting on final quotes to complete the construction of the school. The students continue to learn in divided class areas in the church and in the two classrooms that have been completed.

During the heavy rain season, the school still suffers flooding where the rain pours off more heavily from the roof. WHI is working to address the roof runoff and drainage issues, causing damage to the property and posing health risks. The picture on the bottom right shows the high water level from previous rain.

Thank you for your continued partnership and patience with the many ups and downs the last two years have brought. We are hopeful for the future of Canaan.

Completed Activities: October 2020 - August 2021

Haiti Update

2021 has been a hard year for Haiti. Throughout this year, we have seen protests, unrest, and bureaucratic chaos, in addition to COVID-19. In July, the President was assassinated. In August, Haiti was rocked by the devastating 7.2 magnitude earthquake and showered with Tropical Storm Grace. However, WHI continues to be present and is currently responding to the disaster, so Haiti can rebuild again.



Fortunately, Canaan was not impacted by the earthquake, but there was flooding due to the heavy rains. Currently, the biggest challenge is frequent gang activity.

Construction Update

To prevent flooding and drainage issues, fifty loads of gravel were spread around the school property. The school can see a big difference from the last rainy season to this year! Another fifteen loads of gravel will be delivered and spread to finish the rest of the school compound.

Back to School

Last year was very difficult for the school between the flooding and many children relocating to more rural areas to avoid COVID-19. The children returned to school in September for the new school year. Uniform material was purchased and distributed to each family. There are currently 21 sponsored children.

What's Next?

WHI has selected a new contractor to finish constructing the remaining classrooms. Once the school is completed, the solar power system will be installed.

Completed Activities: September 2021 - March 2022

Back to School

The children returned to school in October for the new school year. WHI provided educational materials, including notebooks, pens, pencils, geometry tools, and uniforms. There are now 22 sponsored children.

Protection Training for Teachers

Haiti is a traditional society. In many ways, this is a good thing, as parents make sure that their values are passed down to their children—and that these values are applied in their lives. However, the parenting style of discipline is harsh with a belief that a “parent is to give you food and give you “baton.”” (Giving baton means spanking with a stick.)

Unfortunately, this model bleeds into the school system. Haiti's education is very quantitative—with a heavy emphasis on memorization, recitation, and tests. Within that framework, the children are always at fault for not learning (memorizing) what they are supposed to, and they are punished physically.

These are some of the concerns that have led WHI to hold a teacher's training on Classroom Management and Positive Discipline led by Kensley, WHI-Haiti's Education Specialist. This training is part of our efforts to strengthen practical Child Protection and ensure comprehensive quality education in our partnering schools. The training was held at the Nazarene Theological Seminary in Port-au-Prince with 31 participants, including teachers from Canaan.



Construction Update

WHI has developed a three-phase construction project:

- Phase I: Finishing up the construction of the remaining classrooms, including setting the base wall and laying the concrete floor (1st level).
 - During this period, the contractors leveled the concrete floors in the new classrooms to avoid further water-related damage by pouring and damp-proofing the concrete floor. In addition, the contractors remodeled the walls to achieve a uniform look.
 - Status: Completed
- Phase II: Finishing up the construction of the remaining classroom, including laying the concrete floor (level 2) and building the ceiling; Leveling the yard to avoid water-related issues.
 - During this period, the contractors leveled the yard using the loader.
 - Status: Ongoing
- Phase III: Constructing the playground
 - During this period, the contractors laid concrete for the playground for sports such as basketball.

What's next? WHI will continue to complete Phase II and III and work on other projects, including building proper toilets and setting up an electrical system.



We are grateful for the compassion and support Western New York District is offering Canaan.

The Village Partnership program allows for a continuous process of improvement for an impoverished community delivering opportunity, dignity, and hope.



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