

# Good Samaritan Orphanage

Fort Liberte, Haiti

In partnership with Starfish Foundation.  
A report from Dennis Cady – Executive Director  
April 2011



## Children of Good Samaritan Orphanage

Judnel, Ivenor, Rithrose, Sintia .....just names on a page? No, they are real live kids. Kids who learn, love, fall down and cry, get hungry and are sometimes afraid of the dark just like all other kids. Kids who have had too many adult experiences as they tried to survive. Kids whose biggest problem is that they were born in Haiti instead of somewhere like America. Consequently their mother or father or both died or abandoned them. Their family now is others at Good Samaritan Orphanage. I asked one of the boys if, should his parents (who abandoned him because they couldn't feed him) showed up would he want to go live with them and he said "No, this is my family now and I am well taken care of here." Most of these kids would be among the 300,000 orphans sleeping on the streets of Haiti every night or living with people who would take advantage of them as "slave labor" or abuse them in other ways if it was not for Good Samaritan Orphanage. Haiti is broken, largely due to centuries of bad government. I doubt Haiti can be fixed; but I believe we can fix life for 44 kids.....and we are doing that.

In March, accompanied by J.W. Oliver whose family sponsors two of the children, I made a trip to Fort Liberty where the orphanage is located.

Through Starfish Foundation, friends and supporters have made possible great changes in the orphanage in the last 14 months. Kids now eat three meals a day instead of one, sleep on mattresses instead of concrete slabs, live behind secure gates instead of propped up sheet iron, drink safe water and much more.

I wish you could have been a fly on the wall when I went to the door of the orphanage the first time, and most times afterwards. I get nothing of material value for the work I do with Starfish Foundation and some other evangelistic and humanitarian things in which I am involved but the pay is huge in hugs and smiles. Anilus Justin who operates the orphanage with his wife told me "You are the father of these children." I told him he was the father but I want to be their grandfather. From 5 year old Djivenson to 23 year old Beatrice (who is engaged to a preacher/teacher we met and who will be getting married next year) these kids are special.



## School Time

I'm not telling you every child at Good Samaritan is a success story. In recent months two have been "dismissed," one for repeatedly sneaking out and engaging in prostitution and one for repeatedly stealing. They were returned to a grandmother or other family members who will struggle to feed them. It is tragic what things are already a part

of their lives; learned as they survived on the street. Both were quickly replaced but what a tragedy for the two no longer there.

What we do for these kids is a team effort. Anilus and Edeline Justin have been caring for kids at Good Samaritan since 1999. They have never received a salary and receive none now. They contribute. I visit the orphanage to encourage and help Anilus plan. Those of you who listen, read, give and pray join us at Starfish Foundation to provide needs. We now have most of the necessities met through the sponsorship program and are able to help the orphanage and children rise to the next level. As I have said, "We don't want these children to merely survive, but to thrive." God loves them no less than He loves your children and grandchildren. Therefore I humbly and unashamedly make known their needs. While in Fort Liberty we looked and listened and came up with a "want list," then before I could get this report out some have taken responsibility for some of the things on it.

The most pressing need is tables, chairs, a four burner propane cook top and some miscellaneous things for the new kitchen and dining room. The new building is a wonderful addition but until these things are in place food continues to be prepared in filth, dishes are washed on the ground and children eat where ever they can but never at a table. We believe a Texas group which sent two men to see the orphanage is about to provide these things.

We determined a generator was needed to provide electricity at least two or three hours each evening. No public electricity is available to the orphanage. Two donors have teamed up to provide the generator.

The orphanage needs a vehicle to transport both people and things. There is little public transportation available; mostly motorcycles which operate as taxis and they are very limited as to what they can haul. Then whoever or whatever they carry is exposed to the weather. A regular

donor has taken responsibility for providing this vehicle.

In our next report we should be able to report these things are in place and tell some interesting stories behind getting them.

Fifteen months ago there were 29 orphans who sometimes went to bed hungry. Things look much better now but we refuse to quit with the job partially done. There are things we can do to make life even better.

We would like to provide six computers and a part time instructor so these young people can learn yet another job skill. The estimated cost is \$600. per computer including desk and shared printer. Can you provide one or will you ask five friends to join you in providing one?

We would like to purchase an empty lot next to the orphanage, put some playground equipment on part of it and leave part of it open. They have virtually no place to run and play. We could then add a basketball goal and poles for a volleyball or badminton net. They could have a small soccer field. Maybe even a small garden or a place for cages for birds or a tank for fish, giving the children chores to do and life experiences that would be valuable. We would like to add internet which would have to be by satellite. We met a young man who teaches English at a Catholic school. His duties there are finished at 1:00 p.m. He would like to teach some English classes at the orphanage. We would like that too. Part time salaries would be needed for the computer and English teachers. Eventually we would like to add a 2<sup>nd</sup> floor to the new multipurpose building. This would house the older boys. At present four to six orphans stay in a room and sleep on two beds. This works now while many of them are young but as they grow, it will be a lot better if we can have separate housing for the older boys. Your continued gifts (outside sponsorship of the children, which is taken care of at this time) can help provide for these things.

I remind you that donations to

Starfish Foundation are tax deductible. Every cent you give for Good Samaritan goes to Good Samaritan. Not one cent of your gift is spent for an American salary, fundraising expenses or so much as a stamp to mail out these reports.



**Kitchen Area built and provided by your donations**

Having J.W. Oliver with me on this trip was a real blessing. He went to observe and learn but made a terrific impression on the kids. I've asked him to tell you some of his experiences and observations. Read what he has to say:

#### **Summary of My First Trip to Haiti**

I must admit, I was quite apprehensive about going with Dennis to Haiti. Even the day before our flight, I was looking for an excuse to cancel but God would not have it. (He usually gets His way). It is hard to express in words what you see when you cross the Dominican Republic and into Haiti. The change in scenery and living conditions is immediately noticed.

The trees disappear from the deforestation and the poverty is abundant. We took the bus to Cap Haitian, for our ride to Fort Liberte'. I can only say Cap Haitian was very dirty. Lots of people, no work to be had, and trash piling up in the streets and gutters.

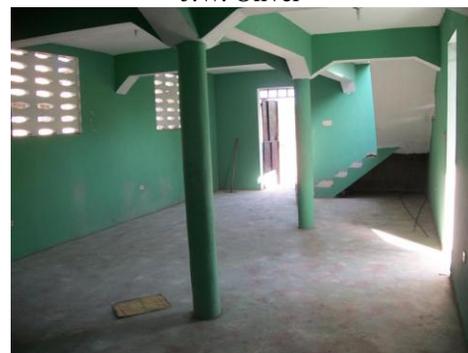
Once we arrived in Fort Liberte', it was better. Still high poverty and some trash, but nothing like we saw in Cap Hatian. The town is actually much quieter. At every turn, it struck me as a country with the same nice people, mountains, beaches, scenery, water as any Caribbean island I have been to. The difference was a lack of government infrastructure; roads, bridges, phone systems, sanitation, fresh water, etc....

Upon arrival to the orphanage, we met the one who started and runs the place. Mr. Justin, and his wife. He took us to our room. Dennis, myself, Anilus and our translator Jackie prayed together. I was swept by emotion, and the tears flowed from me. I realized how fortunate a country we live in, how blessed we are each day, and I was so excited to be there. More than I could have imagined. The children were great. We spent the next three days sharing candy, crafts and our love. They are some of the happiest people I have ever met, yet they have very little. They spend 24/7 in the orphanage and adjacent school. Happy and content with what they have.

The progress Dennis has made there in one year is unbelievable. Before the 44 children had sponsors, I have no idea how they survived. Now they are at least stable. The next big purchase/fund raising is a generator which will change their lives. It will provide lights at night, a refrigerator, and soon some computers. We also have long term plans to purchase a vehicle for Anilus as well as some additional land/lot to provide the children a play area. (There is none now).

I am returning in July, as I would rather spend nowhere else for my vacation. My wife and kids will go as well. We are all so excited. Please continue to pray for the children, the orphanage and the country. I will be adding hundreds of pictures and a full commentary on our trip in the next few weeks at [www.beuncommon.org](http://www.beuncommon.org). God Bless.

--J.W. Oliver



**Room ready for table and chairs**

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