



COFHED

CHRISTIAN OPERATION FOR
HEALTH, EDUCATION, & DEVELOPMENT

COFHED
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WE ENVISION A HAITI:

Where children can expect to live into adulthood to serve God and their neighbors.
Where families have the tools they need to build and sustain a better life, leading to self-sufficiency.

SUMMER IS A TIME OF WORK FOR COFHED FIELD DIRECTORS

Nick and Madeleine had a busy summer in Camp Perrin and Lougou evaluating community work, planning for sustainability of La Petite Academie de Lougou, and grant writing training, among many other things.

Madeleine met with 12 different committee members (education, health, road, water, latrines, feeding, women, microcredit, goat, construction, youth and the LDC) to review and evaluate work taking place in the community. It was a time to reflect on progress, change what is not working, and celebrate achievements. It was also a time for COFHED staff to listen and learn how we can improve our partnership with the community.

Planning toward sustainability of La Petite Académie de Lougou continued through the summer. Working meetings were held with parents, staff and the Lougou Development Committee. They explored markets the school can invest in that could eventually provide funds to cover school expenses, mainly teachers' salaries and supplies. Parents formed an association with the school to accomplish this task. The planning committee also started researching business ventures, such as raising broiler chickens.

COFHED field directors have been working with the community on how to write grants so they can look for financing opportunities themselves. As Haiti plans for reconstruction after the earthquake, we feel the time is right for Lougou leaders to look within the country for resources to help them achieve their goals.

Carmie, tirelessly hauling water for masons on a Lougou Community workday



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Haiti Fact Corner:

"Nearly nine months after the earthquake, more than a million Haitians still live on the streets between piles of rubble." Hurricane season in Haiti typically runs June through November.

1. AP IMPACT: Haiti still waiting for pledged US aid By JONATHAN M. KATZ and MARTHA MENDOZA (AP), Sept 28, 2010.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT. COFHED NEEDS YOUR PARTNERSHIP
IN ORDER TO CONTINUE THIS TRANSFORMING WORK IN LOUGOU, HAITI.

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SPIRITUAL GROWTH IN LOUGOU

The small church of Lougou is thriving. The people continue to gather on Sundays, but thanks to the teaching shared by Pastor Kevin Callaghan from Woodland Hills Church, who visited this summer, they know that there is more to worshipping God than coming to church on Sundays. So, throughout the week, they work together and serve one another as community members. Community work opportunities unleash people's energies in a concerted and coordinated manner, bringing a great sense of joy and pride to the villagers. It's not uncommon to hear them sing songs of praise as they work together and sweat from their labor under the heat of the sun.



Mireille

INTERVIEW WITH MIREILLE

Mireille Charles is a 41-year-old mother of four who fled Port-au-Prince with her family after the January earthquake, returning to her childhood home in the countryside near Lougou.

Where was family when the earthquake occurred?

My kids were home from school, my husband was at church for choir rehearsal and I was cooking dinner. First there was a

breeze and then it felt like a big wind. My kids started to run and screamed my name. By the time I realized it was an earthquake, my front porch was gone, my toilet was in the neighbor's yard, and the entire pot of boiling vegetables was splashed on my leg. I don't know how I made it out, but we all did and my husband found us the next day in an open field. We tried to go back to the house, but it was impossible to get to anything. Whatever thieves could get their hands on was taken except for a bag of charcoal. We sold the charcoal and headed to the countryside.

Why did you go the countryside?

After the earthquake, everyone I know tried to leave Port-au-Prince. Our government encouraged us to flee as well. When I got to my village, we found my abandoned childhood home still standing, so we cleaned it up and moved in. Friends, family members, and COFHED staff helped us with some basic household items. About 6 weeks after the disaster, my husband stayed in Port-au-Prince to get some food for us, only to discover that aid was given mostly to women. We waited and hoped that some relief organizations would accompany those of us in the countryside, but all I received was some money from an organization in Cayes, and some food from COFHED. I am also happy that one of my daughters attends La Petite Académie of Lougou.

Why are you still in the countryside 8 months after the earthquake?

I went to Port-au-Prince 3 weeks ago and I don't know how human beings can stand living in such subhuman conditions. I don't understand why more people decided to go back to Port-au-Prince. Is it for the food, the few tarps, tents, promises of homes? Why did the aid not follow us in the countryside? Why aren't people in tent cities talking to these relief organizations to help them move back to the provinces

where the earthquake did not do much damage? Why are they still giving these people rice, beans, and more rice and beans? I am not an engineer, but can anyone see that Port-au-Prince cannot be repaired with all these people in it?

I could never go back with my children. My roof is leaking, the walls are crumbling, and I am worried about the upcoming school year. BUT, despite all of that, I have my two hands and feet, I am not sick, and I REFUSE to lie all day long under a hot tent and wait for someone to say, "Here's some rice and beans."

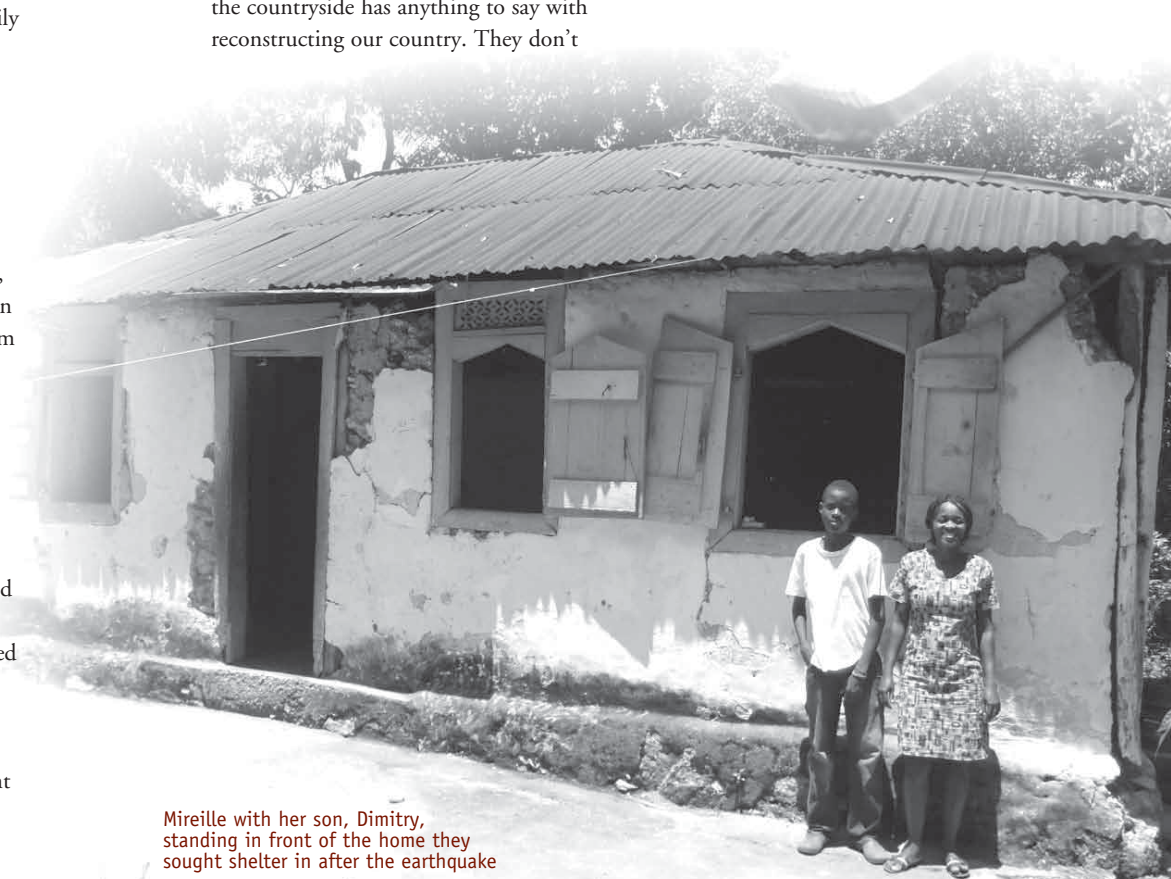
What advice do you have for your government and others who are working in reconstructing Haiti?

Reconstruction is a big word. I don't know if they'll think a 41-year-old woman from the countryside has anything to say with reconstructing our country. They don't

give us much importance. So they are going to plan for us as they did before — and our lives will get worse by the minute. Are these organizations planning to give rice and beans to able young men and women in Haiti for eternity? What about our dignity?

What about you, Mireille? What would work for you as you try to rebuild a life for your family here in the countryside?

All I need is to find some money to invest in selling things that can give me a good return. I know how to do that well. With some economic activities, I will be able to take care of my kids, send them to school, repair the old house, give them something to eat and save enough so my husband can start his own carpentry shop.



Mireille with her son, Dimitry, standing in front of the home they sought shelter in after the earthquake