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DECEMBER, 2010 NEWSLETTER

I have come as light into the world, that everyone who believes in Me may not remain in darkness. John 12: 46

The message of Christmas, summed up in one verse. Regardless of what is going on in each of our lives, Jesus came into this world so that if we believe, we will not remain in darkness. All of our good works, circumstances, or problems do not determine where we spend eternity. Everything hinges on what we do with Jesus! Praise God that He sent His Son, Jesus, to give each of us the opportunity for life in Heaven with God for eternity! If you do not understand this message, our prayer is that you will find a believer to introduce you to Jesus, the "Reason for the Season". *He who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life. John 5:24.*

You may be wondering how things are going at HIS Home? On Thanksgiving, we gathered all of the kids and staff for a traditional dinner, and enjoyed sharing memories of the blessings of the year. We managed to finish off 4 turkeys as well as the rest of the feast, and then started getting out the Christmas decorations. In the past 8 years, we have had volunteer help in organizing donated Christmas gifts for the children, and this year is no different. Thanks to the folks in New York who have been preparing Christmas gifts for the children! We have started putting gifts together, and the balcony is off limit to kids while Chris and Junior sort and stuff bags with gifts for each child. Right now there are many manifestations (riots) in the streets related to the recent presidential election, and on days when the streets are not safe for travel, we make good use of the time by preparing for Christmas. All preparations must be completed by Dec. 18th when Hal and Chris travel to Ohio to spend Christmas with their children and grandchildren. This is the first year for Berline, Michael, and Felineta to enjoy Christmas in Ohio. For the past 5 years that they have lived with Hal and Chris, they have watched as their American parents left Haiti to spend Christmas with their American children. This year, the children were brought to the US following the earthquake under a Humanitarian parole program authorized by the US government. What a blessing it will be for the family to be together for their first Christmas! The Nungesters are scheduled to complete their US adoption on January 7, and look forward to bringing their new children back to Haiti with them after their citizenship paperwork is completed.

When we look back over the past year, we are overwhelmed with amazement and gratitude at what God has brought us through. Earthquakes, threat of hurricanes, flooding, political violence, and now the cholera epidemic. We have had many inquiries regarding the status of things at HIS Home, and never enough hours in the day to respond to everyone individually. Following the earthquake in Jan., we sent 80 children from Haiti to the US and Canada. Many of those children have completed their adoptions and others are close to completion. The 2 homes were repaired by volunteers who came and helped or donated financially. With the homes restored, empty beds have been filled with new children who have been orphaned or abandoned, and adoptions are in progress for many. The HIS ER (Earthquake Relief) home was opened for girls ages 8-16 who have suffered trauma, and those girls are now attending school, church, and living in a secure and loving home where their physical, spiritual, and emotional needs are being met. We are now caring for 91 children in our 3 homes with 31 national staff to help Hal and Chris.

With the current cholera epidemic, we are taking every precaution possible to protect our children and staff. We have stocked needed antibiotics, oral re-hydration fluids, and IV fluids. We are limiting visitation of those living in the tent cities, and are emphasizing good hygiene with children and staff. There is a tent city a block from our home, and their toilets drain raw sewage into the dirt road where we must walk to go between houses. Most of our employees live in tent cities, and we are aware that risk surrounds us everyday. However, we know that God is our source of strength and our protector, and we depend on Him to help us through this difficult time. Currently, Haiti is reporting 2,000 deaths and over 100,000 sick from cholera. Reports indicate that numbers are most likely triple what the confirmed statistics show, because of unreported cases in the countryside. Please continue to pray for the people of Haiti!!!

With the many hardships, more children are being abandoned than ever before. We have desperate families leaving children with us, but most newcomers are being brought from the social service system (IBESR), UNICEF, and hospitals. Many of these children have special needs, and so we are preparing a specific room for children who require extra care and TLC. If you are looking for an opportunity to bless a special child this Christmas, maybe you would consider donating to our bed project. We need to have youth size beds built with side rails for some of our special needs children. We are in immediate need of \$800. to fund the purchase of 8 beds. If you would like to give, donations can be made by PayPal on our website, or by check made out to HIS Home For Children and sent to 3172 W. Breese Rd., Lima, OH 45806. We must also increase staff to care for them, but these children are worth it! Right after the earthquake we received extra donations to repair the house, but regular donations have been down this year and our expenses are high. Thanks for whatever you are able to do to help! If you are interested in sponsoring a child, our website is being updated with sponsorship options, and new children are looking for sponsors both in our regular program and in the HIS ER (Earthquake Relief) program.

Some of our new arrivals are healthy babies James and Ryan, both 2 months old. Not twins, but it seems like it to Chris who cares for them. One baby was born to a prostitute who left him with a pastor to bring to HIS Home, and the other was brought to us after his mother died next to him, laying on the floor of a tent a few hours after his birth. Two year old Jeff came as an abandoned child from a hospital. When he was brought to us, we were told that he was normal, but soon discovered that Jeff had meningitis in July, and suffered major brain damage resulting in his need for total care. Three weeks ago Christina was found by police, abandoned on a street, and was brought to IBESR. We were asked to accept this child who is about 5 years old, and has cerebral palsy and extreme malnutrition. Laying in a baby cradle in the IBESR office in a urine saturated dress, filthy from laying in the street, it broke my heart to hear this child cry as her arms and legs flailed over the sides of the cradle made for a newborn. I couldn't walk away, even though I knew her needs would require a lot of special care. After a bath and food, we discovered that Christina has a beautiful smile, and loves to watch TV cartoons. Mona (9) and Samantha (8) are sisters whose parents died in the earthquake. The girls were at church on Jan. 12, 2010, and returned home to find their parents under the concrete of their home. Shortly after, they were taken to a tent city by a neighbor, where they have worked for months as slaves (known as restaveks) in exchange for minimal food and a place to sleep on a tent floor. The girls were rescued by police and are now a part of our HIS ER program. Another girl in the ER program is expecting a baby this month, the result of being raped while living in a tent city. These are just 7 of the 50 plus children who have arrived in the past few months, finding HIS compassion at HIS Home.

It is very easy to get overwhelmed with the tragic circumstances in the lives of children, but watching the miracles when God intervenes encourages and motivates each of us to continue reaching out to HIS children. One very special little girl, Kalandi, came to us after being abandoned in a hospital. She spent months in a coma while being tube fed. The week she came to us she had just started walking and was living on liquid nutrition. After 2 months with us, she is eating normally and getting chubby, and although she was unable to hear or speak on arrival, this week she began talking and singing, dancing, and now she can also hear! What a miracle!!! Another HIS child has been hospitalized for the past 2 months in the final stage of Aids. A month ago she was in critical condition and not expected to survive, but this week she was released to come home, and is recovering. Praise God that He is still in the miracle business!!!

Every child comes with their own story, and their own basic need for love, acceptance, provision, and salvation through Jesus Christ. With each new face looking into our eyes to see if we will accept them in the home, we ask ourselves, "What would Jesus have us do?" The answer is always the same. *For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost. Luke 19:10.* Jesus' birth is celebrated on Christmas day, but his life is celebrated everyday of the year when we choose to follow His example.

**From every child, staff, board member, and Hal & Chris, we wish to say
"Thank You" for being a part of HIS Home For Children
this year with your prayers and support, and we wish you a
Very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!!!**