

MERGER STUDENT SPONSORSHIP

May 2015

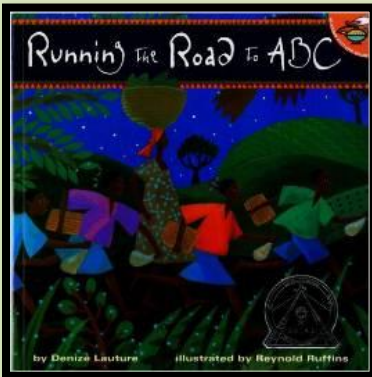
A Word from One of Our Sponsors...

by Jenae Dryden

One of the wonderful things about sponsoring children from Merger is the opportunity to open my heart and my children's hearts to a place and people very different from our own context. Our vision of God's kingdom grows. At least that's a goal. It can be difficult in daily life to remember to keep our sponsored children on our hearts and in our prayers. Honestly, after so long, those pictures attached to the fridge with a magnet start to fade into the background unless we intentionally keep them in our thoughts. It is difficult for my children to really understand what life is like in Haiti and to feel some kind of connection to Wilna and Lichensky (our sponsored kids), so I'm always trying to find connection points.

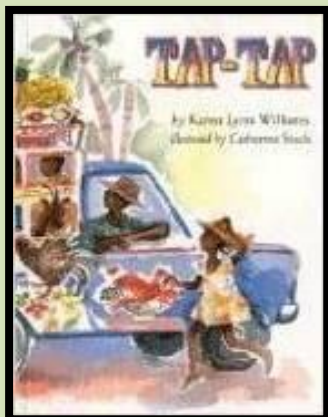
One way we have done this is through the use of children's books. I knew our kids were going to have an opportunity to interact with Johny and Rosadite when they visited Glenwood last September. In preparation for that, I scoured the Fort Vancouver Regional Library system for every children's book they had about Haiti.

Here were a couple of our favorites:



"Running the Road to ABC" by Denize Lauture

This is a beautiful picture book that was particularly appropriate because it was about Haitian children running to school each morning. It captured the beauty of the outdoors around them and the joy of learning. I love books that introduce my kids to another culture through things we have in common – education, playfulness, and daily rhythms.



"Tap-Tap" by Karen Lynn Williams

This picture book is about a Haitian girl and her mama traveling to Market in rural Haiti. Like many children, this girl longs for something her mom can't give her, which in this case is a ride on the Tap-Tap (a common Haitian form of transportation). The story reveals how the girl helps her mom sell oranges, and in doing so, earns enough money to ride the Tap-Tap on the way home (by refusing other tempting treats). The rich watercolors, fine narration, and the picture of a child's life in Haiti filled our minds and our hearts.

Praises For...

The kindergarten/office building started in February is almost complete!

Please Pray For...

Funds to continue building classrooms at the school.

Open hearts in the children and parents who do not yet know Jesus.

Continued safety for Johny & Rosadite.

Continued health improvement for Rosadite.

Johny as he is facing some health issues. Specifically for wise doctors and that Johny will rest as he needs to.

The students to do their best in school and to finish the year well.

The students, teachers, and the church in Merger to continue to grow spiritually.

New sponsors for the available students in Merger.

Sponsorship

Each year as Johny adds another grade to the school in Merger (eleventh grade was added in September) and a new kindergarten class arrives, there are additional students who need a sponsor. We have nineteen students available at this time. If you would like to sponsor another student or know someone who is interested in the program, please come into the church office or email skirgiss@glenwoodcc.org

Reminders

Please include your student's MSP# on any correspondence or contributions.

Please write a separate check for your Merger contribution – do not include it with your regular tithe check – this makes the accounting easier.

Write to your sponsored student on their birthday, Easter and Christmas. The students love receiving mail and getting pictures from you! Mail your cards and letters to:

Johny Philippe
Unit 2109 UEBH
3170 Airmans Drive
Ft. Pierce, FL 34946

Include your student's MSP # and name in the lower left corner of the envelope.



Did You Know? Interesting Facts about Haiti

- Eighty percent of Haitians live under the poverty line and 54% live in abject poverty. The average per capita income in Haiti is \$480 a year, compared to \$33,550 in the United States (2008).
- Because of both violence and AIDS, Haiti has the highest percentage of orphans of any country in the Western Hemisphere. Before the 2010 earthquake, the United Nations estimated there were 430,000 orphans.
- Haiti is the most mountainous nation in the Caribbean.

For the Kids

(or the kids at heart)

All the words below relate to Haitian culture. Find as many as you can in the puzzle!

O Y L I M A F T Y E W G M S W
D W A T E R R T L O N R O T E
A I D C E O R O O I X E T U A
C D I N P E E D L N E C O D V
O R C I V R C L B A C C R E I
V H C O C A E A S E N O C N N
A A P O R T N N M B I S Y T G
L F L V Y A I H E B R L C S M
J O I R N A G U R I P L L E A
R N O A T O T M G R U E E E R
G T S N A E B I E A A H S F K
S P A T P A T D R C T S G F E
G L S U N S H I N E R K P O T
P F M O U N T A I N O U S C F
Y R E D I O R B M E P A T E S

AVOCADO

BANANA

BEANS

CARIBBEAN

COFFEE

COLOR

CREOLE

EMBROIDERY

FAMILY

FRENCH

GOATS

HUMID

MARKET

MERGER

MOTORCYCLES

MOUNTAINOUS

PATES

PLANTAINS

PORT-AU-PRINCE

POVERTY

RICE

SHELLS

SOCCER

STORYTELLING

STUDENTS

SUNSHINE

TAP-TAP

TROPICAL

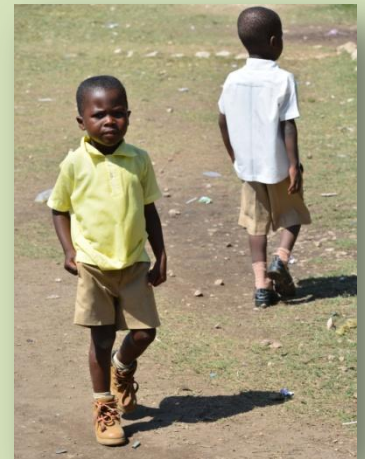
WATER

WEAVING

WOODCARVING



“Bondye Bon”
(God is Good)



If you have any questions regarding your sponsorship, please feel free to contact Shelly Kirgiss in the front office at 360-571-3300 or skirgiss@glenwoodcc.org. Thank you for your sponsorship!