

MERGER STUDENT SPONSORSHIP

December 2015

It's that time of year again – Christmas is just around the corner and most of us are hustling about gathering gifts for our family and friends and trying to figure out how to fit all the festivities into one month! I love December. I love the lights, the sparkle, the songs, the food and the generous spirit that is so often displayed at this time of year...and in the midst of all that wonderful chaos, the sweet realization that none of it is possible without Jesus. As you are celebrating this holiday season, please remember to share your joy with your sponsored student by sending a letter or card. Your thoughtful words are a reminder to them that they are loved – not only by you but by Jesus. Wishing you all a blessed and Merry Christmas!



An Opportunity to Give

Many of you were at church on November 22 to hear Paul share about an opportunity we have to bless the school in Merger. For those who may have missed it or are out of town sponsors, I want to make sure you are aware of what is happening. A contributor has generously donated \$25,000 towards the kindergarten building to be constructed at the school (praise God!). The total cost of the building is close to \$50,000 and it is our desire to raise the additional \$25,000 by the end of January. Join with us as we pray for the funds to be raised and if you feel called to contribute, please mark your donations with "Merger New Building." Thank you!



Praises For...

Successful surgery for Johny.

A generous contribution towards the kindergarten building.

A successful start to the school year.

Mason, Lauren, James and Ashlyn being able to spend time in the states with their friends and family.

Our quilters group who have worked hard to make dresses, shorts and blankets for the students and families in Haiti. Thank you!

Please Pray For...

Johny as he continues to recover and regain his strength from his recent surgery.

Rosadite as she is dealing with dental issues.

The additional \$25,000 to begin the next kindergarten building.

Spiritual growth in the teachers and students.

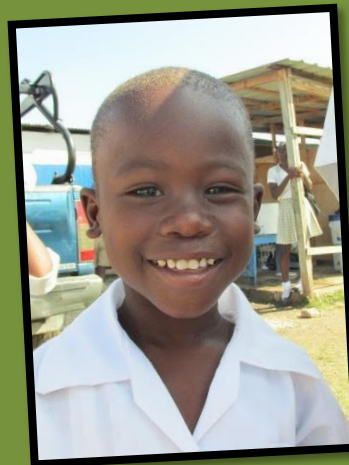
New sponsors for the available students in Merger.

Mason, Lauren, James and Ashlyn as they head back home to Haiti at the beginning of January. Pray especially that the children travel well and transition quickly back to their normal routine.



Website Information

Do you have an account at glenwoodcc.org? If so, your sponsored students are now linked to your profile page and anytime we receive new pictures we will be sure to post them there. If you don't have an account – it's easy to get one! Just go to www.glenwoodcc.org and click on the register button in the top right-hand corner.



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

For the Kids

(or the kids at heart)

Christmas in Haiti

Did you know that in Haiti, people celebrate Christmas in some of the same ways we do here in America? It is a tradition for Haitians to cut pine branches to serve as Christmas trees or go to the market and purchase a tree from the mountains (if they can afford it). They decorate the branches (or trees) with bright ornaments and at the base they add a nativity scene. Many times these Christmas displays take up a large part of their living area. Because both French and Haitian Creole is spoken in Haiti, Merry Christmas is either 'Joyeux Noel' (French) or 'Jwaye Nowe' (Creole).

Haitians also have some Christmas traditions that are different than ours. They decorate their homes with 'Fanals' which is the French word for lantern. These are intricately designed paper boxes that are cut and decorated with tissue paper before being placed on porches or in windows with a candle to light them. On Christmas Eve, children place their newly cleaned shoes, filled with straw on the porch in the hope that Santa (called 'Tonton Nwel') will remove the straw and put presents in and around the shoes! Some people go to mass (a church service) at midnight and afterward come home to eat the main Christmas meal. This meal is called 'reveillon' which means 'to wake up' in French and can last from sometime after midnight until sun up on Christmas morning!

Because many Haitians are very poor, the emphasis at Christmas is not on gifts or the money spent but on the gathering together of friends and family and the traditions that they share.



Help the two children make it through the maze and reach their Christmas tree...

