



### ††† A Different Look, for a Brighter Future †††

*“Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.”*

When school reopened on September 7<sup>th</sup> of this year, the students of IEBCF, the Torch of Hope school in Haiti, realized that their campus looks very different than it did when school started last year; even much different than the campus they left behind in June at the beginning of the summer. This is a result of the continuous expansion of our campus. As we strive to accomplish our mission of empowering the less fortunate children of Fauge and its surrounding communities. What started in 2011 as a small 4 classroom building has now turned into a 9 classroom building plus an administrative office and 5 additional rooms in different stages of construction on the second floor. God has blessed our ministry tremendously over the past 4 years and it has been a great joy and blessing to invest in the life of the children of Fauge Haiti and see hundreds of them come to know the Lord and continue to grow in the knowledge of the Word of God at IEBCF. It has been a great blessing as well to partner with each of our sponsors/supporters who have made it possible for us to be God’s hands and feet and a tangible manifestation of God’s love to the people of Fauge. Many of these people now know that God loves them because of your prayers, your investment of sweat equity, and your generous donations.

A lot has happened over the past few months, particular since the beginning of the year. We have been hard at work impacting lives for the kingdom of God even more this year. The picture above shows how much progress we have made in building a campus that is continuously being expended to meet the overwhelming needs in the Fauge community and its surrounding. However, the most important progress that is taking place, the one that matters most is evident to me every time I get to watch some of our 12 and 13 year old students lead the school in devotion in the morning. To hear their heart felt prayers to God as they express their sincere gratitude to Him for allowing them to have a place where they seat safely to receive a quality Christian education is so powerful that it can bring tears to the eyes of a grown man.

**††† 2014-2015 school year:** The 2014-2015 school was a major success for us. The school year ended with about 265 students in attendance. With an average of 85% passing rate per grade, our students continue to excel academically. Our staff continues

to excel as well in equipping these students for a better future. The local community has truly embraced IEBCF and show appreciation for the effort that we are doing to foster hope in the lives of their children.

### ††† Summer Camp 2015 †††



#### *Girl's Dance Team*

The 2014-2015 school year was closed with a wonderful week of Summer Camp. Through a partnership with Nelly’s House, the organization that makes it possible for us to provide a much needed hot plate of food to our students and staff every day, a group of missionaries composed of members from South Carolina, Virginia, Up State New York, Miami and Atlanta, blessed IEBCF with a great Summer Camp. About 130 children gathered each day to learn about God, play soccer, volleyball, learn how to praise God through dance and have lots of fun.



**The Girls Played Volleyball, while the Boy are Trained in Professional Soccer Technics**

Summer Camp was a blast and a blessing for everyone who participated. In addition to being fun, Summer Camp was also very productive. While some of the missionaries taught Bible lessons to the kids and some taught the boys soccer technics, others were hard at work transforming the look of the school and making it a more suitable learning environment. Our Kindergarten class got a major makeover. The walls went from being bare cement walls to very decorated walls with teaching aids like the alphabet and basic numbers. Also, a beautiful mural was painted on the front wall of the school as a reminder of God's love to everyone, students, staff and visitors. See pictures below.



### ††† Hope to the Orphans and the Hopeless †††

In addition to providing the children of Fauge access to quality Christian education at little to no cost to their parents, Torch of Hope brings hopes to the community in many other different ways as the opportunities arise. As erosion continues to be a major problem in Haiti, an issue that affects the lives of our students greatly on a daily basis in the form of lack of rain. It prevents their parents from raising the crops that is their only source of income and leads to lack of water for daily use. This difficult situation provides us an opportunity to teach our students about the importance of protecting the environment. As such, earlier this year, we partnered with a local vendor and purchased over 450 small trees. On a Saturday morning, our 5th, 6th and 7th graders came together and planted over 300 trees on campus. When they were done, each student went home with at least one tree to plant at home as a reminder of their responsibility to help protect the environment.



Other ways we bring hope to the community is in situations like the one that follows. Earlier this year, we got an urgent phone call from one of our staff in Haiti regarding some of our students who were sick. One young man in particular, Ronaldo, caught our attention. We were told that he had an infection in his face that is worsening and is threatening one of his eyes. Without immediate doctor's intervention, the infection could spread to impact not only his eyes but may threaten his life as well. We took immediate action and sent money to assist his mother who could not afford to take him to the doctor. Ronaldo was taken to the doctor immediately. He began to take the meds prescribed to him which quickly got the infection under control. Three days later when one of our staff saw him, his progress was already remarkable. A week or so later, Ronaldo was back in school and very grateful for the help he received from us which helped saved his eyes and possibly his life. His before and after pictures and the smile on his face tell it all.





### ††† The 2015 - 2016 School Year †††

The 2015 – 2016 school year is already well underway at IEBCF. This year again, our student body continues to grow as more children and their parents take advantage of the quality Christian education that is available to them at IEBCF at little to no cost to them. We had to close registration early this year because we don't have enough classrooms to accommodate all the students who wanted to join our school. Another reason for the growth of our student body is the annual addition of the next grade up over the past couple of years. As our upper classmen continue to progress academically, we have been adding the next grade up every year to allow them to continue their quest for higher education. So, this year, we added 8<sup>th</sup> grade to allow 28 students to stay in school rather than being on the street. Consequently, our student body is made of about 300 hundred students this year. That's an increase of over 11 % over last year's number. Our staff has also grown to 22 people from 15 last year. We are also blessed this year to be in a position to add a number of additional programs to our school that will directly benefit our students and the local community as well as having direct positive impacts on them. A list of these programs are below in our list of goals for this new school year.

### ††† The Goals and Needs for the Remaining of the 2015 - 2016 School Year †††

As we continue to work to increase the likelihood of success of our students in the world beyond grade school, we continue to seek opportunities to provide them access to programs that can really empower them to have a better future. This year, thanks to the contribution of a number of our friends, we have some much needed equipment that we are seeking to put to use to open the world of our students and their community to a world currently beyond their reach. Here is a list of what we are looking to accomplish through the rest of this new school year to EMPOWER the people of Fauge to reach their full potential in life.

1. Complete the 2015-2016 school year on a strong note while focusing on building the character of our students.
2. Continue to strengthen our teaching program. Continue to raise the standard as we work to develop IEBCF into one of the premier schools in the south of Haiti, a center of learning excellence where students learn biblical and academic principles for success.
3. Start a computer training program to provide access to much needed computer skills to our student, staff and young people in the community. Such training is not currently available in the entire area. Thanks to the gift of a Solar Power system by the Ohio State University Solar Energy Engineering organization which upgraded that system to a more powerful one this past March, we have the electrical power needed to power the computer equipment. However funding to run the program is still needed. Estimate: \$2000.00.
4. Start a Music teaching program where our students can learn music theory and how to play instruments like guitars, keyboards etc... This program will be possible thanks to the gifts of some instruments (Guitars, Recorders etc...) provided to us by the 1308 Productions and the Novack Music Program. We are actively seeking qualified teachers to for this program as well as funding to run the program. Funds needed is estimated at \$1,500.00 for the year.
5. Debut a Sport program to provide an alternative to our students who want to play soccer, their favorite sports, to build their skills, character and provide entertainment for their community. This program is possible thanks to some sports equipment that have been donated to us by some of our longtime supporters. Funding to run this program is also needed. Estimate: \$1,400.00 for the year.
6. Raise the funds necessary to add 9<sup>th</sup> grade to IEBCF for the 2016-2017 school year and to continue funding the addition of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. These 3 grades (7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade) cost an average of \$6000.00 per year per grade. This amount would provide access to quality Christian education for a full year to about 90 students, most of whom would not be in school today had it not been for IEBCF. In Comparison, according to the Census Bureau, in 2013 the state of Florida spent an average of \$8,433 for each grade school student, Georgia spent an average of \$9,099 while New Jersey spent \$17,572, almost enough to fund an entire year for our 3 upper grades. How blessed we are!
7. Raise funds to build the last 2 classrooms needed to house 9<sup>th</sup> grade next year and multipurpose laboratory room. We need to start construction by January to be able to complete this construction in time for the start of the next school year. Estimated cost is \$20,000.
8. Build a kitchen, a (small) cafeteria and a playground for the pre-k students. Estimate: \$4,500.00. We are in the process of starting the building of the kitchen thanks to some designated gift from some great friends.
9. Recruit medical personnel (dentist, doctors, eye doctors and other medical personnel) for a medical mission trip in 2016.
10. Finish the floors and walls of the building and furnish the classrooms appropriately. Estimate: about \$13,000.00.
11. Open a small library to promote reading and foster the improvement of the reading and comprehension skills of our students and the children of Fauge. There is currently no library (public or private) within a 15 mile radius of the Fauge area. Estimate: \$3,900.00.
12. Seek partnerships with US schools and Universities to create a sharing (short term study abroad) experience that will benefit the students of IEBCF as well as High School and University students in the Les Cayes area, and US students.
13. Partner with schools and universities in the Fauge and Les Cayes area to share resources and contribute to improving the education system in the area.
14. Plan for Summer Camp for summer 2016 to teach the children of Fauge biblical and life skills necessary for success.