

**BONNE ANNÉE**  
**2020**



## A Decade of Service

Letter from the President

Dear Supporters:

Happy New Year 2020! Bonne Anne 2020!

As we celebrate a new decade, Haitians pause to reflect on a decade since a devastating earth quake that struck the island where several hundred thousand people lost their lives and property. Consequently, many kids were displaced because family members could not take care of them. Fortunately, in 2009, God gave us the foresight to create Lathan Mission Foundation, which later became Elevate Haiti Ministries, Inc. (EHM). EHM has oversight of 12 boys, a school, a church and a clinic. In 2010, a group of missionaries from New Life Fellowship Church, members from several other churches in NY State and EHM board members travelled to Haiti to assist the Haitian people after the earthquake. We brought an abundance of supplies to assist the earthquake victims. It was difficult to witness firsthand how the earthquake impacted Haiti. Thus, we made a commitment to do everything we could to help Haiti. For the past 10 years, with your support and God's help, we have accomplished much.

With Sincere Regard,

Roosevelt Mareus, President

## Key Accomplishments

- Opened a boys' home for 12 boys
- Created a computer lab
- Replaced / restored old school desks in the school
- Installed electricity in the school and boys home (inverters)
- Tiled the entire school
- We installed a purification water system for the community
- Paved the entire compound
- Collected and shipped hygiene supplies to Haiti every year
- Opened the Gissendanner Medical Center
- Provided annual children's bible camps
- Evangelized and visited the sick & shut-ins in various hospitals
- Provided food to students and community members periodically
- Conducted yearly self-esteem workshops for young girls
- Conducted yearly professional development training for teachers
- Provided tuxedos and wedding dresses yearly to couples who got married
- Replaced pews in the church
- Distributed clothes and shoes to Lathan residents (Dress-A-Girl)
- Paid school fees for 20 students in 2019



## Impact of the Current Civil Unrest in Haiti

Haiti has had to endure many challenges and obstacles. Yes, the Haitian people are resilient. However; the paucity of jobs, clean water, food, access to healthcare coupled with protesters calling for the resignation of the Haitian president has created civil unrest. These protests have frequently turned violent resulting in road blocks, robberies, injuries and deaths. Haitians are also faced with food, fuel, electric shortages and increasing costs for basic goods. Furthermore, the unrest in Haiti, together with home invasions and lawlessness has closed schools; deterred Haitians in Diasporas from travelling to Haiti; caused many NGOs to withdraw their staff and prompted many organizations, such as EHM to re-strategize. Unfortunately, in 2019, because the situation in Haiti was so perilous and unpredictable, we felt the need to postpone our yearly mission trip. However, our responsibility to continue to make a difference in Haiti by providing clean water, shelter, food, clothes and monies to those who were need could not be suspended. This is why I am grateful for your continued support and commitment to EHM throughout the past 10 years.

## Ecole Primaire et Secondaire de Pecheur D'homme (EHM School)

2019 was a very challenging year for the Haitian people as well as EHM. In 2019, I reached out you to help with the \$100 per student enrollment fee that forced many parents to delay their child's entry to our school, Ecole Primaire et Secondaire de Pecheur D'homme (Primary and Secondary of Fishers of Men School). You answered the call. As a result of your donations, we were able to assist 20 students. Unfortunately, the months of civil unrest around Haiti delayed the opening of schools until January, 2020.

## Moving into 2020





## The Distinguished Gentlemen of EHM

The current crisis in Haiti is worse than anything we have ever experienced. Therefore, after much consideration, EHM has decided to send the boys, who lived with us for over 10 years back to family members in various villages in Haiti to escape the escalating violence in Port-au-Prince. While it was a very difficult decision, it was necessary to ensure the safety of our boys. For the past 10 years, our main focus has been the boys who lived with us. We cared for them physically, financially, educationally and spiritually. When we began to care for the boys, some were as young as three years old. Hence, they were more familiar with the staff of EHM than their family members or siblings. Although this transition will be a difficult one for all, we are trusting God that the foundation we laid for the boys towards survival and becoming productive citizens will serve them well in 2020 and beyond.

In September, 2019, I travelled to Haiti to ensure that I spent some precious moment with the boys before the transition. While in Haiti, I was a victim of the very roadblocks that brought the capital, Port-au-Prince, and other cities and towns around the country to a standstill. I was born in Haiti and traveled to Haiti 2 to 3 times a year, for the past 10 years. Experiencing this roadblock was the first time I've been in Haiti and felt that my life was in danger. I had to think quickly—try to go through go the barricade so I could make the flight back to the United States on time or turn around and live to see another day. Wisely, I decided to turn around. While this experience has strengthened the importance of our work in Haiti, EHM's mission/strategy will be modified. We will continue to take care of our 12 boys; however, it will be remotely. While they are staying with family members, we will compensate their caretakers for school, food and living expenses. Every year, we will evaluate the situation to ensure the wellbeing of our boys, and to ensure sustainability. With that being said, it will not be an easy task. Therefore, we need your help.

Please continue to support us so we can continue to transform lives in ways that are conspicuous. Please visit our website at [elevatehaiti.org](http://elevatehaiti.org) or contact Roosevelt Mareus at 585-978-5622. All contributions are tax deductible. We thank you in advance and appreciate your prayers and support.

Best,

Roosevelt