



## Presenting the Ministry



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2004

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Dear Friends,

Greeting in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It has been, now, eight (8) years since this adventure has began. It has had its ups and downs. Yet, constantly along the way, we felt the hands of Christ protecting us. We never thought of ourselves as being special. But guess what? In His eyes we have always been in spite of our doubts and falls.

Grace Corps is like a vessel in the high seas. It can't do much by itself when the "billows roll". All our hope and trust rest upon Him, Christ Jesus, who is the Captain of the ship. His guidance we will follow until we die.

Thanks to all of you, who support us through your prayers and finances. A special thanks to the former members of the Fellowship group, "The Thirty-niners", at Fellowship Bible Church, Roswell, GA, who boosted our hope and faith and made it all happen. Thanks, again, for being interested in the work that Grace Corps is doing in Haiti. We are please to present you this booklet. We hope that it will provide answers to some of your questions. It is not intended to be exhaustive. The idea behind this project is to present the system that provide the framework to our activities. That we hope we have achieved.

May the Lord bless you,

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## Chapter 1

2001-2003 have been the years of the "Focus on the Mission". We have worked hard to show the uniqueness of our call and the singularity of the passion that has taken hold of us.

### The Guiding Light

#### The Mission

In the heart of the Caribbean, a one hour and fifteen minutes flight away from Miami lies the island of Hispaniola. It is divided into two separate nations: Haiti in the West and the Dominican Republic in the East. We believe strongly that Grace Corps<sup>1</sup> was commissioned by God to start a ministry that promotes Education throughout Haiti rooted in a Christian Worldview. We see a well-rounded Education system and method as one of the most effective answers to Haiti's problems. We have been at it for 23 years now. We have trained more than 400 teachers in the principles of Christian Education which some of them have never heard of before we entered the field.

Our ministry is devised in such a way that cater to the whole person: Body, mind and soul. In 1998, we were still simply providing toys to children limiting ourselves to having them to peak at the immensity of God's Love and the wonder of his kindness. This, we think, we have done with fervor and passion. We slowly increased our reach to training the teachers so that they would better understand their role as personality shapers and nation builders. We, then moved towards teaching both teachers and students of the importance of the environment. They needed to understand the fact that God has made us stewards of nature to work the land but also to use the resources mindfully and efficiently while protecting trees and animal species.

One thing that appeared to be the common denominator with all of our activities is that we target those children and youths living in the poverty-stricken slums or in the remote villages far from the cities. They occupied an increasingly important place in our endeavor. People need to know about the saving Grace of Christ but also about the earthly things that will help them be better scientists, great environmentalists and business people.

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<sup>11</sup>.-Then called GRACED(english: Christian Action Group for Education and Development)

## **The “Revelation”**

The idea of promoting Christian Education in all its different aspects in Haiti came to us like a revelation. There are hundreds of mission organizations in the country. Some are building great churches others huge schools. But very few dedicate themselves to the preparation of the teachers. They don't realize that have building is only one of many steps in building a school. It takes great teachers, sound pedagogical methods and relevant curricula to be just half way to building and keeping a school going.

Realizing that the scales fell off our eyes. We were given the golden opportunity to see the situation as God sees it. We were shown the way.”*Insist on Christian Education*”, *seemed to have been the message, “for more than a mind, a heart for Christ is a terrible thing to waste.”* Soon it was no longer a search for the ultimate goal, as far as what the Lord will have us do was concerned. We were convinced that whatever we do and however we ended up doing it, somewhere at the core of it all, the radiant light of Jesus Christ will shine, showing the way, through the cross, to peace with God(Rom5:1)

## **The design**

Like the Potter, molding the clay to his satisfaction, God shaped us. Every curve, every sharp edge was a significant part of the eternal design He had for us. Even those things, which in our mind looked like deformities or handicaps had their own purpose. He showed us the needs so clearly and make the changes to take place so smoothly that we can only give him glory for all that he has done.

## **The Basis**

Now, Mission, for the Christian, takes its roots in the great commission (Mt 28:20). It is a God given enlightenment by which one's mind and heart is made to focus on a specific need with the burning desire to provide a spiritual answer. *The ultimate goal being to present Christ as a living Savior to all, having them to taste the sweetness of life with the Son of God and partake of eternal bliss with him at the end of time.* “He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God”(Rev.2:7). Only after come the questions of how we are going to carry out the mission; What area of life attract our vision? How can we respond to the Great Commission and be convinced of doing the Lord's work to the best of our abilities? What approach will show our interest in the whole person: body, mind and soul?

## **Focus of the Mission**

Today, it is clear to all of us at Grace Corps that the method by which we ought to strive to carry out the Great Commission in Haiti is through the promotion of Christian Education. But, do we all trust that God can take us to levels that none of us never dream of? Do we all realize that in spite of our shortcomings we are ordinary vessels that the Lord of eternity is using for a glorious purpose?

2020 brings 24 years of continuing work in Haiti “Focus on the Mission”. We have worked hard to show:

- 1) The uniqueness of our call and
- 2) The singularity of the passion that has taken hold of us
- 3) The passion that fuel our drive for what we do.

No other time in the tumultuous history of Haiti has that land been more subject to the preaching of the Gospel of Christ in so diverse ways as it is today. And Grace Corps is proud to be at the forefront of the promotion of Christian Education. God, in Jesus, has given to each organization a specific task to accomplish: Some will be there to all have glitters and the praise of the press. Others silently, quietly, like all the pastors we work with in Haiti, are plowing in the dark with a burning candle on their side.

It feels so good to be recognized by the Master even if unnoticed by the world. I pray that our faith, our courage, our hope that is from God will never flicker, even in the midst of wants of different nature and concerns for our lives. We will always gird ourselves happily to take on the next challenge that the Lord has for us.

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## Chapter 2

### **Areas of Ministry for Grace Corps in Haiti**

Our involvement in Haiti is being carried on four levels :

- |                                       |            |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>- General Education Aid</b>        | <b>GEA</b> |
| <b>- Christian Education Ministry</b> | <b>CEM</b> |
| <b>- Life In Christ</b>               | <b>LIC</b> |

## **- Social and Economic Empowerment**

**SEE**

These areas of ministry are interwoven. They are in fact four aspects of the same work; four colors for the same light.

For example, our Christian Education Ministry (**CEM**) is primarily concerned with the promotion of Christian Education, but can we do that without the insistence on the quality of that Education? Of course, not. So, it is also a General Education Aid in this aspect (**GEA**). One other point that we insist on is the leadership role (trust and friendship) of the teacher. He is to have an eye on the progress of the newly saved child at times being his spiritual mentor (**LIC**). Also Whatever work that is done through Education, it has its impact on the social and economic life of a nation (**SEE**). All four aspects are linked together, made to work together and not as separate entities.

These areas of involvement illustrate well our action in Haiti. Let's briefly describe each one of them.

### **General Education Aid(GEA)**

The latest statistics show that, in Haiti 89% of all the schools are private. Of these the greatest portion are catholic and protestant. We partner with only the evangelical schools and have made this choice not on theological ground, but on the basis of their individual need. Of the evangelical schools, the neediest are the independent ones. But as we were to find out they are also the hardest to work with in terms of administrative structure and understanding of Christian Education principles.

### **Needs Perceived and Real**

Our job looks at times as if we were working with a drowning man gasping for air. The schools are very poor. Their primary perceived need is to survive. They express their needs in the following terms.

#### **The Needs**

- 1- Teacher's Salary (dormant since we don't have enough funds to do this)*
- 2- Construction and maintenance*
- 3- One hot meal for each child (We have never been able to do this)*

They perceive the role of any organization that would like to help them as messianic. They are foreign to the concept of partnership. Hence, our role as instructor to the pastors. We help them grasp the advantage of an organization playing a partnership role with them as oppose to giving them full support over an indefinite period.



However, the main need is to make the school do the job of a good school. That is hardly what most of them are at the stage that precedes Grace Corps involvement with them.

- 1- The teachers need to become familiar with the tools that are applied to good teaching techniques;**
- 2- They need to understand their role as helpers rather than masters to the children;**
- 3- The schools need to become Appropriate Teaching/Learning Environments (ATLE).**

### **The Appropriate Teaching/Learning Environment Concept**

Our GEA ministry wants to contribute to the creation in these independent schools of an Appropriate Teaching and Learning Environment. We do this by conveying to the Leaders Pastors/Principals the idea that the school as it stands, is a “beginning” rather than an “end” in itself. They are brought to realize that if the schools should continue to function at their present level (of disregard for sound administrative principles, ill-prepared curriculum application, and also, if the actual building continues to be used in its current state) in the long run, they will be working **against** the principles of Education rather than **for** them. We, thus, make it our duty to work with the leaders at improving:

#### **Areas to improve**

- 1- The Physical environment
- 2- The Administrative environment
- 3- The curriculum

#### **Actions**

- Construction and Repairs
- Setting up School committees
- Book Bank Prog./ Teachers Training Prog.

Today one can only be amazed at the vast extension of Christian works in the four corners of the world. We have been active on nearly all fronts taking the message of the cross always to new levels.

## Chapter 3

### The Christian Education Ministry (CEM)

So many of our projects have a General Education Aid value. Yet our main focus is **Christian Education**. The GEA aspect is accessory to it, and is not its primary trend. Through the CEM we are committed to providing the teachers with the necessary training to help them see the school as a mission field unlike any other. The teachers automatically enroll in TTP (a two-year program). After which they become Grace Corps Graduate teachers and members of our Missionary Teachers Pool (MTP).

We believe that the spiritual aspect should be integrated and interwoven with the normal every day curriculum. It is important to us that it is seen as “a normal thing to do” rather a way to force religion upon children.

The schools that we work with can be grouped in two categories: Independent and mission-owned.

### The Independent Church/Schools

The following is a quick look at the Profile of independent schools that we work with and beneficiaries of all aspects (GEA/CEM/LIC/SEE) of our ministry: these independent schools are:

- 1- Schools that share a building with a church;**
- 2- The pastor is the founder of both the school and the church;**
- 3- They're located in very populated areas or in remote countryside villages;**
- 4- All the classes, sometimes 4, 5 or 6, meet in one room with the blackboard used to separate and limit the different classes.**

- 5- The teachers have received little or no training in Education, and consequently,
- 6- These schools perform very badly;
- 7-Teachers salary is a misery;
- 8- Sanitary conditions are bad, very bad or non existent;
- 9- Even though they are part of a church ministry, these schools can hardly be called Christians schools, because the kids rarely learn anything about Christ, the teachers voluntarily refrain from presenting themselves as Christians, and worse, they may not be Christians at all.

### **The Mission Owned Church/Schools**

We are now seeking to partner with a new breed of church/schools. They are mission-owned. It means that they belong to an organization that has certain rights over how these church/schools work. We’ve just started seeking to expend in this area and the prospect is promising.

We’re in contact with the “Union of Baptist Churches of Haiti” (UFM-UEBH) and are going to intervene for them in the Artibonite Department, North of Port-au-Prince. The plan is to provide training to the teachers of six schools in the Fifth District of St Marc. We are currently negotiating with “**Compassion International**” to do the same for them. These two Christian organizations have a vested interest in Education in Haiti.

### **The Facts**

Today we are working with 19 independent schools (soon to be 25), 79 teachers, 1840 Children in three (3) geographical communities: Port-au-Prince, Petit Goave and Zetwa.

### **The Level System**

A level System is put in place to regulate the participation of these schools and see what benefits they are entitled to.

- Level I:** Grace Corps membership-Free teacher training; school eligible for repair projects
- Level II:** Includes Level I+toy distribution
- Level III:** Includes Levels I&II+access to books & uniform program
- Level IV:** Includes Levels I, II & III+ access to Grace Corps-sponsored Missionary or Traveling Teacher Program through which teachers provide classes not regularly offered (such as Arts, Sports, Sewing, etc.) to member-schools while on the Corps’ payroll.

### **The Mission of the Teachers’ Training Program**

1- To effect spiritual and social changes through the promotion of Christian Education: rearing a generation of men and women fully conscious of their relationship with God and the spiritual and social consequences there of.

2- To train Christian teachers who are able to incorporate biblical truths into their work and encourage their pupils to pattern their self-image after Christian spiritual values while being socially active as Christ followers.

3- To lead a group of schools to apply the principles, and methods of Christian Education, working with us to raise the standard of Education.

### **Measurable Goals**

1- Reaching about 2000 students in 20 schools over a period of 5 years, with a ratio of 400 or more new students per year (depending on funding) the program will continue until funds run out.

2- Eighty(80) teachers to graduate every 2 years after completion of the training program. Those already certified will attend a minimum of two extra classes per year.

3- Priority is given to the church based schools with the church and the school sharing the same building. Physical improvement in the church means, improvement for the school.

## Evaluation tools

- 1.- Written evaluations
- 2.- Surveys and research
- 3.- Graduates
- 4.- Seminars Reports
- 5.- Teachers Evaluations

Bringing children to Christ is serious and no one should take it lightly. So serious that it may well be the unique way by which a lasting impact may be effected upon any given society.

## Chapter 4

### The role of the local church

#### Life in Christ (LIC)

Bringing children to Christ is serious and no one should take it lightly. So serious that it may well be the unique way by which a lasting impact may be effected upon any given society. When a child come to Christ, it might be the beginning of a new generation of godly people, finding freedom from a family curse.

God knows all the untold stories of children coming to know Christ after a Bible lesson from our program “**Kids, let’s praise the Lord**” or the moving testimony of a teacher, empowered by our training, who boldly share his existential experience with Christ in the classroom. However this child come to know Jesus, discipling is the key to his faithfulness to the Savior.

To ensure proper follow up of these children we work closely with the local church. In other word the local church, is the pivotal point around which our ministry evolves. In order for a school to be part of our program it must be part of a local church. Here’s the 4 steps by which we prepare for the child’s decision, we introduce the child to Christ, we continue to confront him with the truth, we secure proper follow up if a decision is made.

**STEP ONE**, Right from the start we prepare for the end which is to receive the child into the family of Christ.

**STEP TWO**, is the logical result of the previous step. The teacher receives training to witness to the child in a creative way.

**STEP THREE**, tools are made available to the teacher with which he may influence the child's life:

**1- Kids, Let's praise the Lord.**

**2- The First gift (Bible distribution: One Bible for each child)**

**3- The Student's Study Bible(Creole translation of the Bible be prepared)**

**4- Pastor's Conference**

**5- Children's Retreat**

**6- The Lighthouse Outreach Ministry(See:p.19 Lighthouse Outreach Ministry in perspective)**

**7- Teacher's Seminar**

**The child touched by the saving grace of Jesus Christ may surrender his life to the Savior in STEP THREE.**

**STEP FOUR**, If the decision is made, the school being an integrated part of the local church . The church is prepared to take over..

### **Life In Christ Though Organized Groups (perspectives)**

One very important part of our ministry is to introduce the pastors that we work with to new concepts, new modes of thinking which they may have heard of, but don't know how to implement them into the church's Structure.

Groups like the Boys or Girls Scouts, or the Christian Brigade and the Light groups for the girls are tremendous assets that may be available to a church or a school in its effort to reach the young and to maintain contact with them.

None of these exists at the present time in those remote churches with which we work. We believe that it's our job to work alongside of the church, helping the leaders to build strong foundations that will perpetuate the good news of the Gospel.

These groups's role may go way beyond the need for discipling, and extend toward some community task of extreme importance in those areas lacking the most basic infrastructures.

### **Community Task Trough Organized Groups**

They may get involved in humanitarian interventions in case of disasters such as fire, innundation or land slides. In third world countries, the Gospel, in order to be effective must be active in all

**To Establish stronger bonds with a community that has shown potentials for receptivity to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and set up a permanent outreach ministry that will promote Christian Education.**

areas of life. The local church's role cannot be a passive look over the difficulties that people face every day. Jesus ministry was effective because it was active. Christ went beyond the soul he included in his out-reach the body also. So the local church must be the extended image of Jesus Christ not only to each believer, but to the community as a whole. The unbelievers have only one way to have an opinion about the Love of our Lord, it's through our concerns for them in every aspect of their lives.

### **The Role of the Church as We See It**

With a lethargic government, in many ways totally absent, the church in Haiti has a golden opportunity to serve and to love. If it does that with the government and the young believer, it kills two birds with one stone. On the one hand it serves to reinforce the faith of the young allowing them to mature in Christ. On the other hand it promotes the cause of Him who is the only light in a world of total darkness.

Alas, we've not reach our full potential yet in our partnerships with the local church. Today the teachers report directly to Grace Corps about the impact that we may be having on the children. It's a non-formal report.

We want to help the teacher build confidence in his/her new role as a missionary to the children. As this slowly happen we will establish a more formal form of report design to keep, brief as they may be, statistics on the progress of the Gospel in the Classroom. Then with the church will we ensure follow up of the kinds mentioned above.

## Chapter 5

### **The Lighthouse Outreach Ministry L.O.M**

To understand the objective of the Lighthouse Outreach Ministry, let's look at the need.

#### **The Need**

**Since** a good Christian school requires a good Christian staff;

**Since** it is more efficient in long term to invest in having the teachers settle into the rural communities than to have the children sent out to other villages;

**Since** the rural communities in Haiti can hardly offer the basic conditions such as decent living quarters with water, electricity and sanitary facilities, necessary to attract good Christian teachers;

**Since** we aim at improving the quality of Education while making it more biblical; and, **since** this requires long term commitment on the part of those we have trained;

**Since** it is also our belief that in order to have long term impacts on any given community. We must bond with its inhabitants, through permanent settlements and by doing so allowing the seed of the Gospel, once planted, to produce indefinitely.

### **Proposed Answer**

It is then an obligation on our part to seek a permanent relation with the communities that we work with and create favorable conditions to bring to and keep in those rural areas those teachers who will serve as an extension of our ministry to the children. One way we may be able to achieve this blessed task is through the Lighthouse Outreach Ministry.(LOM)

It is one of the most ambitious dreams that we ever have at Grace Corps.

## **Objectives**

I.-To provide the necessary environment to:

1.- The Christian teachers in order to facilitate their long term commitment to teaching in rural areas such as those in which Grace Corps has established durable ministry for the last three years;

2.- The children in that community so they will continue to learn about God, grow spiritually and intellectually;

-To Establish stronger bonds with a community that has shown potentials for receptivity to the Gospel of Jesus Christ;

- To open an otherwise closed community to the world and guide it on the path to development.

- To decentralize our outreach endeavor, so that Grace Corps may reach the hinterland in Haiti more effectively.

It constitute the culminating point of our mission. It is the ultimate measure of our maturity as an organization.



**It will mark the end of the first stage in our growth to begin the next phase by which we will function differently as an organization.**

The Lighthouse Outreach Ministry aims at creating a number of (communities) self-sufficient educational complexes throughout Haiti. They will serve as bases to spread the Gospel through the promotion of Christian Education.

### **The Mission of LOM**

The Lighthouse Outreach Ministry is committed ensure continuous spreading of the Gospel in the remotest areas of the countryside in Haiti, through the creation of Lighthouse complexes in key coastal villages as well as in strategic mountain sites. We will provide, by the grace of God the most needed facilities that will:

- 1.- simplify the life of teachers allowing them to have acceptable living conditions. These sites
- 2.- will constitute a major step in the long history of the Christian church in Haiti, while remaining a visible proof of our interest in a particular community;
- 3.- as well as serve as proof that we are truly interested not only in the soul of the individual but also in his mind and body.
- 4.- have the Government of Haiti encouraged by such enterprise. Since it will break down the walls of isolation of these communities and open them to world of information enough to bring them the good of the cyber Age without the evil of its corruption.
- 5.- Most of all (they will) crown our efforts at improving the quality of education while propagating the Gospel of Grace, by being closer to the actions.

## **Wrapping up The Road Map**

We started with a vision

We wanted to see a community transformed by the power of Gospel. So we observed.

Look around in search of that community of interest for future outreach.

Then we spread the word around so that teachers may receive free training to improve the quality of their teaching abilities and become excellent Christian teachers. Due to lack of funds only some schools became regular members of Grace Corps's CEM.

#### **Activities in a member-school:**

- School/Church
- Teacher's Training
- Application of the Level System (See page 12)

#### **Activities in a non member-school:**

- School/Church
- Teacher's Training

To further our outreach and depending on the interest express by the folks for our Teacher training, we promote that group of schools to the level of Training Host Community (THOC). It means for them that they will not need to assist the training in a community other than their own and now they are as THOC entitled to receive the training in their community with the help of a THOC coordinator.

### **Activities in the Training Host Community:**

- School/Church
- Development Program
- Teacher's Training
- Application of the Level System (member schools only)

The THOC having shown potentials in spreading the Gospel around to other smaller communities becomes eligible to house a Lighthouse Complex which is the climatic point in our bonding with that community.

It sends the message that the organization is an integrated part of that community ready to invest in its growth both Socially and Spiritually.

### **Activities in the Lighthouse Complex:**

- Church
- School
- Library/Computer lab
- Community center
- Development Program in Larger Scale
- Training/Conference center
- A beacon (where applicable)
- Living Quarters for teachers and missionaries.

### **Concluding thoughts**

Here in Haiti many Christian are mis-educated about the things of Christ to a point that the Catholic Church and voodoo rituals and beliefs cohabite in almost perfect harmony. It's very difficult now to tell one from the other.

The Christian church must realize that in order for its impact to be relevant and long lasting it will have to remain biblically sound, socially oriented and **Salvation minded**.

Today one can only be amazed at the vast extension of Christian works in the four corners of the world. We have been active on nearly all fronts taking the message of the cross always to new levels. We have been Challenging the wise of this world with the wisdom of Christ Jesus.(Rom. 1:20,21) The Christian Church has been pro active especially in the realm of Education. The third world would go bankrupt

without the Christian organizations trumpeting over to the North the vast misery of the South. We echo the challenge that illiteracy, sickness and poverty represent for this post-modernist and technology inclined age.

### **We Need Your Prayers and Financial Help**

Your prayers are the only stable support we hope to receive. With the Lord on our side keeping close watch on what we do, providing fund, energy and vision this work will succeed.

## **ADDENDUM**

### **The Small Business Ministry (SBM)**

While fine tuning our focus and objectives it was strategically necessary to let go of some aspects of our work that were not indispensable to achieving our main goals. So the Small Business Ministry consequently was no longer high lighted on our list of activities. It didn't vanish it has simply become priority number 3 or 4.

The Small Business Ministry, called the women's Ministry had its role within the Grace Corps System. May be not the way it was being carried out; but if it should be thought through and reorganized in a way to fit into our Development program. We believe that it could become a mean of giving an even more concrete illustration of the our social concerns and show how God does care about the whole individual. As we partner with more and more churches, the need to revive the Small Business Ministry program will emerge. Only this time we may need to confine it to our church/schools and make the Loan an incentive to promote Adult Education, self respect and individual achievement. This fits a boarder perspective: one where Grace Corps is spiritually fulfilled, administratively dependable and financially stable.