

Shiloh Children's Home *with Tom & Ginger Schmidt* Serving the Lord in Haiti



Our Hope for Haiti

"This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is Thy faithfulness."— Lamentations 3:21–23

There are some places and people that never leave your heart. For us, Haiti is one of those places. Even though we are no longer living there, our prayers cannot stop for the people of Haiti and for the many friends we love who continue to live there. We think often of the families, pastors, children, and friends we have known for so many years. We wonder how they are doing, we pray for their protection, and we ask God to give them strength and hope in the midst of circumstances that are often incredibly difficult.

One young man who is especially close to our hearts is Maurice. He is now almost 17 years old. Maurice was born with significant physical and developmental challenges, but those who know him know that he has a wonderful smile and a sharp mind. He understands much of what is said to him and has always had a sweet and joyful spirit.

His story is one we will never forget. Years ago, Maurice was abandoned by his mother and left in a trash pile. He was discovered after a pastor's daughter heard him crying as she walked by. She took him home, but she was unable to care for him long-term. Through a missionary friend, Maurice eventually came into our care.

We have watched him grow over the years, and some of our memories with him are especially precious. He loved sitting beside me in the truck when I would take him for a drive. He would watch carefully as I shifted gears, and then he would try to imitate me, reaching over as if he could help! Those may seem like small moments, but they are the kinds of memories that stay with you.

Today, when we think of Maurice and so many others we love in Haiti, our hearts are filled with both concern and hope. Haiti continues to face tremendous challenges, and gangs control many of the major population centers. Daily life can be extremely difficult and uncertain for those living there.

But our hope is not found in circumstances. Our hope is found in Jesus Christ. Lamentations reminds us that God's mercies are new every morning and that His compassion never fails. Even when we cannot see what tomorrow will bring, we can trust the One who does.

Please continue to pray for Haiti. Pray for protection for our friends and their families. Pray for pastors and churches seeking to minister in difficult places. Pray for children and those who are especially vulnerable. And pray that God will open doors for His people to bring practical help, encouragement, and the hope of the Gospel. Most of all, pray that the people of Haiti will know that Jesus Christ has not forgotten them.

Thank you for continuing to stand with us in prayer and for carrying Haiti in your hearts. We may be separated by miles, but we can still pray, still care, and still make a difference—one person at a time. Great is Thy faithfulness!

