

Kay Papa News



Kay Papa Nou & Unity House - February 2016

As Drought Hammers Countryside, Many in Haiti Go Hungry

By DAVID MCFADDEN, ASSOCIATED PRESS

ORIANI, Haiti — Feb 24, 2016

Only shriveled carrots and potatoes grow in Carole Joseph's small vegetable plot. The family's chickens are long gone. She sold her only tools to buy food, then the wooden bed she shared with her children. The family now sleeps on the floor of their shack.

All that's left to sell are the pots she uses to cook over a fire pit, when there's something to eat. The 28-year-old mother of four, is among roughly 1.5 million Haitians who can't get nearly enough nutrition because of a year-long drought that has spoiled harvests in her small mountain village and across large sections of the countryside.

"We get a little bit to eat and drink each day, but it's never enough to get our strength back. I don't know what to do anymore," she said, her voice hoarse as she cradled her toddler twins, their hair brittle and taking on a yellowish tinge, signs of malnutrition.

For the last three years, a punishing drought has driven Haitians who were already barely getting by on marginal farmland even deeper into misery. Last year's crop yields were the worst in 35 years in a country where more than two-thirds of people eke out a living from agriculture, many using archaic hand tools.

Many Haitians routinely go to bed hungry, and are heartbreakingly accustomed to privation and natural disasters.

Few places are more vulnerable than Haiti, where 3.6 million of its 10.4 million people can't afford the minimum daily calories, according to the U.N. World Food Program. Of those, 1.5 million are in urgent need of assistance, meaning they're getting significantly less nutrition than what they need and are so underfed they become weak. That category of "severely food insecure" people has doubled in Haiti over the last six months, the agency said.

Many of the children cared for at Kay Papa Nou and Unity House came from homes or from the street where they too had little to eat each day. Food was scarce. Families unable to care for their children brought them to David and Danny Guillaume, where they have been cared for and loved. During the 2004 rebellion, David begged for food to feed his children.

The quote "Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day..." was how David began his ministry. Today however, "Teach a man to fish, and feed him for a lifetime" would more aptly apply. The children of KPN and Unity House have been receiving an education since 2009, initially through teachers hired to come and begin a school, and currently through the same school that has grown to include other children in the community. Those who are in their final years of high school are sent to private Christian schools. Although the teachers would not meet the requirements necessary to teach in the U.S., they provide the children with an education

For information on how you can help the children in Haiti, please call: Govans Presbyterian Church 410-435-8189, Roland Park Presbyterian Church 410-889-2001, Neighbors Near & Far 443-904-1149. Kay Papa Nou and Unity House are also supported by Brown Memorial Woodbrook Presbyterian Church 410-377-7232. Thank you.

that enables them to pass the Haitian government examinations.

Your gifts support the children and endow them with the opportunity to fish for themselves as Haiti moves forward, God willing.

The photos below are of the children at the Nouvelle Institute Chricha in Canaan which is located near Unity House.



May God continue to bless you as you have blessed others, as we all work together to eliminate suffering and poverty. Thank you for all you have done, and for being a beacon in the darkness of poverty.

~ David Guillaume