

# LIFE IN THE SON

Port-de-Paix, Haiti

Spring 2003

## A Ground-breaking Story

By Norma Alexander

We have some cutting-edge news! Perhaps not earth shattering, but rather groundbreaking. We have broken ground for Sonlight's new multi-purpose building, which will house an auditorium/gymnasium, offices and classrooms.

On January 26, the church from Rising Sun, Indiana, was here to witness and participate in this grand event. There was a work crew ready to go to work. On that Sunday morning, excitement was running high. Manning the ground-breaking tools were John Hobson, representing our supporting churches, Roger Alexander, representing Sonlight Ministries, Carmen Alexander, representing Sonlight Academy, Franck Estalus, representing Sonlight Church, and Freud Saintilmond, a kindergartner representing Sonlight students, who sported a pint-sized shovel.

Earlier that same week, the mayor of Port-de-Paix paid us a visit. The visit was neither congratulatory nor social. He had come to tell us that we had no building permit. The existing permit had been issued under the previous mayor and was no longer valid. The word was "STOP." We were not to build. He told us we needed to re-apply for a permit and re-do the proper paperwork. He then told Roger that there were people who had called and come to his office who did not want this building built. Was this true? We wondered if what we wanted and had prayed diligently for had actually superseded what the Haitian people wanted and what God wanted.

We turned to God again. We would not try to work any miracles to get this done. If this building were truly God's will for the community and the students at Sonlight, He could definitely make it happen. We petitioned Him steadily.

The parents of Sonlight students and church members called on the mayor and talked to the local people in charge. A meeting was

called at city hall. One of our church leaders called from the meeting and asked Roger to come downtown. It seemed that public sentiment was definitely for the building, and the mayor soon realized it. Those against the building had been stealing sand and building cement block on our lot. The mayor agreed to give us the building

permit. We wondered if it would really happen or would we play the waiting game again? It DID happen. On Tuesday, Roger was holding the building permit in his hand. Know this is not the end of the story, nor the end of problems we'll encounter, only the beginning.

The encouragement, support and concern of the parents and church members did much for us. We see they do want what's best for their children, even though many of them are not yet Christians. God works in mysterious ways!

We are awaiting the arrival of the boat carrying our supplies. Onboard, we have

a tractor loaned to us by a very dear Missouri farmer, as well as a backhoe donated by a California farmer. These tools will definitely make building this structure much easier. We thought we HAD to have these here a month ago. Not so! We are alive and well, the boat is still sitting in Miami, and we are not ready for them yet. Our delays seem to be God's perfect timing. Our time schedule is full of erasure marks. When will the boat come? We don't know, but just in time! We seem to only look at the bottom side of the master plan.

We pray daily for God's will in this new project. We have seen His mighty hand working in our students' lives, and we have seen His provision in every area of our lives. Pray that His will, will be clear as we continue to work. Two people who were instrumental in getting the permit cleared have a son graduating in four years. It is their hope to see their son graduate in this new building; it is our hope we will see them come to the Lord before that time!



**A joyous occasion:** On January 26, with the help of community members and church supporters, Sonlight broke ground on the future site of its multi-purpose building.

# Senior Essays: What Does Ch

*As they approach commencement, the Sonlight Academy graduating class of 2003 takes time to reflect on what the death and resurrection of Christ means to their lives, to the nation of Haiti and to all of the world.*

**“For God so loved the world  
that he gave his one and only Son,  
that whoever believes in him shall not perish  
but have eternal life.”**

John 3:16

*What does Christ's sacrifice mean to you?*



## Grateful Ness

by Denise Paul, Sonlight Academy senior

Jesus accepting to die for us on the cross shows us how His love for us surpasses even His love for Himself.

When Jesus came to earth no one believed that He was the Son of the living God. He did miracles, but not in a garish manner, to show people how He was the ubiquitous God. Still not one person believed in Him. He said that he was going to die and resurrect on the third day. They still mocked Him. When the Lord's time came, He did die, and on Easter Sunday, He rose from the dead. He proved why he came to earth – to die. But Jesus didn't die just for the sake of dying and resurrecting. He died to give life to us, sinners.

Throughout Jesus' life people did not understand that it would take His death to give us life. We all celebrate Easter because Jesus rose from the grave. It is difficult to imagine how Christ would be willing to give his life for my family and me. He was willing to drain his blood, be mocked and get beaten for me, Denise Paul. I am grateful!



## Hope, Love And JOy

by Edline François, Sonlight Academy senior

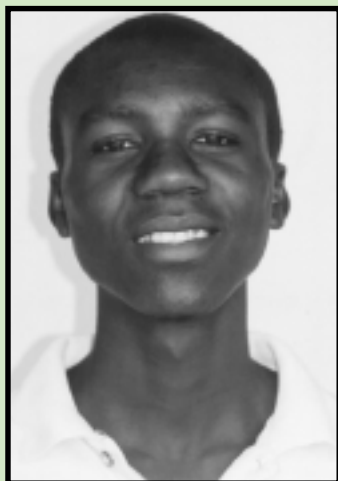
I am writing this essay in commemoration of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior.

When I think of the month of April, I think of Easter. Easter is the remembrance of Jesus' love for me. Easter is a time that brings me hope, love and joy. Easter means hope to me because I am assured that after death there will be a resurrection. It brings me love. Sometimes when I feel unloved, I just think about Easter, and I am filled with love. It also brings me joy. When I have hope and I am loved, I have great joy in my life.

Easter reminds me that Jesus loved me so much that He who was blameless agreed to die on the cross for me. He did not only die for me; He also rose up from the grave to give me hope that one day I too may be resurrected.

I love Jesus, and He loves me. He loved me to the point of death.

# Christ's Sacrifice mean to me?



## Time to Rejoice

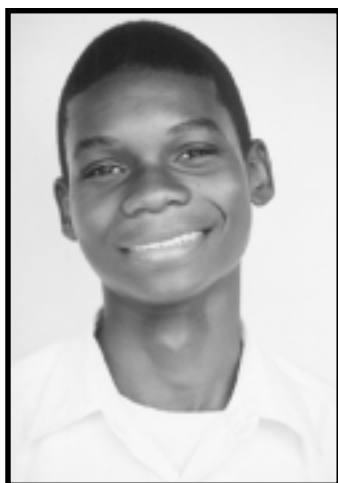
by James Saintdyc, Sonlight Academy senior

My essay is about how we consider Easter in Haiti and what it symbolizes to us. It is about how I look at Easter and why Christians boast about it.

Easter is a time of rejoicing!

I usually think of Easter as a tradition. What I mean by that is people in Haiti celebrate Easter with traditions. These days, many participate in something known as "rara." At a rara there is dancing and foolish things, practicing Voodoo in a sense and not realizing what Easter really means. They don't recognize our Savior's sacrifice for them. It makes me sad. When I look back at my life, it makes me even sadder because I was just like those people.

Today, I look at Easter with a different perspective. Easter for me is two or three days of fasting, where I take five or six hours to pray to God. We, Christians, have a reason to boast because of Easter. If it weren't for Christ's resurrection our mouths would be shut. That is why we are always happy, because we know the truth for which we stand.



## Joy and Sadness

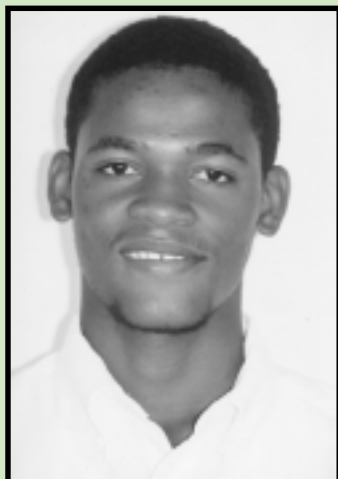
by Holding Fenelus, Sonlight Academy senior

Easter! It is one word with different meanings in different minds. The fact that everyone is free to think and define allows us to consider various beliefs.

The freedom to think brings variation to Easter's meaning. Christians throughout the world have different thoughts when thinking of Easter. Some celebrate Easter with happiness, because of their contentment in knowing that Jesus was resurrected. Some celebrate Easter as a melancholy time, because of their focus on the death of Christ. Others feel contentment and grieve at the same time.

Non-Christians, for the most part, do not have a meaning for Easter. Some even celebrate Easter from a negative viewpoint; they rejoice because they do not believe in Christ's resurrection.

In general, Easter can bring both joy and sadness, but these feelings are bound together in a Christian's mind.



## Praise and Thanks

by Louis Senatus, Sonlight Academy senior

People in Haiti celebrate Easter in several ways.

Some who are not believers commemorate Easter with "rara" bands. The non-believers who practice Voodoo go in the streets and play music on drums and homemade trumpet-like instruments. Many people follow them around dancing and taking pleasure in distracting the Christian services. These activities are meant to symbolize what the Roman soldiers and the Jews did to show disrespect to Christ. They remember Christ's death.

The agnostics just watch what the non-believers and Christians do.

We, Christians, remember Christ's life, his death and his resurrection. Christians in Haiti have long services of worship to praise and manifest their thanks for the gift of life. These services are our tradition. We commemorate the resurrection of Christ to life, for He lives!

# NACC: Indianapolis in July

We look forward to seeing you at the North American Christian Convention (NACC) this summer. Please visit our booths, #823 and #922, and learn about all the God is doing in Haiti. For more information about the NACC, please go to [www.nacctheconnectingplace.org](http://www.nacctheconnectingplace.org).



*"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." Ephesians 3:20-21*

## Contact Information

### Letter Address:

Sonlight Ministries PdP, Name of Missionary or Student, P.O. Box 407140, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33340

### Package Address:

Lady Lotmore, Carmen Alexander/  
Sonlight Ministries, 3611 N.W. South River Drive, Miami, FL 33142

**Website:** [www.sonlightministries.org](http://www.sonlightministries.org)

**Phone in Haiti:** 011-509-268-5171

**E-mail:** (see website for more info)

[sonlight@haiti.maf.net](mailto:sonlight@haiti.maf.net)

[alexanders@haiti.maf.net](mailto:alexanders@haiti.maf.net)

[carmen@sonlightministries.org](mailto:carmen@sonlightministries.org)

### Financial Contributions:

Farley Smith, Director of Development,  
Sonlight Ministries, P.O. Box 8031,  
Evansville, IN 47716

[agapefda@aol.com](mailto:agapefda@aol.com), 812-401-6531

**Short-term Trips:** contact Amber at  
[amber@sonlightministries.org](mailto:amber@sonlightministries.org)

**Stateside Communications:** contact  
Amy at [amy@sonlightministries.org](mailto:amy@sonlightministries.org)