

We Need Teachers!

April Houk has been called to be a missionary in Italy. She has played a dynamic and integral role on the Sonlight team for the past ten years. She has changed the hearts of close to 300 second graders, new Bible college students, and our staff. Even though she will be sorely missed, we know God's plan for her is great.

Kala White and Josh Bunse are getting married June 28th. Kala has taught 4th grade for the last two years. Josh joined us in January and has been an immense help to our construction/maintenance team. They will begin farming in Missouri. Happy Marriage!

We pray God's blessings upon Jen Cox, our high school math teacher, and Ashley, our first grade teacher, as they return to the United States. We thank them for the impact they've made through three years of faithful teaching.



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Babies, Buildings, People and Puppies

by Norma Alexander

BABIES are the topic of a lot of conversations these days! Claudia and Warren welcomed their beautiful daughter Arwen on May 3. Cara and Thom are going to have a baby in August. And we have a couple who came in to replace Claudia and Warren while they are on maternity leave, and guess what? She is pregnant! I believe it's contagious. It makes me happy!

And for the general population, we need a new **BUILDING**. Hopefully it will be finished long before these babies are in need of it! Construction is underway in spite of some 'mayor setbacks'. I did not mean major, but mayor! God has such a sense of humor. It seems like He has a plan to let all Port-de-Paix know about SonCenter - thanks to the mayor saying it can't be built. Since honesty is our policy, we have not paid to hurry the process. We are back at work, after much discussion with the "powers that be" here in town: the U.S. Embassy, international chaplains and the court system.

Work is progressing thanks to **PEOPLE**. Church people who are working, visitors and the usual Sonlight employees. One day as the men were working, the mayor and police arrived



and arrested four workers saying they didn't have the proper building permits. (There had been three copies delivered to any interested persons). As it happened, neither Roger, John, Josh, nor any visitors were working there. Four of our Haitian workers were taken directly to court, where the judge said there was no reason to hold them. All seemed to be in order!

And our **PUPPY** news is we have a new German shepherd puppy. He is acclimating well to our household. We have named him Dako VonRumble, and call him Rumble. He's just one of the growing changes at Sonlight!

Just Imagine

by Deb Orr, Sonlight Board Member

With just a little imagination, the vastness of the plowed fields out my window becomes the spreading ocean, the rooftops of a nearby neighborhood form into green and beige hills, and the picket fence around our yard stretches to guard buildings snuggled against the street. I imagine I am back in Haiti—back to the dusty roads, the clomp of donkey hooves, and the beep of many horns. This same scene I've captured in photographs from several trips to Sonlight. Despite the area's familiarity, each visit leaves me with a unique impression, and this last trip was no different.

It was the kids—the smiling, enthusiastic kids at Sonlight—who captured my heart. I was privileged to

teach in the upper grades and found the students eager to learn and solve the challenges I put before them. Hearing the depth of their prayers before each class, witnessing their comments of faith during movie night, and seeing their joy after other students were baptized inspired me to thank God for what he is doing at Sonlight Academy through the staff.

Even among the adults, it was clear that lives were being changed. The Sunday morning services were full of people worshipping the Lord, and both American and Haitian adults shared the depth of their faith during morning devotions each school day. I was reminded of Paul's affirmation in I Thessalonians 1:5, "Our gospel



came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit, and with deep conviction." My photographs can't show how God is moving in Haiti, but I can see it. With just a little imagination, the fields out my window no longer are a vast ocean, but multitudes of people turning toward their Creator and Lord, one by one.

Return Service Requested

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Gifts!

Southland Christian Church in Lexington, Kentucky gave Sonlight part of their year-end offering! It's the hugest gift we've ever received! This gift will accomplish much for our great goal of building SonCenter. A special aspect of this gift is that Jon and Allison Weece were both Sonlight teachers. From the Christians in Port-de-Paix to the Christians at Southland – thank you from the bottom of our hearts!



Meet Hénock

by Lenny Lowe



Hénock Julmyse has been at Sonlight Bible College since its opening in September of 2004. Even from that first year, he has set himself apart with his intelligence, his language skill, and his desire to serve God and the Church. Although I would love for you to glimpse the heart of all of our wonderful students, Hénock's may just be big enough to represent them all.

One day recently, I sat down with Hénock to ask him a few questions about his life, his studies, and his hopes for the future. Here is that conversation:

Lenny: What ministry or service are you involved in currently?

Hénock: As for now, I am the secretary of my church and the president of the youth. Sometimes, because I am also the director of Sunday-School, I teach others how to teach.

Lenny: How has Sonlight Bible College helped you?

Hénock: Sonlight Bible College has helped me a lot, not only in my faith, but also in my level of knowledge. Even though I am young, I am a church leader. So, this is very important for me. I have learned a lot of things that help me to feel comfortable as a leader.

Lenny: What would you change about the church in Haiti, if you could?

Hénock: With my study at Sonlight Bible College, I see that there is a big problem with division in the church in Haiti. They are fighting about doctrines and names. That doesn't look good in the eyes of the world. I think all Christians have a responsibility to be united and work for unity.

Lenny: How are you helping this problem?

Hénock: Well, I don't know. It is difficult, you know. But...we invite many other churches to our conferences and meetings. I always use the opportunity to tell them that, though we have different names, we are really one in Christ. This is very important.

Lenny: What are your plans for the future?

Hénock: When I finish studying, I would like to practice what I've studied, but only God knows.

Although I had hoped for a more specific answer, I could not have asked for a better one. Hénock truly practices what he learns, and I have no doubt that he will practice what he will preach. Françoise Fenelon wrote, "Let go all your plans. If you offer them unreservedly to God, he will turn everything to his own merciful purposes, whether he does what you wish or not." Hénock possesses true simplicity, the virtuous kind.

Listen Up!

by Jen Cox, high school math teacher

Everywhere I go people are talking. Sitting in my bedroom I can hear the children next door talking, shouting, and playing. The moment I step out my front gate the children across the street scream for my attention. At school, my students would talk all day long if I would let them.



Adults are always talking too. One of my favorite things about Haiti is how friendly the people are. Everyone greets everyone else. But the talking I hear isn't just the constant greetings.

I think people talk just to hear themselves talk. I see people talking to themselves all the time! When it's dark, I see teenagers studying anywhere they can find an electric light. These students are always studying out loud! The lady that works in my house talks to herself regularly. I used to think she was grumbling about her work, but she isn't. She's just talking.

Why this constant chatter? Because Haiti has a voice and she's desperate to be heard. When everyone is talking, no one is listening. My students are shocked when I tell them I grew up in a home with only one sibling and two parents. It is an idea most of them can't fathom. Many of my students come from homes where there are as many as five or more siblings plus cousins and maybe only one adult. You know that in a house like that, everyone is fighting to be heard.

It was my experience, during my Christmas break, that in America we are no different. Everywhere I went people were on their cell phones talking and sending text messages. In the world of Internet, e-mail, blogging, and instant messaging we are constantly talking.

The more I think about this idea, the more I realize this desire to talk and to be heard is part of our humanness. We want our thoughts and ideas to be validated. However, if we are



constantly talking, how can we really listen? How can we know the needs of others? How can we know what God is directing us to do? Listening is hard!

We are blessed to have a God who is a good listener. We are blessed to have a God who knows we like to talk. In Jeremiah 29:12 God says, "Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you."

Likewise, God wants us to listen more. This is only possible if we talk a little less. In James 1:19 we are told that "everyone should be slow to speak" and "quick to listen." More often than not, I have this completely backwards. I love to speak quickly (without pausing to think) and listen slowly. Lately, I have been convicted of this time and again. I am constantly in need of God's help. Please pray for our staff to be better listeners and slower speakers. I hope that you too will take the time today to talk a little less and listen a little more.