



# Friends of Messef Newsletter

## At the Crossroads



On a [recent visit](#) to Messef in February, when we had a list of tasks as long as your arm, we were greeted by two Haitian government inspectors for orphanages, who took 3 hours of our time.

Pastor Altesse and Huguette had told us previously that the government were making demands, but



we were surprised to find them waiting for us! Basically, there are requirements of orphanages in Haiti to obtain an obligatory state license. There are 11 counts on which Messef has been asked to improve, or else....

We knew most of these issues needed attention (details can be provided on request) but it has forced us to postpone the Bakery Project, which was high on **our** list, to concentrate on improving dormitories etc., to show that we are trying

to comply. (All the Bakery Project donations are banked safely but we cannot foresee going ahead soon — we will contact donors personally to discuss future plans).

We did finally manage to have a doctor examine all the children. Major fears were allayed for Fadelin but most children are suffering from malnutrition, anemia, parasites and skin problems, which we are tackling. Our goal to increase vegetable and egg production is closely linked to improved health.

Part of the Ministry  
**MESREDEN**



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### Special points of interest:

- ☺ Haitian Government Requirements
- ☺ News Updates
- ☺ How you are helping
- ☺ Important priorities
- ☺ Friends of Messef in the DR

## Christmas Cheer

It seems a long time ago now, but we took a wonderful ["Christmas on Wheels"](#) to the children in December. Thanks to a fantastic donation from **Donna, Gerald and their friends, and Rhonda**, we gave the children from the Orphanage and School a Christmas to remember.



For many, this was their first Christmas Dinner, tree and presents.

Thanks to **Linda, Marilyn, Glenda and Paula** from Coconut Grove in the DR for providing the gifts and decorations and to **Jeanette** for helping the children create their own paperchains etc. to brighten the occasion. Finally, thanks to our DR

team who produced the most amazing Christmas spread in record time.



We really did almost feed the 5,000 that night!

We were also able to replace the girls' leaky dormitory roof, thanks to **Lisa** and our DR builders.

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## Your visits since the last Newsletter — Sandra, April, Posie, Stu and Shay



*Sandra and April*

This visit, originally planned for the Autumn, finally went ahead in January and we were delighted that **April**, **Sandra's** daughter, was well enough to join us following her critical car accident. **Posie and Stu**, Sandra's in-laws, also paid their first visit to Messef, but we are sure not their last, and have since become a strong



*Children at the playground*

part of our Planning Team. During this [visit](#), **Stu and David** rebuilt the hen coop they had first constructed in **Jeanette's** lounge; a large supply of medicine from [NJTs](#) was delivered and instruction given by Stu to Huguette; and the children had an afternoon out that they, and **Posie**, will not forget in a long time.



*Posie and Sandra*

Finally, Shay joined us to carry out an initial assessment on the best way forward for the Bakery. We all agreed to start small within the grounds of Messef, but that must be postponed for the time being.



*Shay*

## Pastor Vasile and Daniel, with Jürgen



Pastor Vasile and his brother, Daniel, bearing gifts from the Romanian Philadelphia Pentecostal Church in Cambridge, Ontario, heard about Messef from Lorenzo, another Canadian supporter, and paid a visit to

Haiti during Pastor Vasile's first ever vacation with his wife. They blessed the children with their visit. Jürgen, our star photographer, joined them. See our [Facebook page](#) for some of Jürgen's stunning photos.

## Donna and Gerald

Visiting the Dominican Republic and Haiti for the umpteenth time, Donna and Gerald continue to amaze us with their generosity and that of their friends and family back home. This group has been supporting Messef since MESREDEN first became involved and continue to be some of the most faithful supporters in Friends of Messef. Largely thanks to them and Bernadette and Rhonda, we have been able to take a food delivery every month for almost five years! No small achievement for around 50 children plus adults.



*Gerald last year*

Their latest special project has been to bring construction on Pastor Altesse and Huguette's new home a little closer to completion, seven years after building started on it. The roof was completed during our visit at the beginning of March and now all the finishing is needed. When Pastor Altesse's family moves, that will free up some much needed extra accommodation and give them a little more privacy.



We spent time on this visit assessing the best place to locate the badly needed new boys' dormitory and new school buildings and how to move forward with the urgent sewage and crop fertilization plan being worked on by Stu.

Donna and Gerald have been involved with other aid to Haiti since the earthquake, but their hearts have been completely won by the Messef children and we do not have words to express our gratitude for their contribution to the welfare of our children, making many personal sacrifices in order to continue.

♥ **God bless Donna & Gerald**  
**and all the**  
**Friends of Messef ♥**

## Fathers' Day chicks come home to roost—in three stages

[The Fathers' Day Appeal](#) was hatched in June of last year by **Glenda and Linda** and we were delighted to reach our goal of US\$500 in less than three months!

However, the "[Autumn Project](#)" had to be delayed due to **April's** car accident.

When the gang finally arrived in January, **David and Stu** set to work on building the large coop at David and Jeanette's home here in the DR, but bad weather forced them to move construction into Jeanette's lounge!

The coop was dismantled and transported to Haiti in the back of Pastor



The birds in their new Hen Coop, eating for Haiti

Quirico's pick-up truck and was re-built on site. We were sure that Stu would be sun struck, but obviously he was made of stronger stuff than we thought. Stu, David and Manola worked for hours in the hot sun without permanent damage.



It was over a month later when we finally took the chicks to Haiti, after

two weeks of intensive care and TLC with **Jeanette and David**.

Now, thanks to their sponsors, we have **John and Marlene, Tom, Furbs, Matthew, Mal, Ike, Poush, the Summer Boys (2), Ken, Rick, Ray, Greg, Muir and Sachel**. If anyone still wants to donate \$10 to name a bird, it's not too late and we thank everyone else who donated but chose for their hens to remain "anonymous"

The [children](#) are doing a great job in looking after the birds; if any of you would like to help pay for their feed we would be clucked to bits. There are [43 chickens](#) eating and growing at an incredible rate, so please [contact us](#) if you can help us to get them laying as soon as possible.

## Fundraising and your donations



**Ikey**, 6, followed his birthday treasure hunt for Messef with a "show and tell"

to his classmates on the orphanage. Well done, Ikey, and thank you, Mum Natasha, who is Posie's daughter.

Ikey and his family donated \$53 to our children.



**Jeanette** started to provide the older girls with personal packs of toi-

letries etc. to give them a little dignity. "**The Coconut Grove Girls**", Linda's neighbours, have taken this project to their hearts and are providing supplies for this great cause.



We would love some of you to commit to sponsoring supplies, small or large, as a

one off purchase or as part of the monthly shopping list. Please take a look [here](#) and see if there is something you would like to buy - every little helps!

## So what's next?

The most urgent needs are to empty/update the **sewage system**, hopefully linking it to a plan to safely irrigate and fertilize the land, and to build a **new boys' dormitory**. **Stu**, a retired science teacher and septic expert, has reported on all the options and, with the help of **Gerald**, we hope to agree a workable plan that we can put into force. When we are ready, Stu will oversee this.

We have begun the process of carefully reviewing the use of the land at Messef, where the orphanage and school stand on just over 3.5 acres. We aim to make the best use of land for crops, separate the orphanage and school, comply with government requirements



Aerial view of Messef-plans for the future are being carefully considered

and secure the future of the Project.

Within this, we include egg production and, in the longer term, the bakery.

We can provide basic accommodation for those working on projects that require a longer stay — please ask for details.

## Friends of Messef

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### Helping the children of Messef Orphanage in Haiti



facebook



Follow us at [Canadians and the rest of the world for Messef Orphanage in Haiti](#) on Facebook

## How can I help?

Friends of Messef is a small, hands-on group, run purely by volunteers, that is growing through word of mouth and personal involvement. Those of you who have visited Messef and love the children are the best people to spread the word about the work we are doing and what is still required.

If you would like to visit, please get in touch to talk about the possibilities.

The best way to spread the word is by talking to friends and family and giving them a copy of our Leaflet so that they can take a look at the Website themselves, watch the videos, learn about life at Messef and then join us, too. Contact us for leaflets.

You can also add a Facebook friend to the [Messef page](#) so that they can meet other members, get involved in the chats and feel a part of things even before they visit. It is all very friendly and informal. Anyone can sign up, too.

Messef receives no government help whatsoever, so please help us to continue working to give the children a brighter future.

**A million thanks to those of you already involved—God bless you!**



**We guarantee you a warm welcome at Messef**

### FRIENDS OF MESSEF in the DR Profile:

#### Juan Gomez, aka Danilo, MESREDEN President



Those of you who have visited Messef will probably remember Danilo most for his amazing driving ability. But there is much more to our Ministry President than that.

Danilo is married to Ysenia and has five children, ranging from 6 to 19, and a grandchild. He lives in Villa Progreso, Sabaneta, near the town of Cabarete in the Dominican Republic. He is self employed and provides School Transport. His work with Messef is only a small part of his Ministry, working in many areas of need, but his greatest calling and gift is as an evangelist. He is a wonderful preacher and wise counselor and those who get to know him will come to respect his calm, thoughtful manner and quiet intelligence. He has a wealth of experience that he employs for Messef.

[Here's](#) Danilo having fun with the children... after that drive!

Donate online via PayPal and all major credit cards—  
[www.friendsofmessef.webs.com](http://www.friendsofmessef.webs.com)



Or contact us for



Or, in the UK,

The **co-operative bank**

**Please consider fundraising for Messef—have fun while you are helping a great Cause!**