



*"Sonlight ministries exists to reach and train Haitian people to reach and train others for the Kingdom of God by effectively communicating the Gospel through lifestyle and words."*

## Fact Sheet

### From the beginning ...

- In 1983, Roger and Norma Alexander moved to Haiti with their two young daughters, Cara and Amber. They moved to the northernmost city of Port-de-Paix, a mere 70 miles from Cuba. When Roger and Norma arrived in Haiti, their goal was to teach and train church leaders. They desired to educate them in New Testament principles and procedures, so that Haitians could better minister to their own people. The Alexanders believed firmly that no one would reach Haiti as well as Haitians themselves. Therefore, their goal from the outset was training church leaders and lay pastors. It soon became clear, however, that Voodoo was far too entrenched in many peoples' lives to un-teach their false beliefs. In order to reach the people of Haiti before they became completely devoted to Voodoo, it would be necessary to begin instruction at a younger age. Thus was born the idea for a Christian school.
- Roger and Norma conducted a pilot program in 1986 with four students. All subjects were taught in English, and Bible education was a major part of each day's lesson plans. It was a success. The following year, another of the Alexanders' daughters, Carmen, graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia with a master's degree in education. In the fall of 1987, Carmen moved to Haiti and became director of Haiti's first and only Christian, English-immersion school. Since all instruction at the school was in English, and Haitian children did not speak English, it started with only a preschool class. As the original preschool class progressed, another grade was added each year.
- Land for building soon became a need for the mission, and it sought incorporated status in the United States in order to purchase property adjacent to the Alexander home. In 1989, the mission in Port-de-Paix became incorporated and adopted the name Sonlight Ministries. The school was named Sonlight Academy. Soon, Sonlight students came to know Christ. In 1991, Sonlight's staff decided to start a church, so that students would have a place to worship where the teaching was consistent with what they were learning at school daily. The new church began with an English service, but soon added a Creole one. Over time, members of the community gave their lives to Christ, and the Creole service grew.

- Today, Sonlight Church has more than 300 members and attenders. The congregation is led by two Haitian pastors, Franck Estalus and Archimel Denis. Sonlight is currently building a multi-purpose building to house the growing congregation of Sonlight Church. When complete, the building will have a worship center/gymnasium, offices, and classrooms. In addition to Sonlight Academy and Sonlight Church, the ministry encompasses other evangelism avenues, including a Bible College, a student sponsorship program and short-term mission trips. In 2001, Sonlight became a full-size Christian school, educating more than 300 students in preschool through 12th grade. Currently, Sonlight Ministries utilizes around 25 Americans and around 40 Haitians.
- The goal with which the Alexanders first moved to Haiti is still the goal of Sonlight staff: to teach and train church leaders who will bring this country to the foot of the Cross.

## Sonlight Bible College

- Sonlight Bible College began in October of 2004 with 12 students in an intensive English class and one class on the gospel of Mark. SBC's primary objective became: that students know and understand the Bible, and that they know how to use the Bible powerfully and responsibly for ministry and Christian witness in the community.
- As of August 2008, Sonlight Bible College will have 66 students enrolled across 5 different classes (Intensive English, Fresh., Soph, Junior, Senior). Sonlight Bible College will be offering 13 different courses per Trimester with at least 3 "full-time" professors and 2 "part-time" professors. Of the beginning 12, a predicted 7 students will be graduating in May 2009, having completed all requirements for graduation. SBC should be officially "recognized" by the appropriate government ministry by next Aug/Sept.
- Sonlight Bible College offers a 4-year, 132-credit hour B.A. program in Bible and Christian Theology. Courses focus heavily on Biblical study and theology but also include Practical Ministry, Church History, Christian Ethics, Mission and Evangelism, Biblical languages, and continuing English courses.
- Of 66 students, only 6 are female. Students range in age from 19 to mid-50's. Most of our students have jobs as pastors, teachers, lawyers, or in medicine. Only a small number of our students are currently without work. About 30% express serious interest in continuing their education in Bible and theology if possible. The majority are primarily interested in increasing their knowledge of the Bible or becoming better prepared to teach and lead in their churches, without changing their "occupation."
- Although we are openly an "Independent Christian Church" school, SBC tries to foster a spirit of interdenominational dialogue by accepting students from a wide range of evangelical traditions. Represented traditions currently include: Independent Christian Churches, Southern Baptist, Independent Free-Will Baptist, 7th Day Adventist, and Pentecostal/Holiness Churches. The fruits of this have already become visible, as we see students begin to unify themselves around the Bible. They regard one another as brothers and co-workers in Christ and generally find more in common than not. We believe this is consistent with the history of our tradition, and most importantly consistent with the command of Christ to be unified.

## What We Do ...

- On our first trip to Haiti, Lorraine and I substituted for a couple whom was coming back to the U.S. to have their first baby; and so our first trip was temporarily. On this initial trip to Haiti, Lorraine taught High School English: with four English grammar classes (one for each grade level and two Literature classes. I (Kyle) taught three High School Bible Classes and taught five different Bible College Classes: ranging from Greek II all the way to New Testament Introduction. We completed this trip with much success and fell in love with the both the students and the mission, and thus we decided to commit ourselves to go back for 2 years.
- We are scheduled to go back to Haiti and Sonlight in November, and until then we are raising support and settling in Arizona for a few months to have our baby.
- When we go back to Haiti we will basically be doing the exact same thing with just a couple of differences. Lorraine will still be teaching, but instead of teaching High School English she will be teaching Fourth Grade. When I return to Haiti, I will no longer teach High School Bible, but I will instead teach High School History and Humanities. As far as the Bible College is concerned with me, I will still have a full-load of four to five classes ranging from Greek III to a directed Hebrew word study.

## What We Need ...

- On our first trip to Haiti we raised money for about four months. Now, we need to raise money for a full-year. For Lorraine, I, and our soon to be born baby we need to raise about \$28,000 for August through August.
- More importantly than financial support we need prayer support. We cannot do God's work in Haiti without being covered in protection from your prayers.
- As previously stated, we, first and foremost, covet your prayers and long for you to be partners in prayer, but we also would ask that you prayerfully consider becoming a partner with us through your financial support.

*Thank you for taking the time to read about what the Lord is doing in Haiti and what the Lord is doing through us.*