

These Carrefour children live in one of the poorest neighborhoods in the western hemisphere, but they are still able to go to school, thanks to a local church.

A local small church offers big help

Over 150 Haitian children are receiving an education thanks to a local church. Almena Congregational Church began a relationship with Ehlixe Chretien Carrefour (Carrefour Christian Church) in 1999. Learning the church's kindergarten through eighth grade school was destroyed by the Jan. 12 7.0 magnitude earthquake, the Almena church voted to send the funds necessary to rebuild the school. The school was rebuilt in time for the school year to start in the fall.

In November, Pastor Kirk Kasson, and church deacon Matt Van Patten traveled to Carrefour to attend a special dedication and ribbon cutting for the school. "It was incredible," Van Patten said. "It was awesome to see how much they can do with so little."

Facilities at the church are bare bones. Concrete floors, concrete block walls, glass-less windows and a corrugated tin roof. Bathroom facilities are primitive and classrooms resemble those of the pioneer one room schoolhouse. Students, as many as 25 to a class, sit on long benches with a slanted shelf attached to the bench on which rest their papers and pencils. Classes are conducted in a long dark hall with the grades divided only by chalkboards. As future money comes in the school plans to build walls between the classes. There is hope to attach a basic medical clinic to the church.

Carrefour is among the poorest suburbs of Port au Prince, Haiti's capital. Tent cities abound in the neighborhood surrounding the school. With public education being nonexistent in Haiti, parents must pay for their children's schooling out of their own pocket. Only one child in four is able to attend school at all.

Individual families of the Almena church sponsor a total of more than 20 children for \$30 a month. This enables each sponsored youth to attend the school. The funds also help pay for teacher's wages and school lunches.

One highlight for Van Patten was meeting one of the children he and his wife have been sponsoring. "We have been sponsoring Latesky for over 6 years now, and it was nice to see how he has grown since we got our first sponsorship picture. It amazes me that at 12 years old, he is able to speak three languages because of the education we are helping him receive. We pray that this and other skills will help him to have a brighter future," said Van Patten.

"The church feeds the children lunch every day," said Pastor Kasson. A cook and her assistant use a simple stove, water and large pans to feed the one hundred fifty plus children a basic meal of rice and beans. "There's a lot more rice than there are beans," adds Kasson, "but the children looked to be in very good health."

"It seems like it would be impossible for a little church like ours to build a school building," remarks Van Patten. "We don't have a big budget. We just sent money we've saved over the last few years. It's easy to see how appreciative the Carrefour people are."

"It's a little overwhelming," adds Pastor Kasson, "when you realize that God has used our church of well under one hundred people to provide an education for over one hundred fifty children."

The Carrefour school teaches only up to the eighth grade. Following graduation, students must pass the Haiti national exam to be admitted to high school. About one half pass.

"If one of our sponsored students makes it on to high school, we can still support them. Other churches have seen sponsored

children go on to college. We met a medical Doctor who came through a similar program," said Kasson.

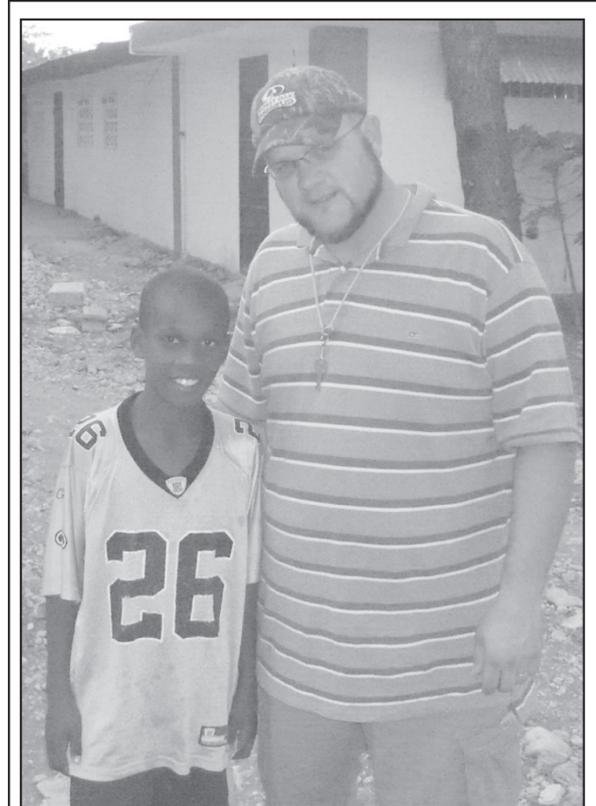
The Kansas church was matched with the Haitian Church by Haitian Christian Mission, an organization begun by Etienne (Steve) Prophete in the early 1970's.

Kasson said, "I went to college with Pastor Prophete's son. When I called to see if our church could support his work he matched us with the Carrefour church. It was only four years old, but the pastor was doing a great job, and Steve felt like we would be a good partnership."

The pastor, Jean Louis Dorvelus, has since become a dear friend to Pastor Kirk. They communicate often through emails and occasionally by phone. "He is a great guy, and he really loves his church," said Kasson.

"While the American news broadcasters have focused on Haiti's problems, a few local people feel fortunate to be part of the solution," said Kasson.

Almena Congregational Church can help you sponsor a Carrefour student. For more information, call 785-669-2501.



The Van Patten family has sponsored this boy for over six years. Latesky has lived in a tent since Haiti's January 2010 earthquake, but he is still going to school thanks to the sponsorship program.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Norton Community High School

Monday, Jan. 24
University of Nebraska at Kearney Honor Choir and Band
Tuesday, Jan. 25
Jay Singers - 7:30 a.m.
KAY Unit Conference at Kensington
Scholar's Bowl at Phillipsburg - 4 p.m.
C (boys only) - JV-V basketball versus Goodland (H) 4 p.m.
JV - V Wrestling versus Kearney, Neb. (T) 5 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 26
Forensics Meeting - A.P.
Thursday, Jan. 27
FFA Ag. Ed. Symposium at Hutchinson Jan. 27 through Jan. 29
FCCLA Board meeting - A.P.
Jay Singers 7:30 a.m.
SIT meeting 7:45 a.m.
Friday, Jan. 28
Artist of the month A.P.
Saturday, Jan. 29
Forensics at Hill City - 7:30 a.m.
Scholars' Bowl at Thunder Ridge - 9 a.m.
Wrestling, Mid Continent League at Plainville - 10 a.m.
Wrestling JV at Arapahoe Invitational - 10 a.m.
Sunday, Jan 30
Winter Band Concert at Stull Gym 2:30 p.m.
Norton Junior High
Monday, Jan. 24
Spelling Bee - 1:38 - 1:58 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 27
Scholars Bowl 7/8 at Smith Center 4 p.m.
Eisenhower Elementary School
Tuesday, Jan. 25
Eisenhower Elementary School Assessment Recognition; between Girls JV and Varsity High School Basketball games. Stull Gym
Wednesday, Jan. 26
Spelling Bee - 2:15 p.m.
All Schools
Monday, Jan 24
PDC at USD office - 4 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 26
KASSP and KASA Board of Directors, Wichita - 3 p.m.
High School and Junior High Menu
All meals are served with milk; breakfast has fruit or juice. Alternate breakfast; cold cereal, toast and jelly; alternate lunch: chef salad.

Monday
Breakfast: Sliced ham and hash browns. Lunch: Spaghetti and meat sauce with cheese, garlic bread, garden salad, carrots, strawberry jello.
Tuesday
Breakfast: Hot cereal with toppings. Lunch: Toasted ham and cheese sandwich, broccoli with cheese, pasta salad, peaches, chocolate cake.
Wednesday
Breakfast: Monkey bread. Lunch: Chili frito, garlic bread vegetable salad, rosy applesauce.
Thursday
Breakfast: Scrambled eggs and bacon. Lunch: Salisbury steak, potatoes with gravy, carrots, rolls, peaches.
Friday
Breakfast: Waffle stix with syrup. Lunch: Grilled Chicken Sandwich, lettuce and tomato, corn, applesauce.

Eisenhower Elementary School
All meals are served with milk. Breakfast has fruit juice.
Monday
Breakfast: Breakfast burrito. Lunch: Chicken Fry, potatoes w/ gravy, green beans, whole wheat roll, fruit cocktail.
Tuesday
Breakfast: Golden Waffles, syrup, fruit cocktail. Lunch: Cavatini, tossed salad, apple crisp, garlic bread.
Wednesday
Breakfast: Applesauce muffins and peaches. Lunch: Pigs in a blanket, french fries, dill spear, baby carrots, rosy applesauce.
Thursday
Breakfast: Canadian bacon and cheese biscuit. Lunch: Hamburger gravy, potatoes, warm peas, peaches, cinnamon rolls.
Friday
Breakfast: warm pumpkin bread, rosy applesauce. Lunch: Western bean bake, cheese stick, corn, jello with pears, cornbread.

Northern Valley Schools
MS "Pennies for Patients" fundraiser Jan. 24 through Jan. 31
Monday, Jan. 24
TBD - High school dance practice
7 p.m. Colby Community College parent financial aid night in the lunchroom at Almena.
Tuesday, Jan. 25
8 a.m. Lifetouch school pic-

Student News

The Norton Community High School forensics team is getting ready to kickoff their forensics season. The Norton Community High School Forensics team will travel to Hill City on Saturday, Jan. 29 and to Dighton on Wednesday, Feb. 2 to begin the season.

The team has seen a big growth as sixty students came out for

the team, an increase of twenty-five students from last year. The team has set several goals for the season: Place in the top three in all regular season tournaments, win the Mid-Continent League tournament, take a full team to state, and place in the top seven teams at state.

The Norton Forensics Invitational tournament is Feb. 12. The

tures
8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. High school KAY unit conference at Kensington
TBD - High School basketball at Logan - NO JV girls

Wednesday, Jan. 26
USA Convention in Wichita
1 p.m. High School League Scholars Bowl at Natoma

Thursday, Jan. 27
USA Convention in Wichita
TBD - High School Dance Team practice

8 a.m. FFA Ag Ed Symposium at Manhattan
3:10 p.m. K-8 Pep Rally in the big gym at Almena

4 p.m. Junior High basketball versus Damar at Almena
Friday, Jan. 28
USA Convention in Wichita

TBD - Schools for fair funding meeting at Wichita
8 a.m. FFA Ag Ed Symposium
6 p.m. High school girls varsity only versus Heartland Christian Girls at Almena

Saturday, Jan. 29
TBD High School Forensics meet at Oberlin
8 a.m. FFA Ag Ed Symposium
9:30 a.m. High School Thunder Ridge Invitational Scholars Bowl meet at Kensington

Menu
All meals are served with milk. Breakfast offers cold cereal daily.

Monday
Breakfast: Breakfast Taco, hashbrowns, pineapple. Lunch: BBQ beef on a bun, ranch wedges, buttered green beans, apricots.

Tuesday
Breakfast: Plain muffin, ham, applesauce, eggs. Lunch: Chicken Strips, sauce, hot roll, mashed potatoes, buttered carrots, slushies.

Wednesday
Breakfast: Sausage gravy, biscuit, scrambled eggs, grape juice. Lunch: Beef and noodles, mashed potatoes, hot roll, California blend vegetables, brownie.

Thursday
Breakfast: Banana Bread, sausage, hashbrowns, sliced peaches. Lunch: Chili soup with crackers, cheese sticks, carrot sticks, cinnamon roll.

Friday
Breakfast: Sausage bagel, scrambled eggs, banana. Lunch: Sloppy joes on a bun, french fries, buttered spinach, cherry pudding pie.

FYI

T.R. Mathews and Sandy Seamone, Arriba, Colo. will be at the Dane G. Hansen Museum to entertain and instruct on how to paint the Bob Ross Way.

The classes will be Saturday,

Feb. 19, and Sunday, Feb. 20.

The class will be painting "Times Past" on Saturday and "High Mountain Home" on Sunday.

Classes will run from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. both

days.

For more information call 785-689-4846. All you need to bring is a roll of paper towels, all other supplies are provided.

Social and club news? Call us at 877-3361 or hgill@nwkansas.com

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City of Norton Snow Ordinances

The City of Norton wants to remind the public of our three snow ordinances. One requires the removal of snow and ice off public sidewalks within 24 hours after the fall of the snow or sleet. The second ordinance relates to removing parked vehicles from emergency snow routes. When the City of Norton publicly announces through the news media that an emergency snow condition exists, it is a violation to have any vehicle or trailer parked on a designated emergency snow route. The third ordinance makes it a violation for any person to pile or dump snow on any cleared street from a private driveway or sidewalk so as to constitute an impediment or hazard to normal traffic on the street. The city of Norton thanks everyone for their efforts in complying with these ordinances.