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**Hope Force International - Port-au-Prince Haiti**  
**January 2012 - No. 137**  
**Running the race together... Heb. 12:1**



*Exodus 34:14: "My presence will go with you; I'll see the journey to the end"*

Dear friends,

Our first letter in 2012 even though I have written many in my mind. We trust this finds you well and we pray that the year to come will be a year where you will sense God's love and goodness in the great, but even more so, in the small things of life.

There are many times a week that we are reminded about the reality of living in Haiti. This country is not a place you just happen to choose for a holiday – at least we have not met too many "tourists" here yet. The ongoing relief work after the devastating earthquake of two years ago as well as the ongoing poverty and instability of politics does not make Haiti a nation that you can look at as moving up in the world. So; why are we here? Good question. "Because we believe God has a plan for the people of this land and wants us to be part of that". Does it make sense? Maybe not, yet in God's eyes it does. Our motto stays the same, taking a step at the time, a day at the time and believing that each person we have reached out to is one more person who received help. And God is with us as we reach out.



We want to thank each one of you who has donated to our vehicle fundraising, the sponsors for our marathon and our church and friends who donated during the Christmas and New Year's activities. We can now seriously start looking for a vehicle, which will make our travel in and out to the village so much easier. It is scary to spend so much on a used car but vehicles are expensive here in Haiti.

We celebrated the holidays with Stefan and his family in Colorado and arrived the day Denver got 14 inches of snow! Talk about a change in climate... but besides it being cold we loved it. It was great spending time with the kids and grandkids, yet missing the ones that are in the Netherlands and Africa. We never thought 32 years ago when we left Holland for the first time that this would be one of the consequences of our willingness to be involved with international missions. Three kids living in three continents. We realize this is one of the prices we pay to be obedient to God's call on our lives.

We are looking ahead with great expectation for all God wants to do in and through us for and with the people of Sous Savanne and surroundings in 2012. We have openings for individuals and teams to come for a week of outreach, check us out through the [www.hopeforce.org](http://www.hopeforce.org) website or drop us a line. We'd love to have you come and join us. We also want to draw attention to our new project for 2012, building 15 "Houses of Hope" in the village of Sous Savanne. Each house costs \$ 5,000 and we invite churches and groups to consider building or funding a new home for a Haitian family already participating in the Hope Force "Child Sponsorship Program". More info on [www.hopeforce.org](http://www.hopeforce.org) and our own site [www.lakomission.org](http://www.lakomission.org)



Prayer points:

- Car hunting – that we will be able to find the right car for the right price
- Housing – we are still trying to work all this out, distance to the village, safety, cost etc.
- Safety – an ongoing prayer point
- Ongoing funding for the projects
- Ongoing support for our personal expenses, we are still only half way; for donations, please see below and [www.hopeforce.org](http://www.hopeforce.org) (go to “donate now” and find our names on the page)
- The people in the village, some has shown interest in bible study and we will start the Alpha course with them
- Understanding and learning the Creole language

We are thankful for:

- Our health
- The place we can live in until the end of February and knowing God has a plan
- The money we received to seriously look at a vehicle
- You as our friends, sponsors and prayer partners
- A God of faithfulness who is with us and for us

Until next time, many blessings and greetings,

*René & Marianne*



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7065 Moores Lane, Suite 200, Brentwood, TN 37027 – USA  
For Donations: go to [www.hopeforce.org](http://www.hopeforce.org) and click on “Donate Now” then to staff support  
website: [www.lakomission.org](http://www.lakomission.org)