



This church's building was destroyed by an earthquake but people helped them to clean up the rubble and rebuild. In the meantime the church met outside. Ask God to send Christians like that to help others, too.



When a Hurricane Was Good



A hurricane blew the roof off our house. We are missionaries who live in Haiti where hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, and other disasters seem to happen a lot. We knew that the hurricane was coming but didn't know it would blow our roof away.

Afterwards, cleaning up the house was a huge messy job. Figuring out what to do was hard. But our mess made us more like the Haitian people because their houses were a

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mess, too.

We saw good come out of it all. For one thing, we had a new way to show God's love.

Most Haitian people are very poor and there are few jobs they can find. Even before the hurricane, some teenage boys kept asking us for jobs so they could pay for school expenses. At that time we didn't have many things they could do. When we did have a job for them, we paid double if they used it for school.

After the hurricane, we had mounds of work we needed help with. The teenage boys came and cleaned up the yard.



Their moms came and did 30 loads of laundry to earn some money. We had no running water because after the hurricane we had no electricity, so the women got water in buckets and

washed the laundry by hand.

Even after most of the hurricane damage was all cleaned up and those young men finished paying for school, they kept coming. They looked up to Sean as kind of a dad, and wanted to do Bible study with him before they started work each day.

All of this made us see that the mess the hurricane caused was a good thing. It made special ways for us to become friends with the boys and others, and to teach them God's word.

It was also good because a few years later a big earthquake destroyed many buildings but not our house. It had been so well repaired after the hurricane that the earthquake caused only a little damage. That meant we could concentrate on helping others, especially the pastors of Christian churches.

Some parsonages (pastor's churches), like Pastor Josue's house were so badly damaged that they had to be rebuilt from the

★ Think About It ★

Telling people about the Lord is a very good thing. Along with that, doing good things for people can help them want to hear about Jesus. We must be ready to help people in a way that will point them to the Lord.

Let's use any chance we get to show kindness to people who need to know that Jesus loves them.



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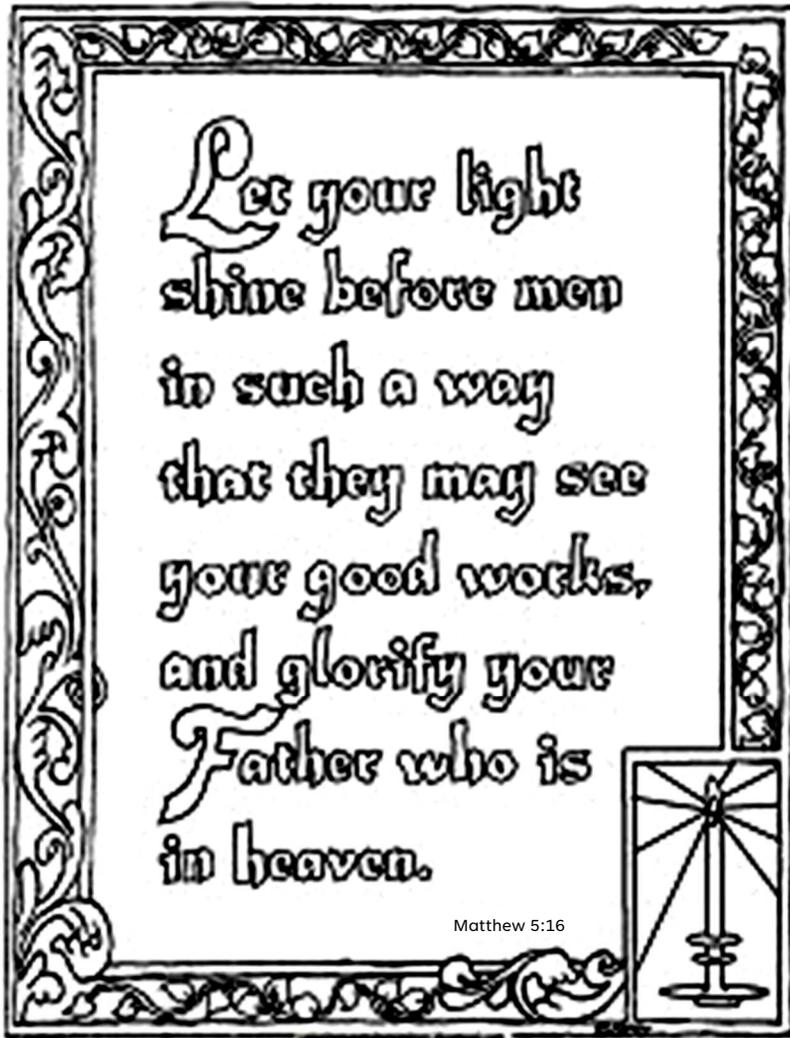
Who is the Source of the Light that God tells us to shine? 

What is one good way you can shine Jesus' love? 

The Great Commission

Matthew 28:19-20 and more

Matthew 5:16



Use crayons or colored pencils. Markers will soak through.

Page 6

ground up. The cost was way more than the rural churches had. Many church members are very poor and lost their own homes.

By helping the churches rebuild their pastors' homes, we not only helped the pastors and churches but also showed God's love to the whole community.



A parsonage (pastor's house) allows the pastor of a church to live close to their church building. That gives the pastors chances to show friendship, tell the neighborhood about Jesus, and to show Christians how to live for the Lord. It also helps them meet new people who need to hear about Jesus.

Helping people in Jesus' name like that shows the truth of God's love in the Gospel. ❖



In Haiti, most of the population is young. The average age is just 23. Only about seven out of ten of Haitians can read. Most of them are poor. **Ask God to help young people like these who love God and want to be pastors and church leaders.** They need jobs for school money, food, clothing, and supplies.

Story by Sean and Heather Christensen.

Page 3

Did you know...



Haiti is a country on the Caribbean island of Hispaniola. The other country on the island is the Dominican Republic. Haiti has two official languages: French and Haitian Creole, or "Kreyol", which is a simple version of French mixed with African languages. Its capital city is Port-au-Prince.

Haiti used to be covered with forests. However, all the trees were cut down to build houses and to burn for heat. It is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere.

Because of poverty and unemployment it is very hard for Haitian youth to go to school. Guns and gangs are choices many young people take instead.

10% of all children in Haiti are child slaves. They are called **restaveks** in Haitian. They are usually orphans, runaways, or poor rural children whose parents can't afford to care for them. Easily bought or sold, these children work endlessly, have no education, and have no health care.

Ask God to send people to Haiti to love and share the Gospel with the restaveks .



Some children in Haiti live in families with enough money for a good house, food, and clothes. But most don't.

Using crayons or colored pencils, color this Haitian house and draw people around it.

