

the RESTORE report

Fall
2023

Greetings from Middle GA. I'm writing this letter having just returned from spending Thanksgiving with my youngest son and his family. I hope each of you had a wonderful holiday time surrounded by friends and family while eating way too much the way Robin and I did this Thanksgiving. During this season dedicated to reflection on and remembrance of all the things in our lives we have to be grateful for, I realized Restore Ministries has quite a list this Thanksgiving.

First, we're excited to announce that our project in Florida is finally complete. For those of you that don't remember, we began a revitalization project just before Covid at the end of 2019 in Largo, FL, for a church plant pastored by a good friend. We completed the remodel in 2020 but then struggled for 3 years trying to acquire the permits to add on a couple of bathrooms and another classroom. It soon became evident that that delay was God's perfect plan when an opportunity to trade their small, remodeled campus for a much larger completely un-remodeled campus was presented. Now, 18 months later, the new facilities are completely refurbished with nearly triple the square feet. We've already brought a couple of loads home and, after doing some small remodel projects for some church members to help fund some DR projects, we should be completely home in a few months.

Second, for the last couple of years we have been talking about and fund-raising for our land purchase in New Jerusalem, Dominican Republic, for our school we are developing in this Haitian relief village. Nearly all of those funds have been raised, and aside from some final legal paperwork with the government, the land is ours. The future and the possibilities are so big having secured a large enough piece of property that we can continue to develop on for years to come.

Third, I mentioned in a previous newsletter that we had applied to the Japanese consulate for a grant to build Phase 1 of our school building. We have been approved for a nearly \$250,000 grant to build 9 classrooms with an office suite and 4 bathrooms. We expect groundbreaking on this project sometime in 2024. It's fun to watch God provide in His unusual and creative ways.

Fourth, the property we have purchased for Mathieu's home and church ministry is nearly paid for, with our final \$30,000 payment due by December 31st. Those funds are not in our hands yet, and we are requesting that you pray for God to provide these funds and **immediately consider whether you or your ministry could donate to this payment before the end of the year.** We desperately need those funds in the next couple of weeks. Over the last year the church building has been completed enough to make it usable, as has Mathieu's home. Once the property is paid for, efforts will be made to put a second floor on this property which will provide the facility for a feeding center, development of the daily literacy program that is already in effect, as well as creating a meeting place big enough for the entire church to assemble.



386 Gordon Hwy.
Gordon, GA 31031

Office: 478.295.0950
Cell: 615.653.9047

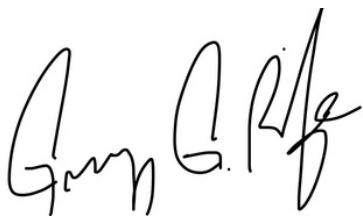
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Fifth, our pre-school – now with first grade added – continues to develop and grow, with 145 kids enrolled this year. We've hired a new director for the school who's been able to take much of the work and pressure off of Pastor Eddyson, which has been a blessing. The Dominican foundation that we are partnered with has taken a bigger role in the operation and oversight of the staff and education of the children as we work towards the coming years of development. Monthly funding for the Foundation is crucial as the school grows into the future. We've begun a Sponsorship Program for the children. You can learn more about that at PNJ.care. **I'd love to come and present the school and sponsorship opportunities to each of our supporting churches in the coming year.**

As we continue our transformation here at Restore away from disaster relief and revitalization projects and towards full-time support of the 5 Haitian pastors and their ministries in the DR, we find ourselves with a list of needs that is pretty daunting. Aside from the needs I've already mentioned, we need to strengthen our base of support here at home. Pray with us that God will provide us with opportunities to find new monthly partners for RMI as we grow and develop into the organization we need to be. Additionally, both Pastor Victorin and Pastor Guitho's ministries have grown to a place that they now need a home base. As they have grown they have rented multiple locations, but it is now time to begin investing in a permanent home. A friend of Victorin has offered a property to him for about half of what it is worth, and he is praying that God will provide \$25,000 for his down payment by the beginning of the year. I got a phone call from Pastor Guitho just last week stating that he too has found a piece of property that he is excited to show us that he is praying God will provide the finances to purchase. The clinic work headed by Eddyson's wife, Nancy, is growing and developing but needs financial backing. The feeding center on the pre-school property is nearly finished but needs about \$5,000 to be completed and outfitted. The new office building on the pre-school property is nearly complete but needs about \$2,500 to finish out. One of our wells needs about \$2,500 to upgrade the filtration system and replace the pump with a larger one. The pre-school walls need smoothed and painted inside and out and a new rear gate needs built for about \$5,000.

I could rattle off the list and fill up a whole newsletter with all of the legitimate needs and opportunities for development throughout most of these ministries, but the point of this season is to take our eyes off of those needs and to take the time to both feel and express gratitude to the One who made all of this possible. While His timing is not my timing, He's always perfect and we want to say thank you to the people and ministries that He has used to provide this year. Without your willing spirit and unselfish mindset, none of the sacrificial gifts that you have provided to these ministries in the DR would have existed. **So here at RMI, we wanted to say thank you for the love, the prayers, the project finances, and the monthly support that we have received from each of you this year.** Each of these ministries has brought others to Christ as a result of your sacrifices and it will be fun to get to know each of those new brothers and sisters together as eternity rolls.

In His Service,



Greg Rife

Founder and Director of RMI



386 Gordon Hwy.
Gordon, GA 31031

Cell: 615.604.3707
Office: 615.653.9047

@rmi_care
www.rmi.care