

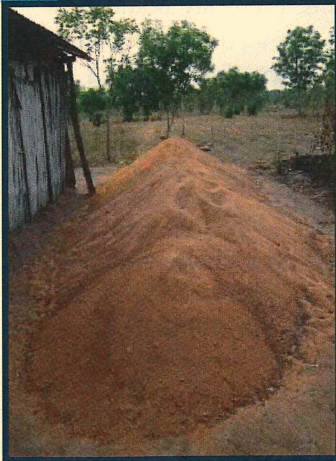
VISION VESTORS

February 2020 Newsletter

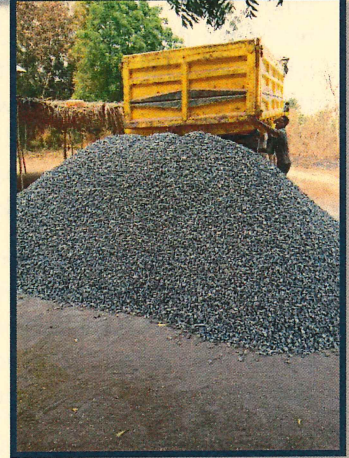
*Meeting Practical Needs
in the Love of Christ.*

VisionVestors merges marketplace skills into world missions.

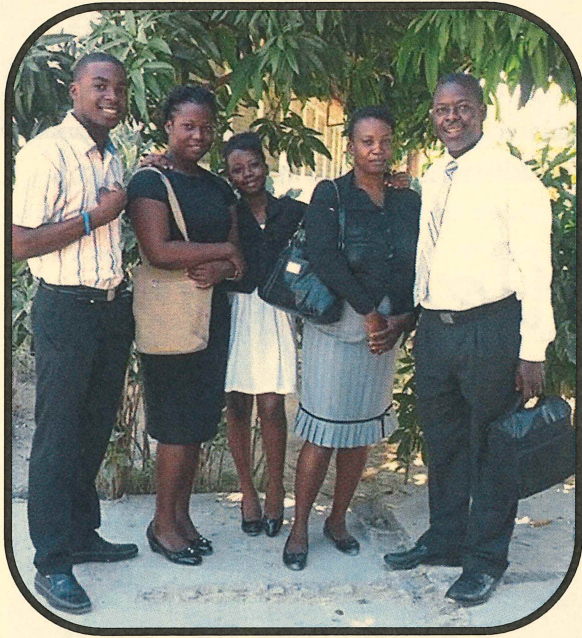
Together We Move Mountains!



This is a GCI church in Togo under the leadership of Pastor Sonte. Two years ago, VisionVestors assisted with the land purchase and the construction of the existing temporary structure. The church has grown. A man in the community is willing to partner with the church to build a cement block permanent structure. Because of generous gifts through our recent Christmas Catalog, VV is partnering with the church and the man, for the construction of the new permanent structure. We give in faith in response to the Spirit. You never know what God will put together.



Haiti Crisis, Our Help and a Father's Plea



These words and this report are from our **Ministry Director in Haiti, Raquens Turenne. He and his family are pictured.**

“Greetings from Haiti in the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus-Christ. First of all, we want to thank all of you for the love that God has put in your heart to love us, the Haitians. We also thank you for your prayers for us. It has been a very hard time for us in Haiti. We are wondering how things would be here in Haiti, if God’s people were not praying. We want to thank all of the Grace Covenant Churches and friends who helped Haitian pastors and churches by the end of the last year. Over 100 families, and eight pastors and families, have been blessed with the blessings that we received from you.

VV had an incredible outpouring of love support of over \$10,000 for this cause.

In my last report in January, it was mentioned that the situation in Haiti was better. Roads were unlocked; children had the opportunity to go to school... Life became a little better. But, things have really changed these last days. Kidnapping is very popular now in the country. They are kidnapping buses, passengers and school children. According to the last report I have got, in Montrouis and Pierre-Payen (Raquens’ area) the kidnappers have already started to operate. We might keep Lucy Brenda home for a while. My older children, Rachel and Kervens are home with me. They do not attend school. Two of Rachel’s schoolmates have been kidnapped. We do not know yet what happened to them. The Capturers always charged at minimum of \$20,000 to let the person go. One lady was captured. Her house had to be sold to pay the ransom of \$30,000. She was raped by the four raiders. It is common for the kidnappers to kill the kidnapped one if the money is delayed or not paid in full. And in some situations, if they realize that the victim might know them, they receive the money and kill the person. The Police have no presence.

The politicians have lit the fire and now they can’t turn it off. I am not really too concerned for my own life but for my children. I am praying and planning to take them out the country. I do not think I have another choice. Now we have a time of decision. We need God’s wisdom in order to do the right thing. We need your prayers and support. We are sure God has the correct answer for both my family and my country.”

Until we meet again, may God richly bless you. Thanks again.” Yours, Raquens Turenne.



Pastor Sonte -Togo

Receive a Note of Thanks and Blessing!

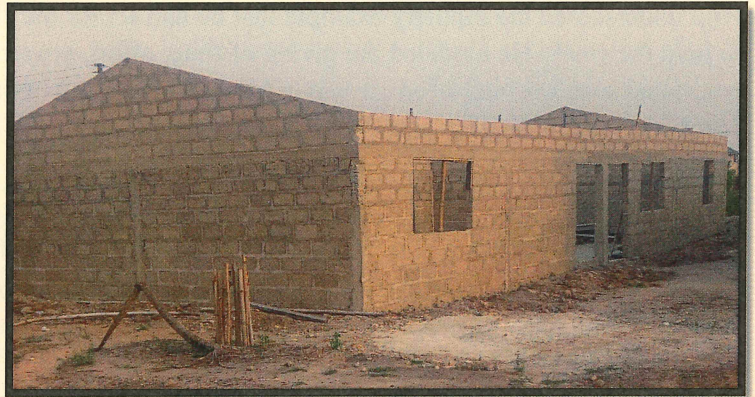
This note of thanks is from Pastor Sonte for our contribution in the partnership for the construction of the church building mentioned on the front page. A grateful heart and the return of thanks completes the circle encompassing those who receive and those who give. Please receive his sincere thanks and his blessing.

"I and my family, the church, the elders and deacons of all the churches in Togo join the voice together to say thank you for helping us with the money you sent to us. We are grateful to you. May the good God protect you and give you long life in Jésus name."



New Well in Haiti

Partnership is the way the Kingdom moves forward. As we've said, we can make a bigger impact together. One of our friends from Kentucky has had a heart for Haiti for along time. In fact, she's been trying to adopt an orphan boy for five years. Finally, the adoption happened in 2019. In celebration, her family partnered with VisionVestors and put a well in the town where the orphan boy lived. Some of you have given with clean water on your heart. You helped to make this happen!



New Church Building-Ghana

Here are the words of Pastor Martins: "It is amazing! The building looks powerful and beautiful. By God's grace it is going to be a green pasture where the sheep will be nourished and established. I thank God for what he has done in this commission by your hand. Everyone in the community is surprised by what they are seeing. With that alone souls can be won into God's Kingdom according to the word of God in Zech. 8:23, "...Let us go with you, because we have heard that God is with you." Looking forward to the next step. God bless you sir."



We are now working on the roof.

Your gifts enabled this impactful project!

Giving and Receiving Blessings

By Dallas Elder

Do you know what a boxer's favorite Bible verse is? "It is more blessed to give than to receive." It is far better to give punches than to receive punches. Ok, it's a poor attempt at a little levity. Actually it was the Apostle Paul who related these words of Jesus for us. In his farewell to the Ephesian church elders, prior to boarding a ship bound for Jerusalem, he said these words regarding his life. ***"In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "*** (Acts 20:35) As a sidebar, no where in the Gospels do we read Jesus saying the words, ***"It is more blessed to give than to receive."*** While not recorded by the Gospels' writers, the statement quite likely was heard by His followers and passed on orally. None the less, Paul attributes the words as stated by Jesus.

Paul underscored the ministry example that he had set for the churches. He offered himself and labored to help the weak. He modeled the giving of time, effort, prayer and resources to help those in physical, emotional and spiritual need. It was a blessed offering of himself. As referenced from the words of Jesus and exemplified by His life, the return on the giving will be the blessings that one receives from the Lord.

Paul discovered Kingdom flow that enriches not just the "Receiver," but also the "Giver." It was a value he practiced and taught. He vocalized his sincere thanks to the Philippian church who shared (invested) in his ministry missions. ***"It was good of you to share in my troubles. Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid more than once when I was in need. Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that more be credited to your account."*** (Phil. 4:14-17)

Returning thanks with a grateful heart is one way we send a blessing back to those who gave to us and supported us in our time of need. Paul did that with the Philippians. He also points up ***"the matter of giving and receiving"*** and the fact that their "Kingdom account" got credited because of their compassionate giving. Our spiritual account receives rewards from Heaven. God notes our gifts to others and blesses us in special ways. As we give forward, there is the backflow of blessings our direction.

Paul regards the Philippians' gifts as a fragrant offering from the Lord. ***"I have received full payment and have more than enough. I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus."*** (Phil. 4:18-19)

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*VisionVestors is a ministry of Grace Covenant International.