



Rescue One

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Donors, this issue is dedicated to Mary Ruth who, on March 25 and 26, graduated with a nursing degree from Notre Dame d'Haiti, a prestigious Haitian institution. We are proud to present her to you as a graduate of whom you can be proud. She entered the program in Croix d' Bouquets as a young girl and has worked diligently to reach this goal.

Read her story
on page 2.



A Prayer for Haiti

Almighty God, Compassionate Father, Strong Deliverer,
We implore you,
intervene in the ravaged country of our beloved ministry
partners.

Hungry, impoverished people seek morsels of food.
They walk long distances to find clean water;
they fear gangs that roam the land
preying on young and old,
taking what they want,
kidnapping innocent victims.

God of mercy, you who heard the Israelites cry from Egypt,
Intervene in the lives of our friends.
Saturate their lives with mercy and grace,
encourage them in their weariness,
give hope in their desperate moments,
provide safety in their daily walk.
Break the chains of oppression.

We have seen your faithfulness.
Through earthquake and hurricane you have kept
our children safe;

You have given your gifts to the Haitians who serve
with love and compassion—
feeding, clothing, educating, ministering.

Lord, these friends are called by your name
and are loved by you.
Beam your light into their lives and into their country.
How long must they cry in anguish?

We wait in expectation.
You are the good and faithful Lord,
a God who keeps his promises
from generation to generation.
You hear the cries of the needy.

All heaven and earth will praise you,
our Strength and Shield,
the Rock our Salvation.
In you we put our trust.

Board of Directors: Jeff Buursma, Dan Rinzema,
Nancy Tuit, Jody Vogelzang, Carol Woltjer

He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap, he seats them with princes and has them inherit a throne of honor. 1 Sam 2:8

I want to start this note with this feeling of blessing because the Lord has done great things for me through his servants and I feel blessed.

I would like to continue with this sentence from William Bennett about recognition: "It is essential to remember that recognition is a virtue." These words express my gratitude to God for all he has done for me and I want to thank you, dear donors and dear supporters from Haiti and from the United States of America, for your unconditional love and constant generosity. You are forever engraved in my heart, in the hearts of my parents, and in the hearts of the beneficiaries of the RO and YEP programs. Your generosity has allowed me to regain faith in the goodness of people in such a selfish world.

Nowadays, studying in Haiti has become more than ever a real challenge. I have had four extremely difficult years (insecurity, the rising cost of living, etc.), but you allowed me to hold out until the end, thanks to your support, your trust. In the first year, we were more than a hundred nursing students, while for the graduation ceremony only half reached their goal. Many have had to give up for lack of courage to face life, for fear of getting tired, fear of being kidnapped, fear of getting raped by bandits, of getting killed in the streets, and, above all, for lack of economic resources. I used to leave home at 5 a.m. every morning while it was still dark so I could make it to class on time and I came home late, often in the dark. I am living in one of the most dangerous towns close to Port-au-Prince.

The graduation ceremony is always an emotional moment where the atmosphere makes you feel that you achieved great things and are motivated for the next step. These were days of extraordinary emotions. I was overexcited, I couldn't even get back to sleep, I spent the night thinking. I could not stop talking to myself and saying, "Is that really me, Jesus?"

There were two days of ceremonies. March 25 was devoted to prayer; a day of mass of thanks to God for these 4 difficult years and the 26th was the day of graduation. The graduation was one of the best days of my life. I was impatient, my heart was beating very hard, I wanted to put on the toga, hear my name mentioned from the top of the stage to receive my diploma with a feeling of victory, of success. I also wanted to take pictures with people who are dear to me, who have contributed to the achievement of this dream. Unfortunately, some could not be present.

I want to continue to make you proud, you will not be disappointed.

YOU MADE ME PROUD!

Today I can shout loud and clear, I fought the good fight and now I received the crown of my 4 years of hard work studying nursing at Université Notre Dame d'Haïti, one of the noblest professions. Thank you for continuing to save lives and I want to be able to do the same. The fight is not over yet, it's only the beginning of a beautiful and long adventure.

THANK YOU!

May God give you health, a long and fruitful life!



Mary Ruth at graduation with Handelsona, the director of our Youth Empowerment Program



A younger Mary Ruth as a Rescue One student

The Rescue One Board **thinks you** for your compassionate and generous support. Rescue One is a small light bringing God's grace into the lives of 90 Haitian children. You may donate by PayPal on our website or your check can be made out to the Rescue One Foundation, a 501(c)(3) corporation. Donations can be sent to PO Box 8174, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 49518. All contributions except for printing and mailing costs go directly to Haiti.