



## Lagossette Christian School

By Bernice Huinink-Buiter

### Teaching and learning at Lagossette Christian School is all about shining God's light in Haiti and beyond.

The school day at LCS begins with chapel time. As the students gather in the courtyard, they sing a hymn- often "How Great thou Art" in Haitian Creole and then the principal, M. Duchange St. Amour leads the students in prayer, a scripture selection followed by a short devotion relating to the lives of the children. During this school year, as part of developing a partnership with several Christian Schools in the US and in Canada, children at LCS learned the praise melody "This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine.... Let it shine for Jesus now, I'm going to let it shine!" which was videoed and then shared with their partner schools. Meanwhile, Woodstock (WCS) and London (LCES) Christian Elementary Schools in Ontario, Canada and Central Minnesota Christian School (C-MCS) in Prinsburg, Minnesota have been learning Creole praise melodies and phrases and shar-

ing cards, bookmarks, songs, art/ social studies' activities, books and videos with the students and teachers at LCS. As a response, the students at LCS have been sending artwork, cards and bookmarks, and songs back to the partner schools. These partnerships are building valuable bonds of understanding and care for one another. Shining their love for Jesus to one another!

The 261 students from Pre-kindergarten through 6th grade daily come to school to explore God's amazing wonders shine through all of learning.... reading, writing, math, history, geography, science, French. Caring, capable, accredited teachers encourage students to discover their place as God's image bearers in their learning and in so doing, proclaim, "In Your [God's] light, we see light." (Psalm 36:9). Through membership with CRECH, a

national Christian Education organization in which schools network to learn from one another, leaders and teachers at LCS are challenged, through training workshops and new curriculum resources, to develop their Christian worldview and teaching practices to better serve the children they teach.

Education in Haiti is considered a privilege and crucial to development in this poverty-stricken, hurting country. The majority of students who attend LCS would not be able to come to school if it were not for faithful donors who pledge to financially support them. Alumni of LCS have gone on to learn a trade, to go to college or university to study for a career in teaching, nursing, law, farming, pastoring, business, leadership. Some have returned to the community of Lagossette to serve and provide leadership in the area of their expertise. Praise God!

Most learning is done by rote; teachers teach a lesson, students memorize and recite essential concepts. They complete assignments in workbooks and on the classroom chalkboard. At the end of each term, students write exams in for each subject. Academic learning is very difficult for some of the students and since many

of their guardians are unable to read or write, they cannot get help at home. To provide extra support for the struggling students, a Student Support Program has been implemented providing students additional individualized instruction by teachers. This program is offered after school hours three days each week, and with confidence we pray this special attention will ensure that these students have another opportunity to grasp the material they need to know before moving ahead.

It has been a blessing to be able to complete some physical improvements at the school this year. School walls were given a fresh bright blue coat of paint, school latrines were renovated, the roof was repaired and new tables, benches and desks for the classrooms were built. All of these renovations have made the school a brighter and better place for students and teachers.

What does God have in mind for the future? We trust that His plans are good and we pray that we will be faithful to the work He calls us to do. Jesus is the Light of the world, and we are blessed to reflect His light as we shine through LCS!