Becoming a “Source of Light” for a Child in Need

When an earthquake struck Haiti on the morning of January 12, 2010, it devastated an entire country that had already been on the brink of falling apart. The magnitude of the disaster created problems that would take many, many years to address. Partnering with the Haiti Baptist Convention, Hungarian Baptist Aid, and the Baptist World Alliance, the BGAV strategically addressed one of the greatest needs for long-term help, and the idea for the Source of Light Center was born. In January 2012, the BGAV celebrated with the Haiti Baptist Convention and other Baptists around the world as the center opened.

Child sponsorship directly supports the needs of the children who are living at Source of Light. Sponsorship covers three meals a day, education, books, school uniforms, clothing, shoes, medical care, hygiene, and support of the caregivers (house moms, cooks, launderer, and life mentors). Rod Miller, director of Eagle Eyrie Baptist Conference Center, has sponsored a child there since 2012.

He recalls, “At the BGAV Annual Meeting, pictures of the children were displayed in the exhibit hall. Every time I walked by, my eyes were drawn to a boy named Mackendy, and so our family’s sponsorship of him began. I’ve sponsored other children through other organizations over the years, but this investment has been much more rewarding because of the personal relationship our family has developed with Mackendy. My sons have sent and...
received letters and pictures, and we were even able to go on a sponsor-family BGAV trip to Haiti and meet him in person. Our church, West Lynchburg Baptist Church, has now taken groups there each year for the past three years, and our family has participated. We’ve also taken Christmas gifts to Mackendy and the other children. Whether we come bearing gifts or not, the smiles on the children’s faces are worth far more than our partial sponsorship of one boy. Two of Mackendy’s paintings hang inside the main entrance to our home, and we proudly display his photos on the refrigerator in our kitchen. We think about him and the other children often, and we pray for them daily. In many ways, Mackendy has become part of our family. Our relationship with him and the center has instilled in my sons a larger worldview and an incredible heart for missions. This sponsorship has made an impact on them and on me that is much greater than anything we’ve been able to do for Mackendy and the other children.”

There is a great need for more co-sponsors for the children until the center becomes self-sustaining. Sponsorships are available at multiple monthly levels: $140, $70, $35, $20, and $15.

For more information and to sign up online for a sponsorship: Visit SourceOfLightHaiti.org or contact Staci Calkin at haitichildsponsorship@bgav.org.

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