

## **A Purpose, an Identity, a Hope**

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Haiti Share is a little different than any other organization I know. Maybe that is because I didn't have any preconceived idea of what I was trying to do when I went to Haiti. I didn't go to build an organization; I went to visit the orphan I was sponsoring. Now, four years and twelve trips later, I look back and am amazed at how God has blessed my life through the Haitian team He gave me.

I didn't choose the team members for any particular intellectual or spiritual qualities they possessed; I simply decided to help the nine young people who volunteered to help me teach a Bible School during my second trip to Haiti. Their ages ranged from 17 to 37.

They all said they wanted to go to college. Some whom we put in school are making it; some dropped out. All of them had, and still have, a deep desire to help their people. Some of them have the ability to take initiative when given the resources; others need to be provided direction.

That first year, when conflicts arose between team members, I sometimes wondered if the only thing holding them together was their shared hope that I could help them. If that were true then, it is true no longer.

Over the past three and a half years, this team has developed a purpose, an identity, a hope. Every one of my team members knows as well as I do what Haiti Share is about, because the Haiti Share vision is not something I brought to them; it is something we have built, and are continuing to build, together.