



My Dear Friends,

As another year comes to a close, I want to thank you for standing with us through a tumultuous and very difficult year... one of the most challenging we have experienced.

2021 marked FCH's 40th anniversary. When we started out in 1981, I had no idea how much God would accomplish through this ministry; no idea how hard it would be to deal with the constant political, natural, economic, and social challenges we would face; and no idea how many wonderful people God would bring alongside us to help with His work. Through it all He has been faithful.

Forty years ago, none of us could have imagined that an approach of "one step at a time, one child at a time" would result in so many lives being touched and changed.

I am thankful for the 260 Haitians who work alongside me; thankful for their dedication, professionalism, and desire to make a difference in Haiti. And all of us are so grateful to our friends in Canada whose support has allowed us to maintain and expand this work for 4 decades.

Working in an environment as challenging as Haiti often feels overwhelming and discouraging. We hope you understand how much your partnership and prayers encourage and sustain us. Your support is tangible proof to us that God cares and provides.

All of us at FCH wish all of you in Canada the best for a happy Christmas and a wonderful year in 2022!

Love,

Gladys



"Forty years ago when we started FCH I had no idea how many wonderful people God would bring alongside us to do His work."

Solar Power... More is Better !

The solar power system installed at Hope Hospital in the Fall of 2020 has exceeded expectations and allowed the hospital to operate smoothly and efficiently.

Reliance on generators has been greatly reduced. Electricity needs are met by solar power except for times of peak power demand and after midnight (when batteries are drained and can't be recharged until the next day).

Given frequent shortages of diesel fuel (needed by the generator), and extremely high prices, it would be beneficial to upgrade the hospital's solar power capacity to cover peak demands and late night power requirements.

The Children's Village has some solar power capacity but is frequently without electricity. It would be a real benefit to upgrade this system as well, giving the 105 residents and the elementary school a reliable supply of power.

For more on this important project, please see the full story on page 3.



Things we are thankful for in 2021

2021 was an extremely difficult year in Haiti. Continued political strife and the assassination of the Haitian President resulted in the complete breakdown of law and order in Port au Prince. A devastating earthquake hit southern Haiti. Shortages and huge increases in the prices of daily necessities burdened people already struggling with poverty.

Despite these monumental challenges, as we look back on 2021, we are thankful for many things. Here are a few:

- The children at Rainbow of Love children's residence and the residents of Hope Home remain safe and well cared for.
- The elementary school at the Children's Village was open for most of the school year except for brief periods when covid restrictions and political unrest interrupted classes.
- In Mussotte (southern Haiti) the elementary school and post-secondary training institute (C-Tech) were open most days despite the devastating earthquake that hit the area in August.
- The C-Tech and Mussotte School buildings were not damaged in the earthquake.
- After the earthquake, our generous donors gave enough to allow FCH to purchase three truckloads of supplies and run a number of medical clinics in remote rural villages.
- The first nursing class graduated from C-Tech in November.
- Hope Hospital has remained open except for a few brief periods when violence made it too dangerous to operate.
- Our faithful supporters helped FCH cover ever-increasing costs for basic necessities.
- The new solar power system at Hope Hospital allowed the hospital to operate despite the lack of public electric power and shortages of diesel fuel.

In the midst of such turmoil, we are thankful to be able to bring comfort and relief to those in need.



A very special event during 2021 was the graduation of the first nursing class at C-Tech (FCH's post-secondary training institute).

To mark this milestone event, members of the U-Vic nursing faculty gave the graduates gifts to mark their accomplishment. Each of the 17 grads received a stethoscope and a blood pressure kit to help launch them on their way.



Electric Power in Haiti is a Problem... Solar Power is the Answer

Background

Haiti's public electric power system is extremely unreliable, to the point that Hope Hospital was almost 100% reliant on generators. This situation was not sustainable. Generators are an extremely costly power source, and they are often unavailable due to breakdowns when overused and frequent shortages of diesel fuel.

The Foundation's only option to keep the hospital open was to install a solar power system in the Fall of 2020. (*Our wonderful CFCH donors funded 90% of the cost of this project !*)

Current Situation

The new system at the hospital has exceeded expectations, on most days providing 100% of the hospital's power needs between 9:00 AM and midnight.

However, when machines with heavier power requirements are needed on an extended basis, the generator must supplement the solar power. Also, after midnight the system's batteries (which are charged during the day) run down, and the generator is needed until the sun comes up and recharges the system. This residual reliance on the generator leaves the hospital without power when diesel supplies run out and - when fuel is available - it is extremely expensive (the current price is about 6 times higher than it was a year ago).

There is also small solar power system at the Children's Village that provides part of the Village's requirements but leaves the residences and elementary school too reliant on expensive generators and frequently without power.

The Solar Solution

Although the current system has had an amazing impact on the hospital's ability to serve the community, it would be advantageous to expand the capacity of the system so that it can handle peak power requirements and have power available 24 hours each day, freeing FCH from expensive and unreliable generators.

FCH would like to expand the solar system at the Children's Village to avoid frequent black outs.

Help with the solar power upgrade would be appreciated

There are many components in a solar power system, but the key elements are the solar panels. The upgrade of the system at the Children's Village requires 6 new panels each costing \$185 US. At Hope Hospital, the upgrade will require another 90 panels, each costing \$225 US.

Other key components include: mounting racks (\$135 US / panel); inverters (to convert solar energy to electric power) for the hospital (\$8,000 US) and the Village (\$2,800 US).

If you would like to contribute to this project, donations can be made via the CFCH website at <https://cfchcanada.ca/>

Any donation would be appreciated. Perhaps you could consider getting together with family or friends and purchasing a solar panel. Thanks!



Please pray for Haiti

Since mid-2018 Haiti has been beset with political disruptions and violence. As result, the Haitian government – never particularly strong – essentially ceased to function, becoming unable to provide any meaningful services or governance to the country. One of the many serious consequences of this has been a breakdown of law and order, particularly in Port au Prince.

As bad as things were in 2018, 2019, and 2020, the situation spiraled out of control during 2021 with the assassination of the Haitian President in July. Incidents of violence and kidnapping have increased significantly, to the point where no one in Port au Prince feels safe because gangs are able to operate freely throughout the city.

We thank God that, so far, the Foundation's children, staff, students, and hospital patients have remained safe. Staff take what precautions they can, but everyone lives in fear.

Please pray for protection, peace, and change in Haiti.



Looking Ahead to 2022

In addition to the solar power upgrade, here are some of FCH's other priorities for the coming year:

- Keeping the children, students, patients, and staff safe in the midst of continuing gang violence in Port au Prince.
- Focusing on efficiencies wherever possible, while maintaining standards of care, in an effort to cope with rapidly rising costs and shortages of basic necessities.
- Continue encouraging families in the neighbourhood to send their children to the elementary school at the Children's Village, including children with special needs who can stay at one of the residences in the Village during the week to make school attendance easier.
- Seeking to broaden funding sources in order to deal with the harsh financial realities currently prevailing in Haiti.
- Continue to pray that stability and security will be restored, which will alleviate many of the most pressing problems in Haiti.