



SHARING JESUS WITH WOMEN

More than 40 years ago in Haiti, my heart was stubbornly determined to share Jesus with the Haitian women via a weekly Bible study. I felt intimidated, insecure, and initially insulted. But, I did my best to share Jesus because I felt if I didn't—who would? Those early days of social disorder and illiteracy were a challenge. We had no child care, and they had no watches to even show up on time. On one occasion, I was brought a starving baby in a bath towel. I held the baby as I taught, and after class I went with the mother to find a wet nurse. The baby (Jezila) survived and I actually saw her on my last trip to Haiti.

Eventually, I invited other women to start Bible studies in their respective churches. With help from dedicated missionaries, Bible studies began in all of our villages—52 Bible studies in total.

When we went to the Dominican Republic in 2000, I also felt the urgency to share the Gospel. I found a few international English-speaking women who wanted fellowship and we met at a sidewalk café. Some were believers and others were there for friendship. It's not for us to determine results, but to keep planting, witnessing, and sharing Jesus. Now, Haitian women and Dominican women are leading in these ministries.

~Jeanne DeTellis Loudon



Top: Pray for women as they grow closer to God and care for their families.

Middle: Christian friendships matter and women's Bible studies foster healthy environments for growth.

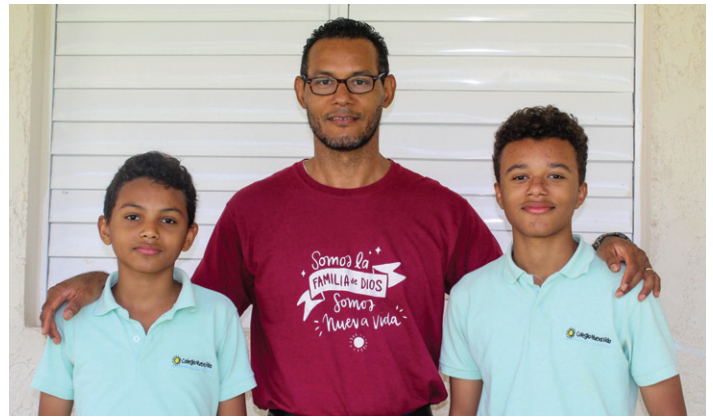
Bottom left: In the Dominican Republic, we host women's gatherings to promote godly living.

Bottom right: Marie Carmel Petit-Homme, from our Bord-Mer church, energetically leads the women's group in worship.

BIBLE CLASSES AT SCHOOL

Bible classes at school can profoundly impact students' lives, fostering spiritual and personal growth that influences their daily routines. Ysaías Castaños, who teaches the high school Bible classes at Colegio Nueva Vida and also helps lead chapel services, has observed how exposure to Scripture can quietly but powerfully shape young minds and hearts over time.

Last year's distribution of Bibles was a significant moment for many students, going beyond merely receiving just any book. It sparked a change within their hearts. Professor Ysaías has noticed students prioritizing their Bible reading over other activities. His own sons, Ysaías and Benjamín Castaños Polanco, both students at Colegio Nueva Vida, have witnessed their father's faith in action and have experienced their own spiritual growth as a result. Some students have even confided in Professor Ysaías about their newfound dedication to attending church, which is a testament to the lasting impact of studying God's Word. And beyond individual transformations, there is a noticeable shift in how students interact with their teachers and each other—displaying Christian values within our school community. ~Heather Williams Katz



Benjamin (left) and Ysaías (right) have grown in their relationship with God as a result of their dad's Christian example.



The Bible distribution to all of our students last year had an amazing impact in the lives of many.



Marie Nesly Vernet, a seamstress of 26 years, teaches sewing class and is a member of the L'Acul church.



Bidgie, at the sewing machine, doesn't own her machine yet, but is thankful to be able to use a machine at the school.

TRADE SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Our L'Acul pastor, Richemond Casseus, has a trade school on their campus. He is utilizing the same space as his church and elementary school—just at different times. He says when he was out in the community, he'd see many young people just loitering. Their parents couldn't afford to keep them in school or send them for other training. Sometimes it was due to an early pregnancy or delinquency. He decided to provide training right in the neighborhood that was accessible to them. He offers sewing, electric, and plumbing classes as well as generator, motorcycle, and phone repair.

The sewing program has 28 students and runs for 15 months. Bidgie Dupleant, a former student of New Missions, attends the sewing classes. She hopes to one day support herself and help her family. Bidgie will be in the first group to graduate. Pastor Casseus states there are already a few phone repair graduates earning some income.

Pastor Guillaume in Leogane also has a trade school. His vision is to help the youth in his church find employment. His program includes plumbing, tiling, music, and cosmetology training. ~Rachel DeTellis



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

With hula hoops twirling and music playing outside, the kids in Masson, Haiti, enjoyed a VBS program that was festive and fun! Since 1983, our churches have been a location where kids are welcome and have a safe place to learn about Jesus. The struggle parents face is not just what can the kids do while they are on school break, but what is helpful and wholesome for their spiritual development. Vacation Bible School is the answer this summer.

Does your church host Vacation Bible School? Visit newmissions.org/VBS for some fun videos including the song "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" which our kids in Haiti sing in both Haitian Creole and English. Your kids could learn the song with our kids, and before the end of the VBS week be able to sing the song in Haitian Creole. Your VBS can also collect a special offering to help purchase food for our schools in Haiti. Thank you for considering having your kids help our kids during your VBS program.

Please pray for churches everywhere hosting VBS this summer. Vacation Bible School is the plan for fun, finding new friends, and learning about Jesus. Most importantly, we hope kids discover they are a friend of God. ~Tim DeTellis

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Top: Bringing kids to VBS is fun, plus it's an opportunity to learn about Jesus.

Bottom left: Singing and making memories together is a special benefit of Vacation Bible School.

Bottom middle: Who will you invite to attend VBS at your church this summer?

Bottom right: The kids at your VBS can help the kids at New Missions. Learn more at newmissions.org/VBS





GOT VBS AT YOUR CHURCH?
newmissions.org/vbs

JESUS IS THE GREAT PHYSICIAN

There's an old story about a family on vacation traveling through the Great Smoky Mountains in Tennessee. One morning, they stopped at a country restaurant for breakfast. The restaurant was filled with tourists on a hot July day when an old man approached the table and asked the folks where they were from and, without asking, pulled up a chair and sat down at the table to join them. He pointed out the window at the mountains in front of them. He said, "You see that mountain? Not far from the base of that mountain there was a boy born to an unwed mother. That boy had a hard time growing up because he never knew his father. Everywhere that boy would go, people would ask him, 'Boy, who's your daddy?' That question haunted the boy all his life. There was a new preacher at church and the boy went to hear his first sermon. After church, before the boy could leave early the young preacher asked the boy, 'Son, who's your daddy?' Everybody standing near the boy stopped and grew silent. The preacher, discerning the moment, spoke up. 'Wait a minute! I know who you are. I recognize you. You are a child of God.' With that, he bent down and gave the boy a hug and said, 'Boy, you've got a great inheritance – go and claim it.' The boy smiled and began to repeat to himself those words, 'I'm a child of God.'" The old gentlemen stood up from the table and said, "You know, if that new preacher hadn't told me that I was a child of God, I probably would have never amounted to anything!" After the old man walked away, the waitress came up to the table

**JESUS HAS COME
TO GIVE US A NEW
SELF-IMAGE.**

and said, "Oh, don't mind him. That's Ol' Ben Hopper. He's the former governor of Tennessee!"

The daughter of a wealthy family was born with a huge nose that dominated the looks of her face. She grew up with this terrible image of herself as an ugly person. Her family hired the best plastic surgeon to change the contour of her nose. After a few weeks, the girl returned to the surgeon's office to have the bandages removed. When the doctor removed the bandages, her nose was perfect. All the ugly contours were gone. But, the girl's self-image of being ugly was so deeply imbedded in her mind that when she saw herself in the mirror, she couldn't see any change. She broke into tears and cried, "Oh, I knew it wouldn't work."

The story you tell yourself is the one you believe. That story is your self-image; the beliefs you have about who you are and what you can do. You can rewrite your story once you begin a relationship with Jesus Christ. I have a new self-image in Christ. The Bible says: *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me; No weapon formed against me shall prosper; Who can separate me from the love of Christ?; Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.* Jesus has come to give us a new self-image; a self-image based on His love for you, all that He has done for you, and all that He is going to do for you in the future.

~George DeTellis, Jr.

Jesus is the great physician who operates on our heart and on our memories. He heals the scars of our past sins and gives us a new self-image. In Christ, we are born again; filled with His Holy Spirit. The Bible tells us, "*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old is gone, the new has come!*" II Corinthians 5:17

George DeTellis, Jr.

george@newmissions.org

P.S. "He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds." – Psalm 147:3



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