

# YOUR CHILD SURVIVAL PROGRAM REPORT

## Tova Child Survival Program (HA-C26) Tova, Haiti

### AN INTERVIEW WITH THE PASTOR

*Each local Child Survival Program (CSP) is managed by and facilitated through a church. The pastor of the church-based program that you support is Joel Petit.*

#### 1. Tell us about your background.

I am a Tovar native. I've been in the ministry since 1985. Before I came here, I served for seven years at a church in the north. I have been senior pastor at the Evangelical Church of Tova for five years.

#### 2. Tell us about the Evangelical Church of Tova.

The church started here in 1967. We have 250 active members, but 500 people attend Sunday services here. We help the community in many ways. Besides the church and the school that has 350 students, we have the Compassion programs, especially the Child Survival Program, that serve a special group of people. We have also installed a water tank where people can come for water that is safe to drink.

#### 3. How long have you had a partnership with Compassion?

I was not a Christian yet when the Compassion program started here. It dates back more than 30 years. At that time, the board of the mission sent a request to Compassion about the need to serve impoverished children in this area, and it was approved. Our involvement with the Child Survival Program is more recent — we are in our second year.



Darline Valvil holds her little daughter, Loudgina.



Rosiane Paul and her son, Emmanuel Dorosias, live close to the CSP center and she never misses a session.

### Your Child Survival Program at a Glance\* ...

- Total mothers: 50
- Pregnant mothers: 5
- Total children: 50
  - Infants 12 months and under: 17
  - Toddlers 13 to 48 months: 33

\*As reported by our church partners for the quarter ending in June 2009

### Pray for ...

- The people of Tova, where most people are subsistence farmers, merchants or stall-holders.
- The CSP staff members, who not only provide practical help to mothers and children, but also share the love of Christ in their actions and words.
- Pastor Petit, who is striving to lead his church and its Compassion programs in a way that honors the Lord.



Pastor Joel Petit works closely with CSP Coordinator Nadege Dellamour, left, and CSP Director Elda Victor to ensure mothers and children in the program receive the physical and spiritual nurturing they need for a better life.

#### 4. When you were asked to minister to the community's mothers in need, how did you respond?

I felt overwhelmed when I was asked to serve mothers and little children. We are hearing great testimonies today from the mothers and people in the community.

#### 5. How do you feel now about the impact of the Child Survival Program on those mothers?

I remember when the program first started. One of the mothers in the program was pregnant and ready to deliver her baby. Her family could not afford even a doctor visit for her. She had to have a cesarean, and the fees were covered by the Child Survival Program. Now both she and her child are healthy, and they participate in all the program activities. This is just one example among many others from families in the community. Many children and their mothers would have died if the Child Survival Program did not exist in the area.

#### 6. How is the church involved with the Child Survival Program?

When there is a big event, we make the announcement during church services. We allow the program to use the church building. And during gift and food distributions, church members volunteer their time to help.

#### 7. What is your advice to other churches considering serving their community in this way?

I would tell them this program helps the church progress spiritually, socially and economically. More people will be willing to come to Christ because they will see we are preaching the gospel not only by words, but also by actions.

#### 8. What would you like to say to the people who give financial support to the Child Survival Program?

They are blessed. The Bible says, "There are more blessings to give than to receive." Their reward will be great not only in heaven, but also while they are still on Earth. We are also praying for them and for their families.



Pastor Joel Petit, 52, is married with two daughters. He has been at the Evangelical Church of Tova for five years.



CSP Coordinator Nadege Dellamour, right, and Director Elda Victor check a participant's weight.



A CSP staff worker visits with Philona Jean, who has learned how to keep her home safe and clean, and has taught other mothers to as well.

*For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.*

— Psalm 139:13-14, NIV