

Haiti Providence University
— from “Impossible Dream”
to reality. I witnessed the
first commencement.

international
child care
ministries

July 2016 Reflections
Director Linda Adams

Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory





If the enormity of an achievement is measured against the unlikelihood of it occurring in its context, Haiti Providence University (UPROH) may be the biggest achievement I've ever seen.

This Christian Liberal Arts University, founded in 2012 by ICCM alumnus Jean Marc Zamor (pictured at right) and his colleagues Jean Michel Charles and Wisner Liberte, towers as a countercultural outpost of the kingdom of God. The setting isn't impressive — just over 200 acres of desert scrubland an hour or two's drive from Port-au-Prince. You can see a few simple buildings at the moment — plus agricultural projects and half-built classrooms. When these Haitian visionaries first bought the land, it had no buildings, no roads, no potable water and no electricity. Now it is a basic residential campus for a student body of 249.



What has brought UPROH into being? Clear vision, bold faith, international partnership and lots of sacrifice and hard work by dedicated faculty and administrators. Oh, and did I mention miracles? Too many to tell!

On June 4, I had the privilege of addressing the 51 graduates, their families and friends at UPROH's first commencement. This spectacular four-hour event featured 20 students in a degree-completion program in Education, several nurses, and others in a half a dozen academic disciplines.

Six of the graduates received ICCM support for their studies. They shared with me their experience.

- Alexis, who has already begun a job as an accountant at a hospital, said, "The uniqueness of UPROH is that it creates leaders with an emphasis on knowing God and living with integrity."
- Roberto, who studied Theology and is now pastoring a Free Methodist church, said, "When someone contributes to another person's life, you share in the success of that person. I thank my sponsor for sharing in my success."
- Beethoven majored in Management of Human Resources. In fine English, he told me, "Thank you! Thank ICCM's donors! They are very generous and we are very grateful. Many Haitian young people are discour-

aged because university is out of reach financially. We are very blessed and privileged and will keep praying for other kids around the world to receive an education through ICCM." His aim is to give back love, solidarity and economic assistance to others. Beethoven is completing an internship at the university. As a way of giving back, he has volunteered to write job descriptions for all office personnel at ICCM Haiti.

- Ralph, who majored in Theology, declared, "God gave us the will to study. ICCM invested in my childhood 'til now. Investing in education is the biggest thing for a person or society. All sustainable development involves education. Not just giving us daily bread — education changes our lives so we can change the world!"
- Betina's degree is in Education Administration. She told me, "Thank God for UPROH and for God's other helpers who have supported me from primary school until now. After God Himself, sponsorship is what allowed me to complete school. Before, I was very, very shy. I was afraid to speak in public. I'm very different now! I'm more self-reliant. I'm looking for a job as a Head Teacher or an Education Advisor. I will miss my professors and life at UPROH. They helped me to understand life in another way."

UPROH's motto is: "Artisans of Positive Transformation." The graduating class sang an inspiring anthem together and then read a manifesto, declaring their commitment to be agents of the kingdom of God and artisans of positive transformation for their country. It gave me goosebumps!

I asked these bright young adults whether they intended to use their degree as a "ticket off the island," as 90% of university-educated Haitians have done. "NO!" was their unanimous response. I asked why. "Because we believe in the vision! God has put us here to make a difference!"

Let it be, Dear Lord, let it be!

To support 3rd-year student Christerline, and eight other continuing students, please give to ICCM's **Emerging Leaders Fund**. A full scholarship for a year, including tuition, fees and room and board, is \$2,500. Any amount is welcome — many gifts can combine to send a student to UPROH! Thanks to all who have given already.

