

Finishing Strong in Haiti

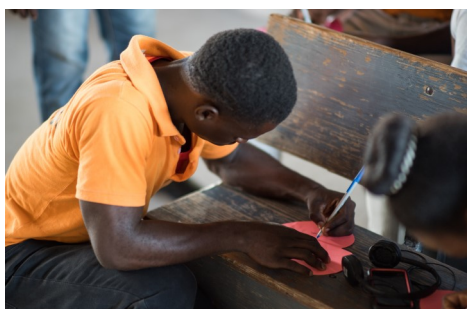


It was my first academic pep rally. ICCM leaders gathered sponsored students from Grade 13, called *Philo* in their educational system, in three regions to prep them for their upcoming national exams. We want a 100% graduation rate!

These seniors are among the few in Haiti who make it to the finish line of high school graduation. Most children never move beyond primary school, so the diploma these scholars receive will reward unusual perseverance and great effort. They're studying hard for their exams, to be held on June 25.

The hearts in their hands are for **YOU**, the sponsors who have faithfully supported their education. Your financial support, prayers, letters and gifts have made all the difference. They want to convey that they love you! They appreciate your sacrifice. Each one wrote a final letter and had a final photo taken—and we'll be sending them out as soon as they get their exam results.

I felt like a spectator near the finish line of a marathon, cheering them on as they approached their goal: **Run hard, students! God bless you!**





Planting seeds, anticipating harvest

My favorite letter from a Haitian child answered the question, "What is your favorite food?" His letter read, "I love to eat a mango that is so ripe, when I take a bite, the juice drips off my chin!" His prospects for eating ripe mangos just got a whole lot better!

For five years, ICCM has partnered with The Eden Projects in Haiti. Eden has now committed 80,000 trees to ICCM, 48,000 of which will be fruit trees. Last week I visited Agrinotech, a partner organization and saw about 200,000 seedlings. Mangos, papayas, citrons, breadfruit and many other delicious and nutritious fruits will one day grow on these trees.

ICCM is providing Eden with land to grow these precious trees, through our own schools and the sponsored children's families. Parents sign agreements to participate in planting, protecting, watering and tending the trees planted around their homes. In exchange, they agree to allow the trees to be counted, measured and studied, as Agrinotech and Eden learn the best varieties of trees for each soil type.

Other trees will be useful in other ways, for instance nitrogen-fixing varieties, trees to provide lumber to be sold for building furniture, and trees simply to reverse deforestation.

As we stand alongside our children and their families in Haiti, we realize that food security is a major problem. By providing animal projects (goat and chicken pilot projects are doing well), fruit trees, and agricultural expertise, we expand our impact.

Thank you to all who give regularly to the Haiti Food Fund, which supplies school lunches, and who donate trees and animals via the giving options on our website or by including extra funds in your monthly check. We are making progress! We love to cooperate with our Creator to multiply food for the hungry children we serve. Your gifts are helping!

