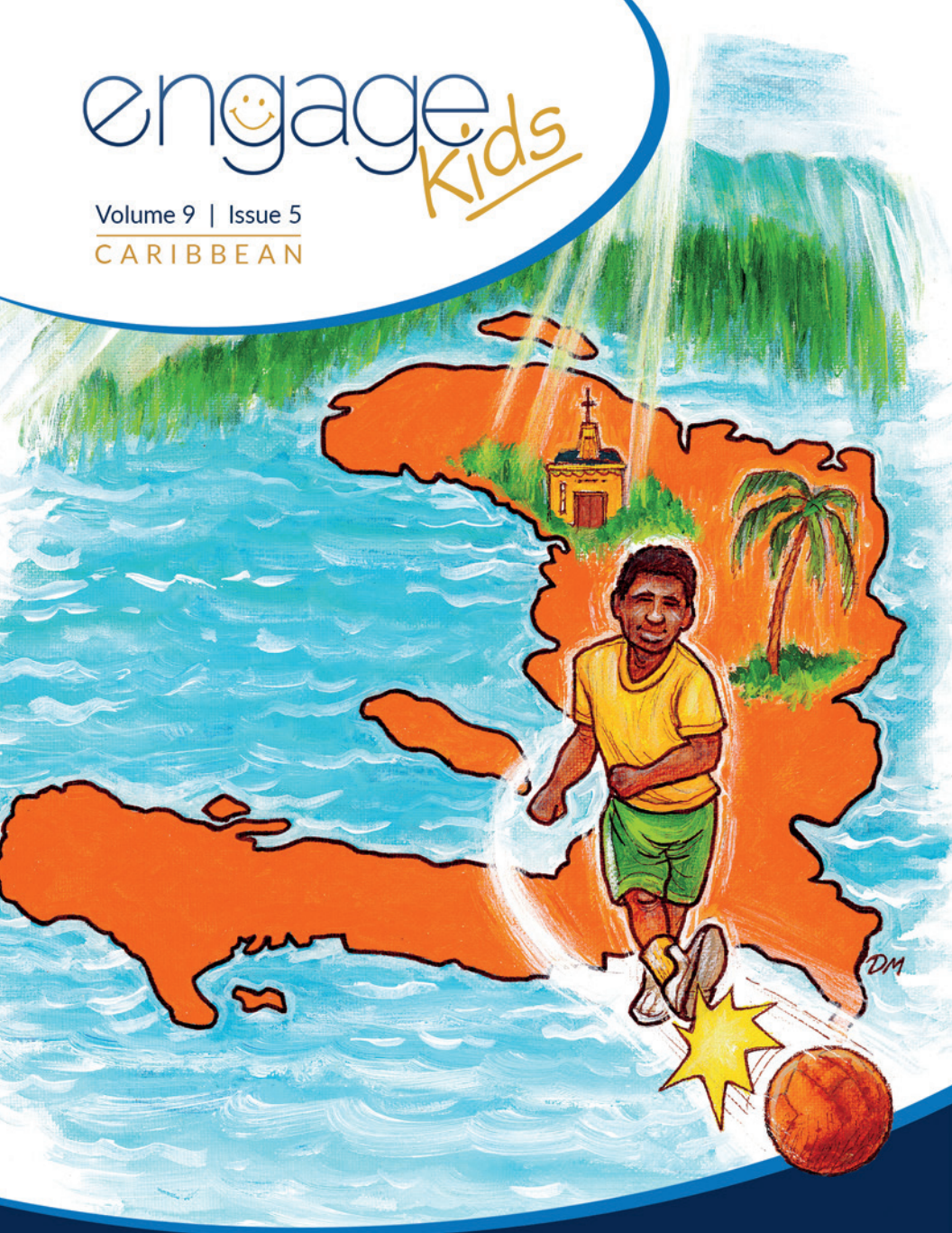


engage Kids

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CARIBBEAN



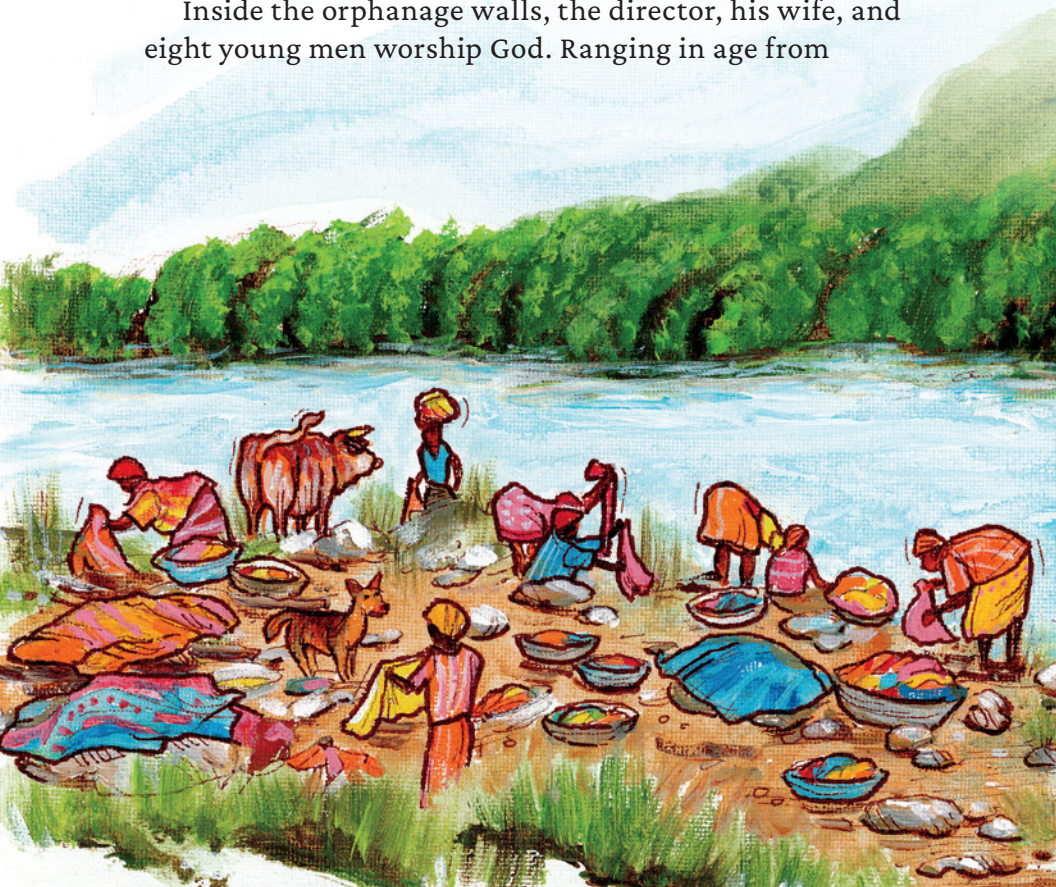
PIERCING the DARKNESS

A HOME OF HOPE & LIGHT

Boom. Boom-boom boom. Boom-boom boom, boom, boom...

The distant sound of voodoo drums makes its way inside the walls of HIM's orphanage compound. Haiti is filled with people who pray to evil spirits, causing much fear—but not inside this orphanage! Many Haitians turn to witch doctors for help when they are sick or in need. Spiritual darkness controls much of Haiti...but not the orphanage!

Inside the orphanage walls, the director, his wife, and eight young men worship God. Ranging in age from



eight to twenty-four, the boys live as brothers. They learn, sing, and talk about Jesus daily. They also pray regularly which keeps the spiritual darkness away. These young men have lived in this place of light since they were small. It is sad that their families were unable to care for them, but God has used their hard circumstances to help them find Him!

If you were to visit Haiti today, you would see beautiful mountains and rivers...and signs of poverty and political unrest everywhere. Many homes do not have running water, so Haitians must wash their clothes at the nearest river. Sometimes children have to use a grapefruit for a ball when they play soccer. The people are poor, and life is very hard. But inside the mission school, boys and girls are laughing and learning. How can they? Because there they hear about Jesus!

Church time finds the orphan boys joining other believers in doing what they love most—praying and singing with all their hearts. Finding their hope in Jesus, they are helping pierce the darkness of Haiti with God’s light!



DM

AT HOME IN HAITI

The country of Haiti occupies about a third of a small island called Hispaniola. The island is shared by the Dominican Republic and sits in the Caribbean Ocean about fifty miles from Cuba.

Can you discover what city might be about fifty miles from where you live?

Haiti's climate is warm and humid. Haitians may not have much money, but they love to sing, laugh, and play. The islanders speak Creole, a simplified form of French.

The Haitian Creole word for light is *limyè* and it is pronounced "LIM-yay." Can you say *limyè*?

Many Haitians cook their meals over open fires. A common dish is rice and beans, but spaghetti is a favorite too—only their spaghetti might not look like yours! They sometimes make a sauce using smoked fish or add hot dogs to their noodles.

Ask your parent to put hot dogs in your spaghetti the next time they make it.





MEMORY VERSE

I am come a light into the world, that whosoever
believeth on me should not abide in darkness.

John 12:46



DJOHNSLY'S JOURNEY

Djohnsly (“jones-ly”) was eleven years old when he came to HIM’s orphanage in Haiti. His mother had died, and his sister could not care for him. Djohnsly’s circumstances were dark—but not too dark for God! The orphanage director was able to bring security, food, love, and light into Djohnsly’s life.

Living in that light, Djohnsly began to thrive. He listened carefully to his teachers and did well in school. He loved being around the missionaries. Soccer was a favorite pastime, of course, but he did not play ALL the time. He was a clever fellow, and he discovered ways to make some money of his own. Once he bought a small freezer and sold ice and cold drinks from it. He also purchased a pair of turkeys so he could sell the poult (baby turkeys).

Djohnsly always has had a sensitive spirit. At age sixteen he told the missionaries there was a lot of anger in his heart. He did not want it there. Missionary Daryl Hobbs explained to Djohnsly that Jesus could help and change his heart from the inside out if he would only ask. Djohnsly wept as he prayed, repented, and trusted in Jesus. Ever since that moment he has lived faithfully for God.

Djohnsly spent two summers training with a mechanic and did very well. He has now graduated from high school and is attending a Bible school in the city of Port-au-Prince. Djohnsly's life had a dark beginning, but because of God's love, he is now a light to others in the tiny country of Haiti.





Louie's treehouse Lair



Think Outside the...Ball

Gather a group of friends and share what you have learned about Haiti. Explain that Haitian children love to play soccer but have to get creative when finding something to use as a ball. Organize a game of soccer with your friends and challenge them to find something unique to use instead of a soccer ball. Tell us what you found and how it worked. If you can, send us a photo too!



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Learn more at feaministries.org/engagekids