



### YOUTH REFLECTION ACTIVITY:

This program is designed to provide students the opportunity to reflect on the life of a family in Haiti whose homes and lives are being rebuilt after Hurricane Matthew and the earthquake in 2010. This program is supported by Church World Service and their partners.

#### PREPARATION:

Have the students split into four groups and move into separate areas in the room. Each group will then receive a Story card with a picture of the family or new home. Read the scenario on the card and think of these questions as you're reading about the families on these cards. Have the students talk about these stories for about 15 – 20 minutes depending on the size of the group.

#### QUESTIONS:

1. If you lived in a rural village in Haiti, how would you handle a hurricane warning? What obstacles or challenges would you face?
2. If your home in Haiti was destroyed, like this family, what would you do to make sure your family has access to shelter, food, water, etc.? (Short term priorities? Long term?)
3. CWS believes in "community-based solutions" and empowering people to set their own agenda for "recovery" from a disaster. How do you think this works with this family?
4. How would you handle a natural disaster in your town?
5. If your home was destroyed in a disaster, what would your life be like? What would you do to recover from the disaster?
6. Consider the difference if your house or apartment was destroyed and how your family from Haiti's life has been changed after a storm went through their area.

Once the students have had a chance to talk things over bring them together and talk about the scenarios. Discuss how they would face these situations. After you have had an opportunity to talk things over you can use the enclosed Blessing of the Tools/show the YouTube video below and let the students hear from the folks they just read about.

# CWS TOOLS

## Youth Activity Guide



### BLESSING OF THE TOOLS:

---

Leader: A house is built by tools and hands,

**People: A home is made with hearts of love.**

Leader: We pray that our gifts will provide,

**People: Both the tools and the love to build more than a shelter.**

Leader: We give our gifts with love for the building of homes.

**People: Where love is the foundation,**

Leader: And peace the solid frame.

**People: O Rock of Ages**

Leader: Bless our gifts

**People: That we may all rise - to worlds unknown:**

Leader: Full of peace, full of love.

**People: Amen.**

– Adapted by Rev. Patrick Walker

Thank you YouTube Video - <https://youtu.be/iwvzjUMTFO8>

# CWS TOOLS

## Youth Activity Guide



### CWS TOOLS STORY: HOUSES IN HAITI

The commune of Jean Rabel in northwest Haiti was hit hard by Hurricane Matthew in October 2016. CWS and its partners are helping families repair or rebuild destroyed homes as well as livelihoods.

Roger Doris and his family are now living in one of the houses that was constructed. Roger and his wife have four children between the ages of 17 and 27. One of their children is studying civil engineering and actually drew up the first draft of the plans for the family's new house. CWS engineers updated the plans and took them into account when creating the final plans.

Roger has training as an iron worker and carpenter, so he has helped with the construction. He and his wife have also contributed by paying to have the foundation dug, breaking gravel, providing food to the workers, collecting water and paying for other supplies.

At the time of the hurricane, they didn't have any crops to lose. They did, though, lose two donkeys as well as goats and pigs. As they've rebuilt, they received seeds for black beans, lima beans and corn from a CWS supported cooperative. In Roger's words, "God takes care of us. This is a miracle, the house as well."



**ABOVE:** Roger's wife, Adenia Pierre Louis, stands outside of the temporary shelter she and Roger lived in after their home was badly damaged during Hurricane Matthew.



**ABOVE:** Roger Doris sits on the foundation of his new home.



## A NEW HOUSE MEANS NEW HOPE

Following Hurricane Matthew, which struck Haiti in October of 2016, CWS and local partners have distributed seeds and repaired or rebuilt houses in northwest Haiti.

One of the houses that is being entirely reconstructed is that of Lionel Pierre and his family. Lionel, his wife and two of their children lived in a house built of rocks that was destroyed when Hurricane Matthew hit.

A team of engineers provided by CWS has helped ensure that the new house will weather future storms. It is being constructed in partnership with Lionel and his family, who have contributed labor, water and the digging of the foundation for the house and latrine.



**ABOVE:** Lionel and his wife stand in the window of their new home.

Unfortunately, the new house is just the beginning of the rebuilding process for the family. They lost a mule, seven goats, a horse, a donkey, a cow and chickens as well as crops in the hurricane.

As the house construction continues, they begin to replant crops and rebuild their lives. In Lionel's words, "The engineers tell us to be careful with our lives. They give advice and come often. I give God thanks because CWS protects people's lives."





## A NEW GARDEN OF HOPE

CWS and their partners in Haiti have been supporting families in the region since the January 12, 2010 Haiti Earthquake and Hurricane Matthew in Boen and Ganthier.

Thanks to this partnership Fedeline Fleurestal and her family of six has received a new house as well as micro loans to purchase seeds including cauliflower, spinach, cabbage, beets, parsley, onions, leeks, peppers, broccoli and radish. The produce she raises is used for her family's consumption as well as being sold for income.

Fedeline says of the program: "After January 12 I had to rent a house to stay with my children and I couldn't go anywhere, but now thanks to the organization I have a house to sleep in with my children and with my husband. Moreover, for those who are responsible for (funding) the project, I hope that they continue the work. Even if it is not on earth, but in heaven you will find reward."



**ABOVE:** Fedeline's new home and garden, planted with seeds from CWS.



## IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO BUILD A HOME

CWS and their partners have been rebuilding homes and distributing seeds to farmers in northwest Haiti. Mérantier is one of those farmers. He and his wife have five children, four of whom are married and no longer living at home. Their youngest daughter still lives with them.

When Hurricane Matthew hit, the three of them were living in a **mud and stick house**. The home was severely damaged; wood was broken and walls were damaged.

CWS and their partners are helping Mérantier build a new house on the same spot that their old house stood. The new house promises to be much sturdier than the old one, since it has a solid foundation, which Merantier dug out himself, and is built of rebar and cement. Merantier's neighbors have helped by carrying supplies with either animals they have lent or by themselves. The extra effort and care happening now will ensure that Mérantier and his family can better weather future storms.

Unfortunately, Merantier lost all of his crops he uses to feed his family and sell to support them in the storm. CWS is also helping him restart his farming setup. Through their seed distribution program he received a can of corn, a can of lima beans and 100 plantain trees. "My gardens are looking good," he says.



**ABOVE:** Mérantier at the foundation of his new home.

TO\_O\_511.01