

Before the Story:

Say: What are some things that can grow? Plants and food can grow. People can grow, and even relationships and friendships can grow. Haitians grow crops to feed themselves. They also build and grow good relationships with each other by helping each other and treating each other with kindness. In our story, we'll learn about how Jenny Jenkins helps Haitians grow. She helps widows rebuild homes. She also helps teachers grow in their skills and knowledge of teaching. (Show photo.)

Share the Story:

Growth in Haiti

Two groups of people that Jesus cares for and shows compassion to in the Bible are widows and children. A widow is a woman whose husband has died. In Haiti, widows are often a forgotten group, especially if they have no children.

We get to go home to our warm, cozy beds tonight with a roof over our heads to protect us from the weather outside. Many widows in Haiti lost their homes when the earthquake happened in 2010. Then Hurricane Matthew hit Haiti in 2016, pouring 32 inches of rain in a short amount of time. This water had nowhere to go, washing away and destroying things in its path. The widows use plastic tarps or whatever they can find to try to shelter themselves from the rain and wind. However, the water always gets into their houses somehow.

Jenny Jenkins has formed relationships with the people in her community. She has met people, visited their homes, talked to the leaders of the community, and prayed to listen to God's plans. One of the church deacons at Mount Sinai Baptist Church in Magandou told Jenny about a woman who needed help. When Jenny asked why they should help her first, he told her that she was not a member of their church and they needed to serve her first. This selfless attitude sets an example for the rest of the community.

Another church, Siloe Baptist Church, offers a school for children. It is hard for us to imagine not having a school or not being able to attend because our parents don't have enough money. That is not the case in Haiti. The church provides a way for children to go to school without having to worry about having enough money.

Jenny Jenkins works with the teachers at the school to help them learn how to be better teachers. Education, shelter, and health care allow the community to thrive and grow.

After the Story:

1. **Ask:** What are some ways that Jenny Jenkins is helping the people in Haiti grow?
2. **Say:** She is helping widows have homes. She is helping teachers learn how to be better at teaching. She is helping people when they are sick or need medicine.



Learning Activity:

Make it Work

Items needed: collection of objects (examples: buttons, pipe cleaners, spool of thread, clothespins, balls of yarn, sea shells, etc.); tape; string; scissors; glue

1. Gather a random collection of objects and supplies like scissors, tape, string, and glue.
2. **Say:** There is an idea in Haiti called "degaje" [day GAH jhay], which means to make the best of what you have or to make something work.
3. **Say:** Let's use our creativity and practice this idea. I've gathered a group of random objects. Let's work together to think of as many uses as possible for the objects.
4. Give children time to think of and share ideas. Encourage the children to try assembling some of the objects in creative ways. Focus on the process rather than the result. Praise their creativity!
5. Pray, thanking God for the ingenuity of the Haitian people.

Meet the Field Personnel:



CBF field personnel Jenny Jenkins is a nurse serving in Grand Goâve, Haiti. She develops relationships in the community through medical, educational, housing and outreach ministries.