

The Story of Denise

LIFELINE IS A GREAT INFLUENCE in the lives of many of the precious children of Haiti. This is the story of Denise which represents one of those lives.

Denise is not sure of her exact age; however, she estimates that it is between eleven and thirteen years. She has lived in the village of La Digue all of her life, but this summer marked a season of drastic change. Her mother, of whom she has no memory, has been dead since she was very young. Her father was her primary care giver for as long as she could remember. Denise missed the last month of school this year because her father was in the hospital. A result of complications associated with a hernia, her dad passed away in June. Before he died he had a very difficult, but very necessary talk in which he lovingly instructed her to be good, be strong, and take her younger sisters to live with their godmother. In Haiti, godparents are a very serious matter.

Because death is so prevalent, there is a high possibility that a promise to care for a person's children will become a reality of life.

Denise's godmother is Lizette, an employee of Lifeline who works in the kitchen, preparing food for almost 2,000 children. Denise says that, although she misses her father, she likes (and even loves) Lizette because she takes good care of her and her sisters.

As I was talking with Denise, I told her that I was going to write a story about her to share with my friends back in America. When I asked if there was anything she wanted to say, her eyes opened wide and she answered, "They can go with me to my house!"

This precious girl stole my heart from day one. She always

seems to find us when we go outside the mission gate. Once, when walking through the village and visiting with the residents, we turned and saw Denise. **Overcome with hunger, she was stooped down making a meal of a mud clot.** She walked with us back to the mission where we gave her something to eat. As I talked with her she wanted to be sure that she and I were *zomies*, the Haitian word for friends. I grabbed her hand with a smile and said "yes, *zomi*." She later repeated "mommy?" and I had to quickly clarify, "no, *not mommy...ZOMI*."

Although Denise is around twelve years old, she is only in the second grade, having completed kindergarten and first grade at Lifeline. **When asked, her favorite things she replied, "going to church, school, God, and Jesus."** Capturing your heart, she always has an invigorating smile in spite of the tragedies of life that seem to have stolen her childhood. Enduring circumstances of life and family through which many people would have given up; she continues to joyfully press forward, attending school, and learning more about God. She is just one of the many children that the Lord has rescued through the mission work here at Lifeline. We praise God for all of you, our friends and partners in ministry, who contribute to Lifeline in so many ways. As the Lord provides through your prayers and generosity, we are able to make a difference in the lives of more children like Denise.





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WE AT LIFELINE are proud to introduce Adam and Amber White, our resident missionaries in Haiti. Hearing, and willingly responding to, the call and leading of the Lord, this young couple has dedicated themselves to the furtherance of the gospel. Realizing that the Good News is not limited to nationalities or continental boundaries they minister not only in word but in deed as they endeavor, through their love and labor, to make a difference in the lives of the Haitian people. Their sincerity in their walk with the Lord and their heart for Haiti is evident in their primary requests for prayer:

- To be used of the Lord in a mighty way in the advancement of His Kingdom
- To minister to the spiritual and physical needs of Haiti
- For wisdom and guidance in dealing with the people of Haiti
- For ongoing spiritual and financial support
- For personal health and physical safety

Please continually lift Adam and Amber to the Lord in prayer.

Learn more of what takes place in their daily lives on-line at <http://missionlifeline.blogspot.com>, or send them a note of support and encouragement at lifelineaw@bellsouth.net.



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