



## Schools Closed

It was that time of year again. Kids were excited about going back to school. Some of the kids had new uniforms, and all of them were getting their book bags out and looking for shoes to fit ... all of the things that were needed for the beginning of the school year. Some students got to go to school for a few days, but most of the students did not even get that far. Schools were closed due to the unrest in the country, and the roads were not safe to travel. Some schools tried to open in the morning for school, but protesters put up road blocks soon after, and parents had difficulties getting their children home. So, the schools closed.

People were upset by fuel shortages and rising prices. During the first few months of the school year, fuel was very expensive and difficult to find. When fuel prices are too high, food cannot be delivered to markets. Businesses close and people are out of work. The people responded by protesting. They blocked the streets with piles of garbage, burning tires, and other various methods. We even saw a billboard cut down in an attempt to block the road, unsuccessfully in this case. About a mile down the road, a similar attempt with a billboard succeeded, and the road was blocked.

So, what happens to the children? Do they keep up with an education or do they fall behind? Well, similar to earlier years the United States, when a school had too many snow days, the government has forgiven some of those days, and the children will finish the year with less than the required amount of school days. But the school calendar has been changed to extend regular classes and testing dates into the middle of July. Some schools will make up days the best they can by hold-



## Meet Jean-Renault

Jean-Renault came to us from Borgne, Haiti, which is east of Cap-Haitien. He is the fourth of six children. He attended the public university in Madeline to study science education and completed a program called "Teaching for Haiti." He then taught 4<sup>th</sup> grade for two years. He got married in Dec 2019 and attends one of our Emmaus churches that has a Starfish Kids program where he is also an active member. His SFK job includes visiting schools, taking photos of the students, helping in the office to review reports, and meeting with pastors. He has been a great help! Join us in welcoming Jean-Renault to the Starfish Kids ministry!

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ing classes through holidays or even on Saturdays. Schools in remote areas started on time since there was no protesting in their areas.

What does this mean for your Starfish Kids? SFK has continued to sponsor each student for the entire year. We pray that they will do their best, even though the school year is a bit shorter. **We are so thankful to you, our faithful donors who support and pray for these students and the program ... even in the midst of troubled times.** Receiving a quality education in Haiti is still one of the most coveted prizes to offer hope for the future.

Starfish partner schools not only provide an education, but they teach the kids about the love of Jesus. Again, thank you for helping make this a possibility.



*A knocked over billboard attempts to block the road.*

We regrettable lost a valuable member of the team, Madame Jonathan, when she moved away in June 2019. We welcome Jean-Renault Pierre who joined the team to help fill the hole left by her departure.

Continue to pray for Haiti and for the Starfish Kids ministry. Thanks for your support.

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