

Mission **MOMENT**



Roger and his wife worked with our partners at Church World Service to rebuild their home after Hurricane Matthew. [photo: CWS Haiti]

MORE THAN A HOUSE

What makes a house a home? A house is a structure with some walls, a roof, doors and windows. That house becomes a home when it is a place where you can feel safe and loved. When you're at home, you can let your guard down. You can relax and rest.

Sometimes, though, a house isn't really a home. That was certainly the case for Roger Doris and his family. They built their house in Haiti's Northwest Department in 1989. It was a traditional mud-and-stick house, like so many in Haiti are. In 2000 and 2001, they renovated their home to replace the mud walls with concrete blocks and to add a tin roof. It was definitely a home.

Then Hurricane Matthew hit in late 2016. As the wind pounded on the house and the rain poured down, they did extensive damage to Roger's house. The walls shook and cracked. The wood support columns – which weren't particularly sturdy to start with – were damaged badly.

Overnight, that house was stripped of being a home. The family still lived there, but they were afraid. They didn't know how much longer the house would stand. That sense of security was gone. There was no more peace of mind, and no way to let down their guard.

We responded to help Roger and his family build a new house. Roger had training as an iron worker and carpenter, so he teamed up with professional masons to work on the new house. His family provided funds to pay for the new foundation and food for the workers. They also received seeds to plant so that the family would have a food and income source.

Now, the family has a house where they can feel safe. The house has a strong foundation and sturdy support columns made of rebar. More than just providing shelter, the house provides peace of mind. It is truly a home. Roger describes the house as a "miracle." He doesn't live in fear anymore.

Even through the 2017 hurricane season, when Hurricanes Irma and Maria caused damage across the island, Roger's house stood strong. Other houses like his, built with Week of Compassion support, became more than houses, more than homes--they became places of refuge in the storms.

Your gifts to Week of Compassion do more than just build houses, they help families create homes, strengthen their communities, and have peace of mind.

Your gifts do **More Than We Can Imagine!**