



HAITI MISSION, INC.
P. O. Box 694 Thibodaux, LA. 70302
Phone: 985-855-3157
www.haitimissioninc.com

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*"To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived.
This is to have succeeded."* *Ralph Waldo Emerson*



Perseverance – “We can do this!”

One of the strangest stories in the bible occurs in Matthew 15: 21-28 regarding the encounter of Jesus with the Canaanite woman. We are brought into this scene where a Gentile woman is trying to approach Jesus to ask him to cure her daughter and the disciples won't let her get close to him. Whatever she was doing, it eventually caused the disciples to tell Jesus something to the effect of please talk to this woman because "She is driving us crazy!" The scene gets even more bizarre because when she does speak to Jesus "He gave her no word of response." Wow! He didn't even acknowledge her. Then when he does respond He says, "My mission is only to the lost sheep of Israel" which basically was No. Period. end of story. You would think she would have stopped but no she continues. Jesus then says something even more bizarre than the previous statements. "Woman, It is not right to take the food of sons and daughters and throw it to the dogs!" Here is Jesus, the Messiah, the Savior who has come to save and set everyone free, calling this woman who has already lived her entire life as a second class citizen, a dog. What does she say? "Help me, Lord! Jesus have pity on me." And then Jesus in a more characteristic fashion says "Woman, you have great faith. Your wish will come to pass."

We know that the printed word can only convey certain things and that we certainly can't know everything about the scene or see facial expressions, etc. etc., but we can know that somehow Jesus rewarded this woman's perseverance and that is the lesson to glean from the story. To me it is a very encouraging story and the story of HMI.

Here we are foreigners entering a country whose customs and laws are unknown to us. Most of the time we understand very little about the laws or culture and can't make sense of them. What we could understand from the very first visit is that some brothers and sisters of a different culture, race and country were in need – in dire need - and the answer seemed fairly simple. Lend a hand and do what we can.

We know the Canaanite woman was not a Jew. We don't know if she went to church or had any religion at all but she had a cause. Her daughter was sick and the great healer was in town. "Help me, Lord!" was her prayer. Her prayer was not for herself but for her daughter. Her cause was based on love. Love for someone in great need. Her cause was also based upon the fact that not only did she believe in what she was asking but she believed Jesus could do it.

I know this is the reason why HMI has been so effective. When the first group went to Haiti we knew something had to be done but we were also foolish enough to believe that we could eventually get something done. We believed we could get water to within 500 feet of everyone in the area. We believed we could make a difference. Each subsequent group that came and saw came to believe in that initial, simple belief. "We can do this!" became the rallying cry. We didn't know how long it would take or how it would happen but every mission group came to believe, "We can do this!"

Mysteriously, miraculously and consistently through perseverance and continuing to say that simple prayer, "Help me Lord!", not only is water getting more and more available but houses are being constructed, children are being fed physically, intellectually, and spiritually, and the entire community is receiving help and hope through this perseverance.

Along with "We can do this!", HMI – you guys – continues to show that we will never give up doing the best we can with what we have and always trust that God will show us the way.



Just when we thought we had found all of the really pitiful houses to replace, we find something like this. You can see the joy in Father Joe's face when he was able to tell Mrs. Roseline Francois that she and her family would be the recipient of the HMI house in September.

"August – 2014 – Another Double"

August was another two house or double build month. There was a shortage of cement for two weeks during the month which caused the construction to be delayed considerably. Even with that set back, the "double build" got completed in early September and the September house should be done on time so the team should be ready to build two more in October. Isn't this exciting? Aren't the houses beautiful?! For more details about each house and each family go to the website. You will find inspiring stories about each family that has been blessed by your generosity and perseverance.



Mandate



You probably have noticed that for the past year or so each newsletter has been dedicated to a certain aspect of our mission. Last month, we advised you that in order to improve the education that our children were receiving, the HMI board had decided to give the teachers a well deserved raise. Attached to that wage adjustment was a mandatory requirement of working towards accreditation for all those teachers who were not nationally certified. What none of us realized at the time the HMI board decision was made was that the Haiti government was implementing new guidelines in order to attempt to raise the academic standards throughout the country. Two of the directives which were highlighted or upper most in the overall guidance were an increase in the school year by approximately one month and a requirement that teachers work towards accreditation. Coincidentally or “Godincidentally”, we were right on top of the curve with our initiative.

What was the catalyst for this national initiative was the poor performance overall on the national exit exams by the elementary school sixth graders and the secondary school ninth graders. A large percentage of the children throughout the country failed the standardized testing. Of course when we received this news, we were anxious to find out how our kids ranked nationally. We knew how hard our teachers worked under very difficult circumstances but we had never had our kids tested and compared with other of their peers.

We were not ready for the answer and I don’t think you will be. Here we are in two remote villages of Haiti, operating a private school system with teachers being paid substantially below the national average and kids that have only within in the past few years received a hot meal to eat every day. We hoped we were on the right track but never did we dream our kids would do so well. We had 40 of our sixth graders take the national test and 35 of 40 passed. You heard correctly! That’s an 88 percentile passing rate. This was way above the national average. Better yet, all of our secondary kids passed so we had a 100% passing rate there! Is that awesome or what! Pat yourself on the back because all the struggles, sacrifices and prayers have paid off big time. What is another amazing statistic is that our absenteeism is less than 1% a day at the schools. We require a daily report of how many students are in attendance and seldom are there more than two or three absent out of 364 students registered. What a commitment on the part of parents and children to work hard for an education that offers hope for a better life.

With that said, before you guys knew any of this information, you responded to my request last month to try to raise \$5,000 to fund the teacher raise from \$75/month to \$100. We received almost \$10,000! Quite a mandate by you guys. Loud and clear you spoke with your \$\$\$ to say yes to better education. I’m so proud of our teachers and kids as I’m sure you are.

HMI is in a good place financially at this time. Our home construction goals are on track to be able to build 20 houses this year. Our drill truck and drilling equipment are in pretty good shape. We have several wells to drill that have been funded by private individuals or foundations. The feeding the children funds are in place for the next few months.

Now that our immediate funding needs are in place for a few months, a couple of areas to improve the environment of our schools need to be addressed. Susan Brazan is one of our missionaries who stands out from all the rest of us in so far as she took a sabbatical from her work for a month to teach English in our schools. She holds the record for staying the longest in the HMI mission field so far. She did a wonderful job and brought us some recommendations that only a professional educator such as she would notice and be able to make. One of her suggestions was that we put cabinets in each classroom so that the teachers would have place to put their things and not have to be carrying so much stuff back and forth. Isn’t that a smart but practical idea? We had desks built for the children – which are beautiful by the way – but we have never addressed the teachers’ needs. What a great suggestion Susan.

Also, at Ravine Sable, the teachers are still using dilapidated chalk boards to separate classes. It is really urgent that we get some more boards for this school. We also have not had the luxury of being able to buy any new books, writing materials or any school supplies for the schools in some time. I know you will agree with me that as a form of appreciation and thanks to our teachers and students for a job well done the funds raised from this newsletter should go towards buying those items. We need at least 10 cabinets at \$300 each, 6 chalk board at \$400 and I’m sure a \$1000 would go a long way in addressing the wish lists of the principals and teachers for supplies that would make the job of educating the children a little easier.

Congratulations again to our teachers and students but congratulations to all of you for getting us to a place where we can consider funding “amenities” now that the basic needs are being met. We are truly seeing our goal of bringing people from “desperate to poor” becoming a reality!

Drill Baby Drill !!!

During the month of September, our drill team has been working very hard to get a well drilled for a community close to the town of Abricots which is on the western tip of the island. The roads are terrible and the terrain treacherous but because of the extreme need and the persistent pleading of the community and their sister organization here in the states, the decision was made to go and try to help. At the time that the newsletter was written, we were down 435 feet but had to bring in another roll of drill cable and another drill bit to complete the job. Hopefully we will find water before we reach our maximum depth capabilities of 500 feet. We are receiving numerous requests for wells and have to continue to maintain those already drilled – all with the same truck. Pray for our team. They are doing a great job. Thanks for your support. It would be impossible to maintain the equipment and wells without it.

FAIE’S FACTS

May your troubles be
less
May your blessings be
more
May nothing but
happiness
come through your
door !

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This newsletter is dedicated to raising funds to help the families whom we have come to know and love in the villages around Jeremie, Haiti. In a special way, we want to improve the teaching environment in our schools. May God bless you and your loved ones for your commitment to the poor by giving in whatever way the Holy Spirit moves you..

_____ Here is a gift to help purchase supplies for the school and build necessary storage cabinets

_____ \$100 would sponsor a teacher in the community schools. (Payable monthly/quarterly or yearly – we would appreciate a one year commitment)

_____ Here is help to feed the children (Every dollar spent here is matched by a generous donor)

_____ \$3750 would sponsor a new home and get a family “out of the mud and into safe secure housing.” (We are counting on our new home design to keep the cost of constructing the homes in this price range)

_____ \$1000 would help us drill a well in a community without fresh water.

Yes, Here is my immediate donation to use where most needed:

\$1000 _____ \$500 _____ \$250 _____ \$100 _____ Other _____

This monetary gift is made in memory of _____
please send an acknowledgement card to: _____

FROM: _____

_____ Please send me _____ packets of Rebecca’s prayer cloth and devotional material.

_____ Send me envelopes to be a monthly "helping hand":

_____ I will be a prayer partner and pray for the Haiti Mission.

_____ Please put me on your email/info list. email: _____

_____ I am interested in going on a mission trip.

Call me @: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Haiti Mission, Inc. does not discriminate because of race, religion, sex, age, disability, national origin or financial status.

*“He who has compassion on the poor lends to the Lord,
and he will repay him for his good deeds.” Pvb 19:17*

THANKS FOR HELPING!