



HAITI MISSION, INC.
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FEBRUARY 2014

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



Time to go!!

With springtime come mission trips. This year we have been especially blessed with lots of interest and participation. The second week of March, Faie and I will be leading one of the largest groups ever to spend a week long mission together. Two families from Canada with their children (one with five and one with six) want to experience what a mission to Haiti is like. They will be joined by our old friends, Lloyd and Nancy Greenhaw and another couple from Renewal ministries. We will certainly try to get in all the normal things we do on mission trips such as visit the schools, help with the feeding of the school children, and dedicate new homes that have been built and pray with the families who rejoice because of the blessings God has bestowed on them through your goodness. Groups associated with Renewal Ministries always bring the special dimension of evangelization. Each evening we visit churches in the area and celebrate with music, rejoicing in God's message of love and hope. This trip will be followed by another group that will spend Holy Week in Haiti led by Dr. David & Laura Fakier, bringing more hope and help to our families and friends.

DIRTY CARDS HELPING FAMILIES

Many of you have participated in our "*Dirty Cards Helping Families*" over the past years. As I know you recall, one of our major tasks on each of the trips and the way we bless the community is to distribute supplies to needy families. These gifts make a huge difference in the individual lives of these folks. These bags of provisions and \$20 cash have been changing everything about how life in the villages used to be to how it is now. There is economy, agriculture and animals all over now. It seems as though these little \$35 gift packages multiply 100 fold. I really believe they do.

Enclosed is one of the invitation cards that each family receives. These cards are cherished by each family who receives them. This \$35 represents hope and help in a way that is hard to describe to those of us who spend that much on an average meal for two or one tank of gas. As always, my promise to you is that the 2014 Haiti Mission teams will personally present your gift to a family. I will also assure you that you will have a family praying for you asking God to bless you abundantly for your kindness. You will also get a "dirty card" back as a sign and symbol of their love and appreciation. That dirty card will represent joy and confidence that was in the heart of a Haitian family as they carried it throughout the day waiting for the prayer gathering and gift distribution that would make a profound difference in their lives. Why don't you use these cards as a form of Evangelization also? Tell your friends about our Dirty Card Helping Families program. Invite them to put \$35 to good use. Send us an email or write a note when you respond to this newsletter to send you some extra cards to give to interested friends and family. This has been one of our more popular programs, bringing immediate help to families hard pressed to survive. Thanks again for helping us help others.

Serving the Poor

Whether they are showcasing food, drink or fashion, many advertisements today send a similar message: More! Drink more beer, eat more chips or wear better clothes and you'll be happier. Too often, we are told that our goals in life should be aimed at accumulating wealth, power or popularity. Pope Francis has been promoting a different story. "In a world where there is so much wealth, so many resources to feed everyone, it is unfathomable that there are so many hungry children, that there are so many children without an education, so many poor." Poverty today cries out to us he went on to say. "We all have to think if we can become a little poorer. How can I become a little poorer in order to be more like Jesus, who was the poor Teacher?"

Serving the poor allows us to move outside of ourselves and to consider our neighbors first. The book of Isaiah reads, "If you lavish your food on the hungry and satisfy the afflicted; then your light shall rise in the darkness, and your gloom shall become like midday. Then the Lord will guide you always and satisfy your thirst in parched places, will give strength to your bones; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a flowing spring whose waters never fail."

In other words, we must think of the needs of others first. For in doing so, we bring light to our own lives as well. Christ urged His followers to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty and visit the imprisoned saying, "Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of Mine, you did for me."

Each of us is called to serve the poor in the best ways we can. Often times this means challenging ourselves to move beyond our comfort zones. (adapted from the Christopher News notes) HMI is always offering this challenge. Below is a meditation that all the missionaries travelling this year to Haiti were asked to pray with and reflect on. I know you who can't travel to Haiti on a mission trip will appreciate being able to share in the spirit of mission by praying and reflecting on this as the teams have done.

If you and I really do believe in Jesus, we want to be his apostles. The word "apostle" means "one who is sent." We want to be sent by Jesus to help others get to know him and experience his love. Our faith drives us into ministry and outreach. And Jesus gives us the power of his Holy Spirit so that we will be successful.

What are we sent forth to do?

Each of us has been assigned apostolates by the Father. Just as the Father accomplished his works through Jesus, so too does the Father desire to accomplish His works through me – and also through you! He has given you a set of talents and gifts that make you uniquely capable for your particular divine purpose in life. You also have training and experiences (both good and bad) that God wants to put to good use.

Our Father has assigned an apostolate to you that requires your special combination of personality traits and spiritual attributes, right where you are right now – in your job, your home, your relationships, your church, your neighborhood. Because of your uniqueness, he cannot accomplish this through anyone else!

Jesus said that if we believe in him, we will do the same works he did “and greater far than these.” Through his humanity, Jesus did human works. These are the same works we do matter-of-factly as good people. Human works include loving each other, teaching what we’ve learned, sharing what we’ve been given, listening to those who need someone to talk to, working hard on the job to our fullest potential, offering a helping hand when we see a need, etc. But even atheists do that.

Through his divinity – his unity with the Father – Jesus did supernatural works (the “greater works”). Through Jesus, you and I are united to the Father, and the father extends himself to the world through us. Through us, the Father continues working miracles, the humanly impossible works. Only someone who believes in Jesus and relies on his Holy Spirit can do this.

What does the Father want to accomplish through you? How does he want to improve the world through you? Pray to hear your calling and to recognize your apostolate. Dedicate (or rededicate) your gifts, talents, resources, skills, and experiences to God for use in his kingdom. Pray that the Holy Spirit will strengthen your virtues and empower your giftedness so that when others encounter you, they will experience the human works of Jesus AND the divine works of the Father.

Monthly Miracle

“Party at the Prison” One of the ways that HMI ministers to the prisoners in the Jeremie Prison is to cook a special meal for the inmates, especially at Christmas time. At least once a month Fr. Joe goes to the prison to check on the inmates and address any medical and personal needs that arise such as the need for sandals or toiletries. Whenever the HMI mission team visits Jeremie, one of our goals is to bring a meal complete with cold drinks, playing cards and personal toiletries and to see that each inmate receives it. The inmates are allowed to leave their cells and briefly visit with us as they receive the love and concern that is represented by this small gift. The Christmas party is always a special one. Our team enjoys doing it and the inmates are extremely thankful. Thanks to the caring donors who continue to sponsor these events. It allows HMI to minister in a small but powerful way, those truly forgotten souls that find themselves in a Haitian Prison. “The captives shall soon be released; they shall not die and go down into the pit, nor shall they want for bread” Isaiah 51:14 (The pictures are of the HMI team who cooked and distributed the meals. (Prison regulations do not allow us to take pictures of the inmates.)



“FAIE’S FACTS”

It’s funny how God usually calls the “busy” people to do His business. Satan on the other hand selects his disciples when they are idle. Christ chose His when they were working – either mending their nets or casting them into the sea. In other words, as wisdom found in an old Farmer’s Almanac – “you can’t succeed without glands – at least without sweat glands!”

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This newsletter is dedicated to raising funds to help the families that we visit on our mission trips in a particular way. Whatever you do will be wonderful!!

Yes Deacon Lloyd, I want the families that mission teams visit know that God loves them and we love them. Good Luck and God Bless!

_____ Enclosed is my gift for _____ *“Dirty Card helping Families”*
(# of cards)
\$35 per card will make life so much better for a Haitian Family that is praying for you and your loved ones

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:

Name: _____ Address: _____
Phone # _____

____ 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 -Caring with Generosity and Joy

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Ralph Waldo Emerson

Thanks for helping!!

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

Upcoming Events

Haiti Trips and Fundraiser

March 8th to 15th (Evangelization Trip with Renewal Ministry – Full)
April 15th to 21st - Holy Week 2014 – Full
April 21st to 28th – Week after Easter trip – Space available
May 9th – Annual fundraiser – Golf Tournament and Silent Auction