



HAITI MISSION, INC.
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APRIL 2015

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



Mission Time!

It's that time of year again where HMI mission trips are in full swing. This year has been particularly blessed with interest and enthusiasm. Four trips are scheduled, each trip made up of different ages, interests and expectations yet each with the same goal – to help those in need and bring the love of God and His Son Jesus Christ in the best way we can. There is so much hope flowing in the communities because of these trips and the joy that they bring both to the villagers and the missionaries. Such practical and tangible results flow from these trips into the lives that they touch in Haiti and here. So many families now have safe, healthy and reliable homes to live in.

Although HMI and the team leaders always strive for safe, meaningful and enjoyable experiences, one can never forget that these are mission trips to a place where Christ's crucifixion is being lived out in real life by real people. Missionaries are always asked to join in that powerful and mysterious statement of St. Paul in his letter to the Colossians, Chapter 1 verse 24: "Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ on behalf of his body, which is the church." The suffering on mission trips is usually minor but always significant. Missionaries planning on traveling to Haiti have to begin preparations months in advance. There is financial sacrifice because of the cost of travel. There is the necessity of beginning the process of jelling as a team and following directives which will be very important to the success of the trip. Every detail is worked out as best it can be by the team leaders in order that the many number of goals set can be accomplished in the short week of the mission. Cooperation and collaboration are crucial to the successful outcome of each trip. There will be different surroundings and different circumstances that no matter how one prepares, will take you out of your comfort zone.

This Palm Sunday weekend as our weary, but joy - filled group, returned from an exceptionally inspiring and fruitful week, the invitation and opportunity to rejoice and suffer a little more than usual appeared under the guise of "Melee in Miami". The Miami airport is always challenging because of immigration and security at this major entry point into the US from overseas travel. Just as the team was preparing to depart from Port-au-Prince, Haiti, a major breakdown occurred in the computer system controlling all Caribbean flights. Confusion immediately ensued for enough time to cause all flights to be delayed for at least three hours. When everything settled down and order restored, the Miami airport was turned into a staging area while people waited for their re-scheduled flights on cots and cuddled in corners. By the grace of God, this team had a priest with them and a "mess" was turned into a "Mass" at midnight on Palm Sunday in the Miami airport. How cool is that! God is good, all the time! So coming to expect the unexpected and being able to see and feel God's presence and protection during these trips is also a part of the joy that comes with transforming the inconvenience and suffering that is an inevitable part of mission trips.

Here are some of the Palm Sunday Mission group in the Miami airport waiting for a "Mess" to become a "Mass"!



All the sacrifice and relatively minor inconveniences that is part of helping the poor and needy and that we call "suffering" has borne and continues to bear much fruit. Just one of the many examples is represented by the following note that Fr. Joe sent regarding our being able to build two houses a month. "It is always with a joyful heart that we send you reports of the completion of the houses and see people begin a new life with dignity and hope in them. We'll never cease to thank all the HMI donors. I receive endless thanks and prayers from the grateful beneficiaries. When we know and remember where all of them were living, I think that we can really rejoice with them..."

In each newsletter we try to incorporate the saying that "a picture is worth a thousand words!" We almost always have before and after pictures of families who have received the blessing of a new home through our matching fund home construction project. In preparation for our grand gala fundraiser, we've added a little extra with our "centerfold" of special families who now are in some of our miracle homes. Be sure to read the letter on the back of the home flyer composed by one of our young, enthusiastic HMI promoters, Anne Claire Crain. She has been working hard to do her part to see that more wells will be drilled and more help will be afforded her adopted families and friends in Haiti. We have a picture of her in this month's newsletter displaying some of the dresses she and her friends made for the little girls in Haiti. We also have a note from the leader of the mission team featured in this newsletter and our Silent Auction chairman, Dr. David Fakier. As you can see from his update, we have lots of lovely items once again this year. What we have also done this year is to add all unrestricted donations that come in to our matching fund. So, whether you bid or simply give, it will all go towards our lofty goal of \$90,000 for the 2015 – 2016 matching fund construction year.



Pictured are children's dresses made by Anne Claire Crain, her mom and some of her friends. What a neat idea of something to do on rainy days or free time! The families in Haiti are so appreciative of these type of gifts. We have 14 high school age young people coming on Mission trips this year and all of them are helping in ways such as this.

Thank you, thank you! Since last month we have received numerous donations for the upcoming Silent Auction. **We have received bids on ten items:** Our featured item, the **Grand Cayman Ritz Carlton** vacation has once again been donated by Beth and Marty Deitchman and has an opening bid of \$12,500. We received an opening bid of \$2000. on a new item (see item #2), **Opening Day Dove Hunt** donated by the Lirette's and an opening bid of \$350 for a **Jambalaya, white bean and fish fry dinner for 20** donated by Manuel Merlos. Several featured new items include a **Marriott vacation condominium in Orlando** donated by Cathy and Ron LeBouef, **Charter Fishing Trip** donated by Bill and Jenny Meyer, **Art work** by Guy Harvey and Stacey Fabre and a beautiful **Mary Icon** painted and donated by Mary Carey.

All told we have already raised in donations, pledges or bids of \$29,600. which is nearly one third of our goal of \$90,000 so that we can continue to build two homes per month over the next 12 months. Updates and current bids and status of items available are up on the website. The items that currently have a bid will appear in RED and behind the amount will be listed the **minimum increase** if you want to bid on the same item. **We also have added a link to many of the items which will show a picture or give more information.**

We have just over 70 items which is great, but we need your help obtaining additional items and also spreading the word for us by passing on the information to others you know. If anyone would like to donate additional items please let us know. It would be great to have a **few more vacation homes, fishing and hunting trips, spa and hotel packages just to name a few.** All money raised is dedicated for matching donations to continue our home building.

Please contact David Fakier (985-804-3112) or Laura Fakier (985-860-4311) if you would like to donate and/or bid on items. Thank you again for your support and participation. Pax, David & Laura Fakier (The reflection offered for your consideration as we rapidly move towards our annual golf tournament/silent auction fundraiser is "When we deny ourselves through fasting, we find our hearts are softened toward the cry of the poor".)

Upcoming Events

April 27th – Annual fundraiser – Golf Tournament and Silent Auction

Ellendale Country Club - Houma, La. (Silent Auction bidding is open on our website!!)

May 1st to 3rd –HMI 15 year Anniversary Strategic Planning Retreat – Lumen Christi Retreat Center.

May 23rd to 30th – Mission Trip with the Fakiers

June 5th to 19th – Two week Mission trip with Deacon, Mrs. Faie and Renewal Ministries.

FAIE'S FACTS

This is story about an old-time drugstore taken from *Catholic Quote* magazine. "My six-year-old niece had a dime and was ready to invest it in an ice cream soda at the local drug store. "Why don't you save your dime and give it to the Missions?" I asked. "I thought about that," she said, " but I think I'll let the druggist give the dime to the Missions."

Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can read.
Mark Twain



HE is RISEN

May the Lord bless you and Keep you

May He let His face shine on you

and be

Gracious to you

May He look kindly on you and give you Peace.

(Numbers 6:22-26)



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This newsletter is dedicated to raising funds to help build more houses and drill more wells through our Silent Auction and Golf Tournament. Whatever you do will be wonderful!!

Yes Deacon Lloyd, I want to help the annual Silent Auction/Golf tournament be better than ever this year so that more of the forgotten poor will come to know that God loves them and we love them. Good Luck and God Bless!

_____ I'd like to sponsor a team in the golf tournament. \$600
(please use the form enclosed in this mailing, print down a form from the website or call Don at 985-209-3228)

_____ I'd like to sponsor a \$100 tee box ad in the name of

_____ I can't make the tournament

Here is my immediate donation to use where most needed: (Every dollar donated will be matched dollar for dollar!!)

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

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

_____ 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 - Caring with Generosity and Joy

"To Know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived.

This is to have succeeded."

THANKS FOR HELPING!

No donation is too small. No gift unappreciated!

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*