



HAITI MISSION, INC.
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SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2015

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



Prison Ministry and Evangelization by Chris Runstedler

Another great trip to Haiti! It was so wonderful to spend another week with the Haiti Mission team in Numero Deux, Haiti. It was inspiring to see so much improvement in the year since we were last there – at least twelve more new houses, many more wells, many more people lifted from depths of misery and hopelessness. The week was very hot but the hospitality of Fr Joe and crew made things wonderful. We had a great team and we bonded very quickly. The Lord is truly blessing the people of Haiti through Haiti Mission, Inc. The visits to the Jeremie prison to bring them a special meal and some encouraging fellowship are always special but, this trip the Holy Spirit inspired our renewal ministry evangelist, Lloyd Greenhaw, to minister in a much more specific and spiritual way. We had to get special permission to preach the Gospel to the men and women there, so with Fr Joe’s help and connections this was arranged. This turned out to be the highlight of my mission trip! When we entered the jail there was the usual hollering, cat calls, prisoners trying to sell us their stuff through the prison bars. Then Lloyd started to share with them his testimony, his prison experience and that Jesus loves them. Well with Lloyd’s personal connection to where they were and the creditability this brought to his message, one could soon hear a pin drop! The inmates listened to Lloyd from the bottom of their hearts! As the mission team stood silently in prayer behind Lloyd, I watched the prisoners’ faces. When Lloyd asked them to pray with him - to commit their lives to Christ -I saw only one or two guys who were not praying out loud but I am sure they were praying silently deep down in their hearts because they were too tough to let it show to their fellow prisoners. Praise the Lord, which was one of the most amazing experiences I have ever witnessed in my life. He gave those men and women hope!!! Jesus gave them hope!! We had two other evening evangelization sessions at churches in the area that were awesome as well. The Haitian people love to pray and praise the Lord! Before we knew it the week was over and we had to say goodbye once again, but I am sure I will be going back again.

As I have been on two of these trips now with my children, I can truly see how God uses these experiences to change lives. I saw it firsthand last year and again this time. My children saw how much they are blessed and have started to realize that those “little problems” are just that - little problems. They all know about God but this experience helped them to KNOW God. There is an expression that “ the longest distance in the world is from the head to the heart!”. This mission has made that distance so much shorter for all of our family. God uses the poor to teach us. If only we open our eyes to the poor we truly can come to see the Face of Christ and that can’t help but change our lives.



Our chicken farm across the street from the St. Bridget school in Ravine Sable has been challenged at times to keep its head above water but as you can see during our summer trip, the chickens were producing eggs very abundantly. We are hoping to use more of produce of our farm to help feed the children. The World Health Organization states that if a child can eat three eggs a week, the incidence of malnutrition would be greatly reduced.

On the right is a picture of the main street in Jeremie Haiti from the front seat of one of the vehicles we were using for the mission trip. The city leaders of Jeremie are working very hard to beatify and restore the city to its former splendor.



FAIE’S FACTS
 “Every dream begins with a dreamer.
 Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.” Harriet Tubman

Jeremie – The land of poets

As we work in and around Jeremie Haiti, it isn't very hard to realize how beautiful and inspirational this place once was and again can be. Jeremie, set in the midst of the lovely and often breathtaking Caribbean sea complete with beautiful beaches and majestic mountains, always draws one into an intriguing reflection. All of Haiti has the potential of being a spectacular Island paradise, but because of many factors is still a diamond in the rough. Yet in years past, there were "glory days" that invited such famous figures as John James Audubon to visit and write about the area. A number of notable poets were born in Jeremie, the most famous was Joseph Serge Miot who was born in Jeremie, became a Catholic priest and ultimately the the Archbishop of Porrt-au-Prince who ended up dying in the 2010 Haiti Earthquake. Many other writers and poets have come to Jeremie to relax, refresh and let their spirits be stirred to write.

In the fifteen years that HMI has been working there, a slow but steady progress in infrastructure has been witnessed. New government buildings have been constructed and some small improvements in the electrical grid have been initiated. During this past trip, the most notable improvements have been in the streets and cleanliness of the city.

Trying to get around in Jeremie has always been a challenge. Streets in disrepair with vendors encroaching into the lanes making two-way traffic virtually impossible. And then the somewhat expected filth was ever present. This year it was different. The city streets were much cleaner – still much more to go – but noticeably improved. The most encouraging signs were street repair crews working systematically in several areas of the city and especially at the hospital. Several freshly paved streets with curbs to enhance drainage from the periodic torrential rains were a welcome sight. At the hospital, not only were the streets in the hospital properly paved, but the hospital grounds were landscaped and very lovely with various types of tropical flowers, plants and trees.

I'm not sure how much credit HMI can take for being a catalyst for infrastructure development but for many years we have communicated with the city fathers and the U.N. regarding the necessity of their more committed involvement in the improvement of their city. HMI didn't just come in with a "we-will-rescue-you" mindset but emphasized we wanted to build authentic relationships with mutual admiration and respect working side by side with them. We proved this over and over again by the strategic wells we have drilled, schools and houses we have built and other forms of humanitarian aid that we have rendered. It seems to have paid off. The "land of the poets" seems to be beckoning once again to the writers and poets that Jeremie is being restored to its lost beauty. May God continue to bless this beautiful "Pearl of the Indies" – a virtual paradise that can be a sign of God's love and care for a broken world.



The 2015 Haiti Mission teams distributed more soccer balls to areas that had teams or areas that soccer recreation would have a very positive impact. Here is a blind boy, Jonas Lubin, whom we have been visiting since shortly after his accident at age 4 or 5. He is now 18. We decided to install him as president of the soccer team and let him be in charge of the ball. He lives in a very remote village called Ravin Saab. HMI has been able to help the families there become much more independent and hopeful because of the wells we've drilled, the houses we have built, the humanitarian aid we have given and the power of play that we have brought with the "indestructible soccer balls!"

Haiti Mission, Inc. (HMI) has as its primary focus to bring water to within 500 feet of everyone in the villages in an around Jeremie, Haiti. During the course of the fifteen years HMI has been working to achieve this goal, we have extended our mission to include building and supporting two schools, building houses and participating in various other humanitarian initiatives in which it was clear fate and our faith wanted us to become involved. Soon after the schools were up and running, we realized that the kids need recreation equipment. After bringing various types of balls, we found that soccer balls were the most cherished and sought after of all the things we could bring. When I threw out the first good ball to a group of forty or fifty kids that were kicking a flat ball and saw the instant glee and heard the screams of joy, we immediately recognized that the soccer balls were just as important as water, food, shelter and education. We also realized that there was an unending need for soccer balls because without good fields and areas to kick the balls, they rapidly became busted. After literally bringing hundreds if not thousands of soccer balls to Haiti over the course of the years, we stumbled upon the One World Futbol – now One World Play project - and everything changed. Now when we give one of the ultradurable balls (I like to call them "indestructible"), we find them still inflated and being used when we return. We now can bring joy and find joy still there when we return because the balls are still useable. We are in complete solidarity with the One World Play project because we, too, have found that the Power of play changes everything for the better. In fact, we are so convinced that the power of play is a major factor in the world ever being at peace that HMI has developed a little slogan that we think the powers that be should seriously consider –"Drop balls not bombs!" Thank you One World Play Project for giving the world a ball that changes everything for the better and brings joy, happiness and peace.

Jesus said "Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these..." (Jn 14:12)

Pope Francis encourages us to "Have the courage to be truly happy!"

Seeing the great works that HMI has been able to do by the grace of God should be a source of joy and happiness to all of us.

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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. May God Bless you and your loved ones for your commitment to the poor by giving in whatever way the Holy Spirit directs you.

_____ \$3750 would sponsor a new home and get a family “out of the mud and into safe secure housing.” (Our new home design is keeping the cost of constructing the homes in this price range)

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

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

_____ \$35 would buy food and supplies for a family

_____ Here is help to feed the children at school by buying supplies to use at Bec’s Bakery

_____ I would like to help purchase essential medicines for the dispensary. (Parasite medicine and vitamins are distributed to all the families, prisoners & school children visited.)

_____ \$12 annual membership in the “Woman-to-Woman club of Haiti that helps poor women get the medical treatment they need who otherwise would go untreated.

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: _____

Haiti Mission Inc. is a 509(a)(1) tax exempt public charity under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Tax ID#14-1861365

Haiti Mission - Caring with Generosity and Joy
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*