



HAITI MISSION, INC.
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*"To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived.
This is to have succeeded."*

Ralph Waldo Emerson



Here are young and old leaving with happy smiles after receiving their Family Day Chicken!

Feeding the Children – A Challenge and a Blessing

As most of you remember, the past few years we have had an anonymous donor who offered to match any funds we received to feed the children up to \$15,000 a year and would continue for up to \$75,000 or five years. This is the fifth year and God has already put his stamp of approval on our efforts by having another donor give us the matching funds for an additional two years. Even though Bec's bakery is keeping the cost of feeding the children down, we still need \$3000 a month to be sure that all of our school kids get at least one meal daily. Our January issue of the HMI monthly newsletter has traditionally been dedicated to raising those funds. So many of you have been willing to pitch in a little something extra to help us reach our yearly goal. I know you enjoy receiving as much as we enjoy sending periodic pictures of the kids eating at school and seeing how healthy they all look. As always, I'll keep everyone updated on the progress with future newsletters. And don't forget that we still count on your regular kindness to keep our everyday functions of the mission going also. Do what you can. Your faithfulness and financial support are vital to the work we are doing. I sleep better knowing that 330 or so kids in Haiti will get a good meal today and every day they come to school – and I know you will too! Thanks again for helping out.



"Doesn't this picture say it all!"

Special note regarding the HMI farm - For the past five years, HMI has been working with several men from the Jeremie region to develop an experimental farm where they could earn a living, produce vegetables, poultry and other livestock products and serve as a model to encourage and help others in the community become more proficient in agronomy skills. Their efforts have born much fruit. We now have three poultry houses that are producing almost 200 eggs daily as well as producing a considerable number of broiler chickens. We began with 100 laying hens which immediately began laying an average of 90 eggs a day. This year we were able to acquire funding for a submersible pump to install in a 300 ft deep well on the property. The well now assures a constant source of water for the chickens, other animals, irrigation of the vegetable crops and the families of the community for the drought-prone area. HMI has always intended that as many of its projects as possible can one day be turned over to local supervision and become self-sustaining. Our farm has reached that point. At the end of the 2015 fiscal year, HMI turned over the operations to Fr. Joe and his team.

“Laudato Si” – The Issue of Water.

Pope Francis’ message of mercy and hope has taken the world by storm. His visit to the U.S. was one of the most inspiring and challenging of any world leader, leaving much food for thought and reflection. His Encyclical letter “*Laudato Si*” on care for our common home issued in May, 2015 was timely but not without criticism from different camps in society and the world. It is a somewhat lengthy document but is very enriching in every passage. Everyone is encouraged to read the pastoral letter for themselves and certainly not rely on the commentaries for an understanding of what the Pope has to say. Right at the beginning in paragraph 3 he says that “I wish to address every person living on this planet”. Interestingly enough, one of the very first issues that he addresses in paragraphs 28 to 30 is the issue of water. I thought I would reprint some of what he says which affects HMI.

28. “Fresh drinking water is an issue of primary importance, since it is indispensable for human life and for supporting terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. Sources of fresh water are necessary for health care, agriculture and industry. Water supplies used to be relatively constant, but now in many places demand exceeds the sustainable supply, with dramatic consequences in the short and long term.” 29. One particularly serious problem is the quality of water available to the poor. Every day, unsafe water results in many deaths and the spread of water-related diseases, including those caused by microorganisms and chemical substances. Dysentery and cholera, linked to inadequate hygiene and water supplies, are a significant cause of suffering and of infant mortality.”30. “Even as the quality of available water is constantly diminishing, in some places there is a growing tendency, despite its scarcity, to privatize this resource, turning it into a commodity subject to the laws of the market. ***Yet access to safe drinkable water is a basic and universal human right, since it is essential to human survival and, as such, is a condition for the exercise of other human rights.*** Our world has a grave social debt towards the poor who lack access to drinking water, because ***they are denied the right to a life consistent with their inalienable dignity.***” (the Pope’s emphasis),

HMI is profoundly humbled by this encouraging mandate from the Holy Father. We hope that these powerful words will be a catalyst for all of you – our dear supporters to continue to do what you can to help as well as spread the word to invite others to join with us in this unique mission that HMI has been called to perform – bringing water to a thirsty part of the world called Haiti.

You are encouraged to prayerfully read “Laudato Si” in its entirety. It is a powerful document filled with insights into the reality of the environmental problems humanity faces and why they are occurring.



Here is our “miraculous” drilling rig responding to the mandate of the Holy Father and the cry of the poor for water. HMI has drilled almost 50 wells now, most of which are still pumping literally thousands of gallons of life-giving water every day for children and families in and around Jeremie, Haiti. Nou Bay Dlo is our company name in Haiti which literally means “we give water”

As we rapidly approach our annual fundraiser, do everything you can to participate and promote our work. A thirsty world is counting on you!

Upcoming Events

February 23rd – March 2nd – Lenten Mission Trip with Deacon Lloyd and Mrs. Faie

March 28th – April 4th – Easter Mission Trip for young people with Joseph Schonacher and Friar Antonio

April 25th – Annual fundraiser – Golf Tournament and Silent Auction – Ellendale Country Club – Houma, La.

FAIE’S FACTS

Since this is a “political” year, I thought this might be of interest. In earlier years when there were no telephones, televisions, TV’s, radios, nor computers, politicians developed this policy to determine public thought about certain issues. They would send their assistants to local pubs, taverns, and bars telling some to “go sip here” and “others to go sip there.” The two words *go* and *sip* were eventually combined when referring to the local opinions and thus we came to have the term “*gossip*.”

One of the items we bring as part of our prison ministry is a pack of playing cards. The following is another little tidbit from history. In the colonial period there was a tax levied when purchasing playing cards, but was only levied against the “ace of spades.” To avoid paying the tax, some people would purchase 51 cards, leaving the 52nd (Ace of spades) behind. Since most card games require 52 cards, these people were thought to be stupid or dumb because they weren’t “*playing with a full deck*.” (FYI The decks we give out have 52 cards!)

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This edition of our newsletter is dedicated to raising the \$15,000 necessary to access the \$15,000 in matching funds to make sure all of our school children get a nice hot meal every day that they attend school. (I know you will sleep better knowing that 330 or so kids in Haiti got to eat today)

Yes Deacon Lloyd, I want to make sure the kids at school get a meal every day.

_____ Here is my sacrificial gift to help keep feeding the children at school. (Every dollar donated is matched dollar for dollar – thanks for helping us reach our goal of \$15,000)

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

Other Needs:

_____ \$100 a month would sponsor a teacher in the community schools. (Payable monthly/ quarterly or yearly - requires a one year commitment please.)

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

_____ I would like to help feed the children at school (\$20 per month per child)

_____ \$12 annual dues for membership in the woman-to-woman club of Haiti that helps poor women receive medical treatment they need who otherwise would go untreated.

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: _____

_____ 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*

“No One has ever become poor by giving”

The hand written words of Anne Frank (1929-1945)