



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*



Keep on Keeping On.

As Spring approaches things get busy for HMI. We have two Spring trips planned, the first will be in the middle of Lent lead by Faie and I. The other will be a "Senior Trip" lead by Joseph Schonacher who is a senior at ED White. Joseph has been journeying to Haiti every year since he entered high school. He has a heart for mission work and a special place in his heart for the Haitian families in and around Jeremie, Haiti. His enthusiasm is contagious and we know the High School Seniors that will journey with him will be touched in a special way.

The continuous challenge facing missionary efforts is perseverance and patience. Pope Francis addressed this issue in one of his homilies in a way that I thought would be encouraging to the young people going to Haiti and all of us young or not-so-young who are working and praying in some way to help those in need. The Holy Father termed it "Conversion."

"Conversion is a duty" that takes daily effort, says Pope Francis, so that the door of our heart is opened more and more to the Holy Spirit. Pope Francis commented on the reading from St Paul to the Romans to emphasize that in order to pass from a life of wickedness to a life of sanctity, we must work at it every day. Saint Paul, the Pope said, uses the image of the athlete, the man who "trains in order to prepare himself for a game, and makes a great effort." Also in our effort to reach the victory of Heaven, Saint Paul, the Pope said, "exhorts us to go forward with this effort." "Ah, Father, are we able to think that sanctification comes through the effort I make, like the victory that comes to sportsmen through training? No. The efforts we make, this daily work of serving the Lord with our soul, with our heart, with our body, with our whole life only opens the door to the Holy Spirit. It is He who enters into us and saves us! He is the gift in Jesus Christ! Otherwise, we would make ourselves like fakers: No, we are not fakers. We, with our efforts, open the door." Pope Francis acknowledged that this is a difficult task, "because our weakness, original sin, the devil" are always trying to get us to turn back. The author of the Letter to the Hebrews, "warns us against this temptation to turn back"; he warns us "not to go back, not to fall." We need to continue to go forward, "a little bit each day," even "when there is great difficulty.

Through the grace of the Holy Spirit we will continue little by little to go forward, doing the best we can and to not turn back. As we begin this new year and this new missionary season, thanks to all that have helped in any way to do what we can to make life a little better for families in need.



Here is Joseph Schonacher interacting with some of the school kids. One of the greatest joys of mission is becoming family with the new friends that one meets. Joseph has been to Haiti four times and will be heading up a mission team of high school age young people for Easter. We are so proud of Joseph and many other young people like him who are embracing the HMI mission vision with excitement, enthusiasm and joy.

DIRTY CARDS HELPING FAMILIES

Enclosed is one of the invitation cards that families receive when an HMI mission team visits Haiti. 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 or for one or two tanks of gas. 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 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. This has been one of our more popular programs, bringing immediate help to families hard pressed to survive. Each mission trip gives these \$35 gifts to about 160 families, all of whom benefit tremendously from this seemingly insignificant present. Thanks again for helping us help others.

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.

7th Annual Haiti Mission Golf Tournament & Silent Auction April 25, 2016

Hello Friends: Amazing! God's plans are obviously much bigger than ours. We closed the sponsorship portion of the Silent Auction on Monday, February 8th as we have been overwhelmed with the generosity of our donors. We have received a total of **\$83,500** in donations and pledges from our Sponsors for the 2016 Silent Auction. Thanks to all who have participated thus far to make the event such a success.

Silent Auction Title Sponsor:

Bec's 7th Annual Haiti Mission Silent Auction
In memory of Rebecca Claire Fakier

Silent Auction Gold Sponsors

In Honor of Emily Runstedler
In Honor of Nicki Runstedler
In honor of Scott Runstedler
In Honor of Jacob Runstedler
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Silent Auction Builder Sponsors

Cheryl, Roy & Adeline Sternfels
Penny & Dr. Scott Nelson
Bogomir Kuhar
Cynthia & Dr. Warren Green
Kelli & Dr. Brent Bankston



Families of the Month

The Dominique family pictured here work hard to try to eke out a living to keep their family and their lives together by growing vegetables on a small piece of land.. It is with great joy that through the generosity and commitment of HMI donors we are able to bring hope, joy and dignity to this family by building them a new, safe and sturdy home.

We have been inspired by the overwhelming support and have adjusted our goal from **\$90,000 to \$105,000**. The extra \$15,000 would allow us to have the match in place to build an extra four homes over the course of the next year and bring additional families out of their deplorable living conditions.

Our 35 man work crew has told us that they would like to try to build three homes in a month. With your support with the upcoming Silent Auction, we hope to give them a try for at least 4 months over the next year. If we are successful, this would mean that in **April 2017** at the time of the 8th Annual event we would be constructing **Home #100!!!** When that day comes, there will be a wonderful celebration of joy in Haiti and the US for all of us.

What do we need now? We need your prayers and an open heart to the possibility of donating or obtaining additional items for the auction. If you own a vacation home or condo and would like to donate a week or long weekend for the auction that would be fantastic. We would like to obtain spa and hotel packages, beauty products, designer hand bags, sunglasses, jewelry, art work, memorabilia, fishing or hunting trips, Chef meals, cookouts and gift certificates to restaurants and clothing stores.

We welcome any item with a minimum value of \$25.00. We want to thank you in advance for your consideration and support. We need many generous donors to make the auction a success. We are blessed and have been humbled by the support you have given this project. We are also fortunate to make trips to Haiti and see firsthand the lives that are being changed each month. These homes immediately impact two and often three generations, as well as, construction workers, their families and the community businesses that supply our needs. Please visit the HMI website to see before and after pictures with stories. Please contact **David Fakier (985-804-3112)** or **Laura Fakier (985-860-4311)** if you have any questions or would like to donate an item. We will send out our first list of donated items for bid at the beginning of March. Thanks again for your support and participation. David & Laura Fakier HMI Silent Auction



- **Meet the Lucs** - Mr. Willy Luc and his wife have been faithful members of the Church parish of Our Lady of the Assumption in Numero Deux Haiti all their lives. They have sacrificed to have their children educated and trained to be upstanding and moral individuals. Two of their sons play musical instruments in the church choir and have been trained as well-drilling technicians to work with the HMI drilling project. Throughout the years, every penny the Lucs could find went towards helping their children have a better life and nothing on themselves. Both their health and their home have paid a dear price. The walls of the Luc home were crumbling and the roof was in such a state of decomposing that a tarp was used inside to try to keep a small area dry during the torrential rains and storms. Through the kind support of HMI donors, the New Year of 2016 brings a new home, new hope and new dignity to the Willy Luc family. May God bless all who have helped in any way to make this miracle happen.

FAIE'S FACTS

Lent is God's gift to us;
our prayers, fasting, & almsgiving
during this time
are our gift to Him.

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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!! (And yes, we have almost reached our goal of \$15,000 to receive our matching grant to feed the children for another year. Thanks for helping in any way you can!!!)

Yes Deacon Lloyd, I want the families the mission teams visit to know that God loves them and we love them. God luck and God bless!

_____ Enclosed is my gift for _____ *“Dirty Cards 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)

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: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

- _____ 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)