



HAITI MISSION, INC.
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DECEMBER 2017

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



A Christmas filled with glad tidings and joy

Christmas 2017 will be another blessed event which will allow more families to receive a gift of a new home. (We have now built 115 homes. Can you believe it!) This is an incredible event in the life of a Haitian family. The pitiful and deplorable huts that you see pictured in magazines and on TV are real. People are really and truly in today's world existing in these dwellings. So for someone to bless a family who has no possibility of ever getting out of the squalor unless a gift from heaven arrives, is a really big deal. In this newsletter are pictures of families the selection committee has chosen to receive new homes for Christmas. The joy that they expressed when notified of what God has done for them through amazing grace and the goodness of families in the US stepping up to make such a difference is always amazing according to Fr. Joe. This is a very joyful part of the work we do. The hard part is getting these quality homes built in the volatile and constantly inflating building market in Haiti. By the grace of God and the continued loving support of all our wonderful Haiti Mission family, we will continue to bless families.

May this be another wonderful Christmas for you and your loved ones and we look forward to a New Year filled with joy and hope.

Christmas and Chickens!

The response to our Fall/Christmas Raffle was wonderful! Final total: \$32,620!!! Amazing! God is good. This blessing will allow us to keep building two houses a month through this construction period ending in April 2018. The outpouring of support and participation has been exciting and so encouraging. The drawing was held at the Chicken for Chickens dinner sponsored by the HMI youth group. Fourteen hundred dollars was raised to buy at least 200 more chickens for the chicken farm. What a fun and blessed day we all had!

1st place \$10,000 winner was Kimberly Scholz of Austin, Texas. Congratulations to Kimberly. A complete list of winners and other details of the event is available on our website. A special acknowledgement goes to Charles and Gretchen Caillouet for selling over 300 raffle tickets. Also enough can't be said about the tremendous job done behind the scenes by Martha Verdin and Sandra Picou, keeping track of all the details in such a professional and efficient way. Too many to thank individually here but just know that as St. Paul says, "And for this reason we too give thanks to God unceasingly...." (1 Thess 2:13)



Some of the HMI Youth at the Chicken for Chickens Dinner. They raised \$1400. for the Chicken Project in Haiti. Good job, guys !

Meet the Families receiving a special Christmas this year!



It's hard to believe but Mrs. Celine Michel, (the 78 year old widow and grandmother pictured holding the baby), lives here with 12 of her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. She still works very hard, farming and selling what she can produce extra from her little garden at the gate of her house. Although she receives some help from her family that lives with her and a son who lives in Port-Au-Prince, they were never able to find any help to rebuild their house until now. They send their love and deep appreciation to all who helped in any way to bring about this miracle of a new house soon to be a reality in their lives.



Pictured are Jean Marie Janvier with his wife, Nadège Villiaume and their two children. Jean Marie and Nadege are family farmers. Jean Marie also runs a motor cycle taxi while his wife Nadege sells whatever she can to help care for their 2 children and three other family members who stay with them. The crumbling, pitiful place was only made worse by the 2016 hurricane Matthew. They are hoping to be in their new home by Christmas. They are so grateful to all who helped bring about this miracle in their lives.



Praise the Lord! This is what our new houses look like because of the hard work and determination of the HMI construction team. What a Christmas gift! Because of the great response we had to the raffle and with your continued help HMI will be able to bring hope and help to many more families in the upcoming year.



Annual Report and “Bean counting”

One of the important functions of the directors of a 501(c) (3) faith based non-profit such as HMI is to keep accurate financial and meeting records and log in and certify what we do. “Bean counting!”. With that in mind, we try to post as much as possible on the home page of our website under “Official Documents.” The minutes of the meetings and financial records are kept on hand at the office of HMI located at 116 Ponderosa Lane in Gray, Louisiana. They are open to anyone’s inspection at anytime.

The annual report is posted in its entirety on the Home page but we will just summarize it for you. As you have read already in this newsletter, we have built 115 houses so far, drilled 55 water wells. We teach and feed about 300 kids every month; the chicken farm is still doing what it can to keep eggs in the community and other humanitarian aid and hope are constantly flowing into untold areas of the region.

I wish to thank all our volunteers and donors in a special way and ask your prayers in particular for our devoted treasurer, 79 year old Mr. Ronnie Thomas. Even though his health has deteriorated, his determination and resolve to pickup, process and deposit your financial gifts have not. He can no longer drive, but he gets someone once or twice a week to pick him up, bring him to the Post Office and bank and then gets the reports to me and our dedicated secretary, Mrs. JoAnne Frederick.

This and many other functions are going on behind the scenes by all of our volunteer group to make sure our beautiful HMI is abiding by all the directives necessary. All of this is done in order to continue allowing the love of God expressed by all of you to find its way in a timely fashion to all those who are praying that somehow they too can get out of their mess and find joy realizing that someone somewhere cares.

Thank you, thank you, thank you and Merry Christmas!! (Mesi, mesi, mesi and Joyeux Noel!)

Upcoming Events and Important dates in the life of HMI

April 9th – 15th, 2018 – Fakier Spring trip (full)

April 23rd, 2018 – HMI Golf tournament/Silent Auction at Ellendale Country Club

May 15th – May 22nd – Duplantis Spring trip (full)

N.B. Our one week mission trips fill up quickly. If you are interested in travelling to Haiti on one of our mission trips, please contact us so we can advise you of availability and get you scheduled. God Bless you for your mission heart! (N.B.) Passports must have at least six months left before expiration in order to enter Haiti.

FAIE’S FACTS

A little history of how a few Christmas carols were written:

“Joy to the World,” 1719: A young 15-year-old boy Isaac Watts, although he loved the Bible, did not like the worship music. When he complained to the deacon about this, he was told to write something better. He penned his first unpublished hymn at this time, which led to his love for writing more hymns. He was later inspired by the last half of Psalm 98 to write “Joy to the World.”

“Silent Night,” 1818: An assistant pastor Josef Mohr, while walking home one night, over a hill which overlooked his snow-covered village in Austria, he remembered a poem he had written a couple of years before which was about the night when angels announced the birth of the long-awaited Messiah to shepherds on a hillside. Mohr decided those words might make a good carol for his congregation the following evening at their Christmas Eve service. The problems were that he didn't have any music to which that poem could be sung and the church organ was broken. So, the next day Mohr went to see the church organist, Franz Xaver Gruber, who only had a few hours to come up with a melody which could be sung with a guitar. By that evening, Gruber had managed to compose a musical setting for the poem that could be sung without that organ. The Library has a great movie that depicts the making of “Silent Night.”

“Do you hear what I hear?”, 1962: During the middle of the Cuban Missile Crisis, Noel Regney & his wife Gloria were commissioned to write a new Christmas song. So using images of lambs, shepherds, a newborn King they were inspired to write this song about peace. In the current issue of The Word Among Us, there is an excellent meditation on this song re-worded as “Do you see what I see?” Pondering the Christmas mysteries through the eyes of God our Father, the Blessed Mother, and the shepherds, gives us a new dimension to God’s gifts of hope, peace, & mercy.

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Yes Deacon Lloyd, I want to make this Christmas a special one for those in need in Haiti.

Yes, Here is my immediate donation to use where most needed:

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

Other Needs:

_____ **\$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 \$7500 with the \$3750 matching money for each home provided by funds raised from the annual silent auction)

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

_____ **\$35** would provide a gift basket of commodities for a family.

_____ **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**

_____ **\$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.**

**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: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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)