



HAITI MISSION, INC.

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"Thanksgiving" 2021

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

Ralph Waldo Emerson



Horror in Houma and Horror in Haiti

We've been trying to get this newsletter mailed out since the end of August, but at the end of August after writing about the horror in Haiti (which follows this little foreward) we had horror in Houma. The strongest storm to hit the United States coast land happened on August 29, 2021 by the name of Ida. It hit our wonderful community of Houma head-on with horrific winds and torrential rains and destruction beyond anybody's belief. So, now, we find ourselves having to rebuild. We finally got power in my home, but there's still a lot of people who don't have power. In fact, there are several people who don't have homes anymore. So we're limping along, but we want to get this newsletter in your hands and let you know that we're still helping in Haiti and we're also helping in Houma and the surrounding communities. Thanks for your prayers and your support. It's deeply appreciated.



Huge boulder blocking the road from Jeremie to Numero Deux

Horror and Heartbreak

Working in Haiti for 21 years gives one unique insights into life. One is that life is very fragile so enjoy the day, make the best of the day and focus on God and family. We were first introduced to the reality of this statement in a stark and dramatic way when the earthquake of January 2010 hit in and around Port-au-Prince and thousands instantly lost their lives. Untold numbers lost the place where they lived and the churches where they worshiped, and the fragile food distribution system and economy were destroyed. How could anyone survive. Yet, that the Haitian people did survive through a system of pulling together what little they had, praying and singing and being convinced that somehow God would help them. Along with that spirit, HMI could see the practical need for water, housing, schools and eventually a new church. This, we knew, would give them a hand up

and furnish them some protection and resiliency to natural disasters that would invariably come in the form of hurricanes or earthquakes. So that 's what we did. We began running PVC pipe to bring more and better water. We then drilled water wells. Then came school buildings, a bakery, houses and then a beautiful church. All built according to building codes that could withstand most of the storms and moderate quakes. Our plan paid big dividends when on August 14th a 7.2 magnitude quake hit the city of Jeremie and the environs east of there causing several thousand casualties and thousands more injuries. Miraculously, none of the houses and other buildings that HMI constructed (that are only about 6 miles to the west) were damaged and all the wells that were working at the time survived. Praise be to God!! The plan for the families of the Numero Deux community to be able to survive and then help others in the face of horror and heartbreak worked. Many lives were saved because of the 21 years of hard work and planning by HMI. We are saddened by the death and destruction, but rejoice that so many of our friends survived. What a joy to receive pictures of the new Our Lady of the Assumption church being full of worshippers on the next morning which was the Feast of the Assumption. God is good all the time! So . . . What is the HMI plan and how can you help? HMI has been in Haiti for 21 years and it has always been focused on doing the most efficient work to help as many people as possible, while being accountable to you for your generous donations. Obviously, continue to pray for all those affected in Jeremie and throughout the area extending to Les Cayes. Specifically, also please pray that the relief efforts will quickly repair and secure the roads between Les Cayes and Jeremie, because that is how most of the food and construction supplies arrive by truck from PAP. The road is essential to help all the people in the Jeremie area. If you would like to send financial contributions to HMI, we would ask that you send a note to direct your contribution to your choice of four areas: (We are focusing on the areas we serve as part of our Corporal Works of Mercy on our mission trips) 1. Missionaries of Charity: The sisters do an amazing job caring for the sick men, women and children and also do weekly food distributions in Jeremie. Any money we can get into their hands will be used wisely. 2. Prison Ministry: An anonymous donor has offered to match up to \$5000 in donations to this cause and if we are able to raise the money, we will utilize it to feed the prisoners once a month for the next 3-6 months, which hopefully will be long enough for conditions to improve. 3. Home Construction: Homes will even be more desirable and in need for the many people in our area who will be trying to help shelter family and friends who have lost their homes in Jeremie. We anticipate that over the next several months that material costs will likely increase, and we want to be prepared to purchase as needed to keep our construction team employed and to move families into a safe home. 4. Your Option to distribute between the three choices above or if you have no preference we will distribute based on where we think it can best be utilized. Thank you in advance for your support and prayers for Haiti. HMI has done amazing work because God has blessed us with incredibly generous supporters. Your support has helped thousands of people we serve move from misery to poverty and given them hope in times of despair.



People cleaning up the rubble in Jeremie

FAIE'S FACTS

Nothing better prepares for Fall than a good hot slice of apple pie with a dollop of butter pecan ice cream (unless you live in the South, where instead of apple trees there are "cooking pear" trees). The following is a delicious pear pie recipe that I made with my 9- year-old grandson, who said, "That was the best pie ever," and asked for the recipe so he could show his mom how to make it.

1 pack of 2 regular frozen pie crusts
3 Tbls all-purpose flour
1 tsp lemon zest

5 cups peeled & chunked pears
1/2 tsp salt
1 Tbls butter

1/2 cup white sugar
1 tsp cinnamon
1 Tbls lemon juice

Preheat oven to 450°F; stick fork into 1 pie crust; In a medium bowl, combine sugar, flour, salt, cinnamon and lemon zest; mix well. Toss pears into sugar mixture until well coated. Place pear mixture into pie crust; dot with butter & lemon juice. Top with second pie crust and seal edges. Cut slits on the top. Bake for 10 minutes. Reduce oven temperature to 350°F and bake for an additional 35 - 40 minutes or until crust is golden.

Pear Pie

And then there were Four!

Since June of this year, HMI has been building four houses a month. We hope and pray that we can continue. Never in our wildest dreams did we think our houses would get a test as they did on August 14th. A major earthquake - as described in this issue - caused major damage just a few short miles away. Yet all of our homes withstood the quake, providing safe shelter as designed. To celebrate we'll feature four families in this issue of our newsletter and hope you'll realize the incredible blessing a sturdy, secure home is to families living in pitiful shanties in an earthquake and hurricane prone area.



"Before"

Haiti House #228 Mrs. Elna Jeanty was the first house built in the month of July, 2021. Mr Senet Pierre is her husband. They have 6 children. Three of the children still live with them as does Mrs Elna's mother who is blind and in very poor health. Elna's mom's greatest complaint is that she can no longer go to Sunday Mass as she would love to do. However, her daughter Elna - who constantly smiles - does attend with a joyful heart. Mr Senet is also in poor health. Although he loves farming, he can't really do his farming as he used to. Mrs Elna is actually the one who takes care of the family with her little roadside business and selling things in the Jeremie market. Mrs. Elna has been hoping and praying for a house for

many years but there was no road accessible to her property. Seeing the situation of the Pierre/Jeanty family, the neighbors have come together to fix the road in order to sell building stones and with the hope that HMI will come to build more homes. Words can't express the joy that this family experienced when they were told that they would receive a new home. It was the best medicine any of them could have received. They send their prayerful thanksgiving to all who helped to make this possible.



"After"



"Before"

Chenet Judy and Linda Pierre have one daughter. Linda does - as most Haitian women do in order to feed their family - small trading in Jeremie while her husband works on the HMI houses. They are Catholics and come to church regularly where they had been praying that somehow they could receive a home. Linda's late father was a very good friend and benefactor of the Numero Deux parish. He was both a township and parish councilman. He generously donated several pieces of property to help the church parish. It is easy to see in the

"before" picture that fate had not been on Chenet and Linda's side. Things changed in June 2021 when the Fakiers visited them. The Fakiers shared the news with them while they visited in Fr. Joe's living room during the June mission trip that their prayer had been heard and through the intercession of Rebecca Claire, they would have a new home in July 2021.



"After"



"Before"

Jean Marie Germain Luc and Mireille Fouyol are an exemplary married couple of the parish. They are at church every Sunday and at most of the other celebrations or parish activities. They have three children and a grandchild. Germain is a teacher and the best church's drummer. He also does farming while Mireille tries her best to support the family with her little roadside stand and whatever she can sell at the Jeremie market. They had a more decent place to live but Hurricane Matthew in October 2016 destroyed it all. They have been living in the little shanty they have pieced together with old tin and tarpaulin that you see in the "before" picture.

They have been hoping, praying and waiting patiently for their turn to possibly get one of HMI's houses. Their prayer was answered in July, 2021. They send their heartfelt and prayerful thanks to all who helped to make this happen. (BTW, Germain is the brother of Riguel Luc who works with the water well drilling team and Jacky Luc who passed away suddenly in 2019. Jacky was one of the kindest and most gentle people one could ever meet. He helped HMI in so many ways. HMI is so happy to be able to help this member of Jacky's family.)



"After"



"Before"

Markenson Pierre and Ronide Agé have been living with their two children in the pitiful lean to that you see in the "before" picture. Ronide is a very kind young woman who tries her best, along with her husband, to raise their kids in the Catholic church and provide them a good education although they are poor. Their eldest son is a very interesting conversationalist and polite child. He attends St Brigitte school. They have been waiting and praying that one day their turn for a house from HMI would arrive. The month of July, 2021 will be, from now on, one of the best in their lives. They send their heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all who have helped in any way to bring about this miracle in their lives.



"After"



January 22nd, 2022
The Church Dedication

Upcoming Events and Important dates in the life of HMI

December 7th—13th, 2021

The Fakier / Our Lady of the Rosary trip

January 18th—24th, 2022

Fakier Church Dedication trip

January 20th—28th, 2022

Duplantis / Renewal Ministries trip

May 2nd, 2022

The HMI Silent Auction / Golf tournament ECC

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This newsletter is dedicated to raising funds to help the families devastated by the recent earthquake and hopefully receive the miracle of a new home one day. May God bless you and your loved ones for your commitment to the poor by giving in whatever way the Holy Spirit directs you.

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

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

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

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

_____ **\$35 would buy food and supplies for a family (\$100 to help 3 families)**

_____ **\$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**

This monetary gift is made in memory of _____,

please send an acknowledgement card to: Name: _____

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: _____

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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

THANKS FOR HELPING!!

No donation is too small. No gift unappreciated!

“No One has ever become poor by giving”

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