



HAITI MISSION, INC.

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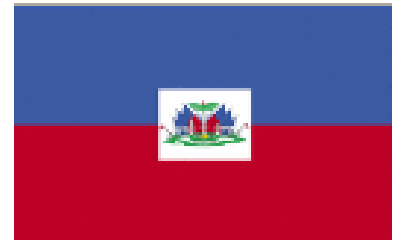
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www.haitimissioninc.com

February 2021

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

Ralph Waldo Emerson



Lemons to Lemonade

The old adage, "When life gives you lemons, make lemonade," has always been a part of the HMI journey. Virtually every challenge and seeming defeat has eventually **been** turned into a blessing that we could not see in the moment. It seems that 2021 is presenting us with a huge lemon tree. No matter what problems have arisen, never has there been a time when we couldn't somehow eventually **return** to Haiti. Jan 26, 2021 began an international travel advisory that seemed to finally halt our ingenuity and determination to get back to our friends in Haiti. As you may know by the time you receive this newsletter, to travel internationally, you must have a negative COVID-19 test within three days of embarking **both** ways. Since simply being able to schedule flights in and out of Haiti has been challenging, adding any additional hoop to go through would almost destroy the window of opportunity, but one of this magnitude is like turning the mole hill into a mountain.

The good news is that we have been (unintentionally probably but providentially surely) preparing for this day for the past twenty years. We have developed a simple but efficient and effective system of transferring funds directly to Fr. Joe **in** an accountability process that assures transparency and security. Until we can go back to Haiti our system allows us to continue without interruption to respond to the cry of the poor by continuing to build houses, drill and repair water wells and do some of the other humanitarian objectives that we do on mission trips.

A bump in the road doesn't stop our journey. Enjoy the lemonade!

(Last year we featured a few church parishes that had embraced the HMI vision and response to the cry of the poor. This year we will share with you some testimonies and experiences unique to HMI. We know you will enjoy and be inspired by them.)

The Impact of Haiti Mission Inc. on my life - *The Emerson Rodrigue story*

Growing up my dad was an interpreter for Haiti mission which inspired me to want to be one too. It is my biggest dream to become an interpreter at the highest level possible. When I was born, my dad asked Deacon Lloyd to be my God father. I could not ask for a better God father. It helped me so much and opened a lot of opportunities for me. My dad ended up getting a Visa to travel to the US around 2008. That was like the coolest thing for a Haitian like me to be able to go to school and being able to tell my friends that my dad can go to the United States. It is like a big accomplishment, so I became the cool kid in my school just because my dad can go to the US. In 2010 a terrible thing happened to Haiti - the earthquake. Haiti was going through the worse time in their History. We could not go to school because they were all destroyed. There was nothing left. Still to this day you can find people in Haiti that were affected by the earthquake. HMI continued to come to Haiti. They always go to Jeremie. I did not have school at the time, I went with them. I watched how helpful my dad was and how much both the Haiti mission members and the Haitians appreciated the work my dad was doing to make their communication easier; I tried to help in the best way I possibly could. It was very rewarding and enjoyable. In that same year, Dad and I went to the US embassy and applied for a visa for me. Thanks be to God I got it and now I was even cooler when I went back to school because not only my dad could go to the United States but I could too! I came here to the US and saw how much better and different everything was compared to Haiti and I loved it! Everyone was very friendly. I even went to a few schools where I sang some Haitian songs and talked about life in Haiti. It was awesome! Everybody around me was very nice and treated me and my dad like we were part of a family. I started coming every year and that made me the most popular and coolest in both schools that I went to in Haiti. In 2012 my mom split and she left the house which was one of the worse periods of my life. My sisters and I had to go live at my aunt's house. They were nice people but it just was not the same. It did not feel like a family, but it was what we had to do. I helped take care of my sisters until everything was settled so we could go back and live with my dad. Through it all, my dad took care of us. We could not ask for a better dad. By the end of my junior year in high school, we planned that I was going to move to the US live with the family that I always went to every summer that I went to the United States. They made me feel like I was home. They treated me like I was one of their own. I really appreciated and felt so blessed to have them in my life. It would not have been possible to meet them if it was not for Haiti Mission. Everything ended up working out so wonderfully! It was not an easy route but they did everything that was possible to make it happen and I'm very thankful of that. I ultimately went to the US embassy in Haiti and got a five year Student Visa which is very rare. It was truly a miracle which I thank God every day for. I finished my senior year of high school at St Mary's Catholic school in Natchitoches and am now going to college at Northwestern State University where I am getting closer to realizing my dream of becoming an interpreter - not just like my dad - but even better. I want to become an interpreter at the highest level. Haiti Mission has had a tremendous impact on me and my family. I am blessed for that. I cannot wait to get back to my family and my country and help them in every way that I can possibly can.



Emerson with the Fakiers –
Christmas in Natchitoches 2020

12th Annual Haiti Mission Golf Tournament & Silent Auction - April 12, 2021

We closed the sponsorship portion of the Silent Auction on February 7, 2021 and we have been overwhelmed with the generosity of our donors. We have received a total of **\$128,750** in donations and pledges from our Sponsors for the 2021 Silent Auction. It is clear from the Sponsor Phase that it is God's plan that we continue to build a minimum of three homes per month. **We are close to our goal of \$135,000 for the Silent Auction which will provide matching funds for the next 36 homes. Any amount raised over our goal will be used as matching money for additional homes.** Thanks to all who have participated thus far to make the event a success.

2021 - Silent Auction Title Sponsor

Bec's 12th Annual Haiti Mission Silent Auction - In Memory of Rebecca Claire Fakier

Silent Auction Co-Sponsors

Beth & Marty Deitchman Paula & Charlie Laurent

Silent Auction Gold Sponsors

In Honor of Lorraine Folsie & In Memory of Eugene Folsie

Elizabeth & Justin Corte	Susi & Tom Morrison	CORTEC, LLC CORTEC Employees
Elizabeth M. Landis	Terri & Joe Cunningham	Elaine & Pat Gootee
Ginny & Bobby Corte	Julie & Dr. John Steigner	Kellie & John Hebert
Dr. Rollie Norris	Lorie Labbe & Wayne Gross	Anonymous
Anonymous	Donnes Lafaso Family	In Memory of Nicholas James Stidham
Runstedler Family	Peggy & Greg Terrebonne	Gretchen & Ross Donnes
Cheramie Family	Mable & Hilton Michel	Anonymous

Silent Auction Builder Sponsors

Janis van Meerveld & Charlie Cerise	Cynthia & Dr. Warren Green	Matthew Caverly
Donna & Craig Mueller	Dianne & Joe Caverly	Dr. Mitch Wilder
Tammy & Dr. Robert Haydel, Jr.	Stephanie & Pat McShane	Mary & Mark Carey

Last year was our first attempt at having items beginning at \$50 minimum bids. The change was well received and successful so we will do the same thing this year. - We are already off to a great start with auction items. **Many people have offered to support us again this year. We hope to send out our first list of items on March 1, 2021. 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 \$50.00.** We want to thank you in advance for your consideration and support. We need many generous donors to make the auction a success. 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 at www.haitimissioninc.com 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. Thanks again for your support and participation.



Here's another family at the beginning of 2021 that have been blessed by your continued prayerful support of the work of HMI via the Silent Auction!

In the "before" picture you see Rosita and Yves Sainsyr who are parents of one child. Yves is a very hard worker on the HMI construction team. He also works as a taxi moto driver. Rosita sells candies, cookies and other incidentals in a little stand along the road to help her husband with the financial responsibility of the family. Every Sunday you will find Rosita elegantly dressed in the back of the church where she has been praying for years to be blessed with a new and more decent place to live. Thanks to the HMI donors and the grace of God, in January 2021 her prayer was answered. They send their heartfelt thanks and prayerful appreciation to all who helped bring about this blessing in their lives.



FAIE'S FACTS

During this time of the "New Normal," we must remember that God smiles from above saying, "Relax, sweetheart, it's just a bend, not the end!"

Upcoming Events and Important dates in the life of HMI

April 12th

HMI Golf tournament/Silent Auction at Ellendale Country Club

April 24th, 2021

Our Lady of the Assumption in Dedication in Numero Deux

Save the Date!

Monday, April 12th, 2021 – That's the date of this year's 12th Annual Golf Tournament and Silent Auction at lovely Ellendale Country Club. It's never too early to start thinking of things that would make good Silent Auction items. Paintings, arts and crafts, hunting or fishing trips, vacation camps or beach houses, etc. can all be turned into funds that can take people out of misery, giving them hope for the future with a new house and easily accessible potable water. BTW – Last year we couldn't gather. We're counting on this year's event being grander and more glorious than ever.

Let's make it happen!

Our Lady of the Assumption in Dedication in Numero Deux April 24th, 2021

Many of you have sent gifts for the construction of the new church for the community after their old church was destroyed by Hurricane Matthew in October 2016. Construction is finished!!! A few more \$\$\$ will help with some finishing touches but basically – IT IS DONE!! This beautiful church and Shrine to Our Lady of the Assumption will be a grand and glorious place of worship that will give Glory to God and honor His Blessed Mother. To quote his Excellency, Bishop Decoste, Bishop of Jeremie, Haiti, "This will be a place of pilgrimage!"



January 2021- The substantially completed
Our Lady of the Assumption church

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This newsletter is dedicated to raising funds to help the families 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.

Here is my immediate donation to use where most needed:
\$1000 _____ \$500 _____ \$250 _____ \$100 _____ Other _____

Join in the fun. Be part of our great Silent Auction. Donate items if you can. You’ll be notified when the real fun of the bidding begins! Applications for the golf tournament are on the website. Everyone is invited to what is shaping up to be a wonderful day! Come have a great time where we play and celebrate this work of God we call Haiti Mission, Inc.

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:** _____

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)