



HAITI MISSION, INC.

P.O. Box 694 Thibodaux, LA 70302

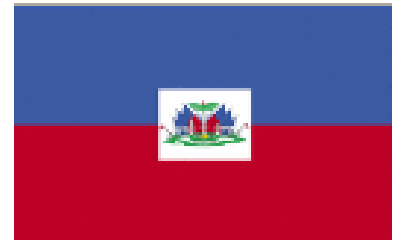
Phone: 985-438-0737

www.haitimissioninc.com

September 2023

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

Ralph Waldo Emerson



Finally!

After having to cancel a trip and then have to return from the May trip without going to Haiti because of some flight cancellations and logistics problems, the May team reluctantly returned home determined to make the June trip happen and - Praise the Lord – they did! Since most of you have never been on a mission trip to Haiti, I thought you would enjoy a “taste” of mission work – Haiti Mission style - from the pen of Dr. David Fakier. Enjoy!

Mission trip #28 for Dr. David and Laura Fakier June 5 – 12 / 14, 2023 -

6 Missionaries on this team - Laura and David Fakier, Darryl Schonacher, Gabby Gonzales, Julie and John “Oliver” Steigner. Usually the mission teams stay overnight in either Miami or Fort Lauderdale but because of continuing limitations of the flight options, the June team had to stay overnight in PAP at a hotel near the airport and flew a domestic flight to Jeremie on Tuesday AM. No issues going; returning there were some circumstances that caused the team to have to stay an extra day in Jeremie and a night in the Dominican Republic which necessitated a very creative way to return home and the first time in 23 years that a team had to go through the DR. Welcome to Haiti!



An excited team heading to the mission field!

Hit the ground running is a very common catch phrase but I can assure you that’s what Haiti Mission teams do in order to accomplish all the goals set for a short week trip. This past trip had an even greater urgency because of previously missed trips.

Our house building project has been a greater success than anyone could have possibly dreamed. A house design that is extremely efficient and suitable to the Haitian environment with an affordable price and a matching fund that has allowed us to take over 300 families out of misery and move to a functional poverty. The only thing we ask of each family is to pray for the donors. We are also committed to visit each family who has received a home, celebrate with them, allow them to thank our team representing our donors and our mission and to dedicate each home to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This simple, beautiful but very meaningful ceremony has been a blessing to the families, the donors, Haiti Mission and the community. In order to catch up on house dedications, the team dedicated **30 Homes and Announced to 2** more families that they would be receiving a new home. Joy, joy, joy everywhere but hard work and always logistically challenging. It was busy but with a small group it made it easier. Each home received a solar light thanks to Tom Morrison and his great work with his foundation - Starpoint Charitable. The families are also “blessed” in many ways by the team.



One of the 30 houses that were dedicated. Note The dad holding a solar lantern – lot’s of joy!

Family Distribution – The family distribution is another part of a mission trip where bags of groceries along with \$20 cash vouchers are distributed to families in the area. For several days in advance of the actual distribution, the team along with some of the locals prepare the bags and look forward to the joy of sharing commodities, some much appreciated funds and lots of love funded by our family “dirty” cards that many of you support. Solar lights were also distributed to all 165 family recipients this year.

If you’re trying to figure how all of this can be accomplished, we’re just getting warmed up. The team schedules a visit to the **Missionaries of Charity** that have a home for infants and children (holding and helping to feed these abandoned or neglected infants is an experience that one can never forget). Mass with the nuns, praying with the men and women and playing with children is also part of that very special visit. This is often done prior to feeding the **Prisoners in the Jeremie Jail – all 480 of them!** Yes, you read right. - 480 – in a prison designed for about 50. We can’t solve that problem (although we have tried) but we can give them a nice, hot meal when the team visits as well every month or so when funds are available. The team also visits the St. Bridgitte **School**, usually helping with the noon meal feeding that occurs every day now – thanks be to God again because of our determined and generous donors that keep the funding coming! (See the **2nd Annual Appeal for the school and feeding the children at the end of the newsletter.**)



J.O., Darryl and Julie taking a break before the family distribution begins.



The beautiful Our Lady of the Assumption church serving its purpose of taking care of the spiritual and physical needs of the community

Daily Mass **with Fr. Joe and the Community** in the beautiful Our Lady of the Assumption church provides the spiritual nourishment required for such rigorous mission work! This trip, the team was greeted with a new tabernacle in the church, custom designed in the appearance of one of the HMI homes. It is amazing!

Note: The construction of the statue of Our Lady is ongoing.

All work and no play— No visit to Haiti would be complete without making a visit or **Two** to the beautiful Caribbean **Beaches** that surround the Jeremie peninsula. This trip, the team were able to squeeze in two! A tradition has also started a few years ago to always have a **Bocce Ball Tournament**. (similar to croquet) This year there were 27 Participants and lots of fun! Winner chose a backpack instead of solar light. Runner up received solar light. (There’s also well inspections that checks the status of the critical wells in the area. HMI also funds a very rudimentary

Medical Clinic that a nurse comes to regularly but more recently, more attention has been given to helping the never ending requests for medical assistance.



A tired but happy team at the end of a Busy week! Congratulations! Bon dieu Beni ou! May God bless you!

There you have it! A thumbnail view of an HMI week long mission trip. You see now why so many of us want to go back after experiencing such a life-changing event. Always remember, it ain’t easy! If it was easy, a lot more would go. But if your heart is stirring, contact Dr. David and Laura Fakier. They’ll be happy to fill in the details and bring you on board. For those of you who can’t go or don’t feel called to go, keep praying! There’s never a shortage of prayer needs.

Meet two of the families

Being blessed by your continued prayerful support of the work of HMI!



"Before"



"After"

Haiti House # 301 - Jeantal Alexandre and his wife, Marie Vesta Jean, have 10 children and 17 grandchildren. Before the miraculous blessing of a new house, they lived in Debarasse with only one of their children and a grandchild. Given their deplorable situation that you see in the "before" photo, it is easy to see why they have been praying for years for a new home. They received the news with great joy when they learned that they would indeed get a new home. They send thanks to God and to the donors who have made their dream possible!

Haiti House #306 Dulia Saintdyc is a widow with 9 children who has been living with one of her sons and 6 of her grandchildren. She eeks out a little sustenance by selling candies at a roadside stand and receiving a little support from some of her children. They have been in the "before" house which has been badly deteriorating for many years now with no way to improve their situation. She praises God and thanks Him for sending HMI and its donors to help them into a new home.



"Before"



"After"



2nd Annual St. Bridget Haiti Mission School-Numero Deux And Feeding the Children Appeal



St. Bridget HMI School-ND began in 2004. The existing hurricane proof school was completed in 2012 thanks to donations from many HMI supporters, led by Pat & Sue Biggam at a total cost of \$250,000. The excellent school includes 10 classrooms, bathrooms, a large library and feeding room and administration offices. In the latest school year, 2022-23, enrollment increased to 280 students and 18 staff members with HMI contributing \$1425/month or **\$17,200 per year (Teacher Support)**. Teachers on average make just under \$100 per month. We have dedicated monthly donors who make up about 30% of the total cost each month or about \$500. Several years ago, due to the shortfall in donations, the school was on the verge of closing. For the past three school years, HMI has been blessed with a few major donors funding a large portion of the annual support needed.

HMI also has funded a school lunch program (**Feeding the Children**) since 2012 which provides a substantial hot lunch daily to the students and staff that attend. On average HMI provides for 3500 meals per month or 35,000 meals per year at a cost of about **\$17,500 per year** or 50 cents per meal. The school lunch program insures that every child attending school at St. Bridget's will have a least one nutritious hot meal a day. This program also has a few dedicated monthly donors who make up about 20% of the total cost per month or about \$300.

HMI realizes that the above two programs are very important to the community and the children, and it is our hope to be able to continue to provide for the financial needs of the programs. In order to do that in a more predictable way we have decided to have an **Annual Appeal to our donors focused on Teacher Support and Feeding the Children prior to the beginning of the new school year. Last year was the first appeal and HMI donations of an additional \$6722 was received which was divided between Teacher Support (\$4700) and Feeding the Children (\$2022).** The additional money was of great benefit to our two programs for the children. We hope to raise enough money each year so that the programs can continue long into the future, and they will be less in peril each year to continue due to inadequate funding.

If you would like to contribute to the 2023 Appeal, please forward your contribution to support of the HMI School and/or Feeding program. If you would prefer to become a monthly donor you can select either program on the donate tab on the HMI website or mail a check. This dedicated appeal will continue through October 2023. Together we can continue to serve God while "feeding" his little ones, body, mind and soul.

Thank you for your generosity and God bless you and your families.
HMI Teacher Support & Feeding the Children Team

Upcoming Events and Important dates in the life of HMI

Jan 22nd- 29th- 2024
Haiti Mission trip



(Save the date!)

May -13th 2024

Haiti – Mission 15th Annual
Silent Auction/ Golf tournament ECC



FAIE'S FACTS

Church bulletin bloopers:

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. *Bring your husbands.*

The ladies have cast off clothing of every kind. *They may be seen on Friday afternoon.*

Don't worry, Haiti Mission no longer sponsors rummage sales!

POB 694
Thibodaux, LA. 70302
985-438-0737
www.haitimissioninc.com

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

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

THANKS FOR HELPING!!
No donation is too small. No gift unappreciated!