

HMI Prison Ministry – Report December 2017

Prison ministry anywhere is extremely difficult but in countries such as Haiti it is indescribable. Lack of proper facilities, lack of adequate funding, overcrowding, and inhumane conditions are just a few that readily come to mind. Fr. Joe, as the diocesan director of the commission of Justice and Peace and the Dean of the Law School in Jeremie had been dealing with the prison for many years before HMI began supporting his efforts. Through these efforts, we have been able to give some help to the prisoners as well as the warden.

The needs arise in all sorts of times and ways. Sometimes, prisoners' relatives or prison staff personnel stop Fr. Joe on the streets or visit him at his home or the law school. These needs stretch the gamut of one's imagination from medical, legal or personal.

Because of the privacy requirements by law of the prisoners, the time constraints of Fr. Joe and the way that the ministry actually plays out in everyday life, it is virtually impossible to produce regular, detailed reports.

For instance, December 2017 was a very challenging month with lots of extra problems cropping up. In addition to the normal needs that are always present, the pump in the water well went out. The prison staff had no funds or technical expertise to repair it so after two weeks of being without the benefit of the pump, they contacted Fr. Joe. He was able to get our technician, Gary Bazard to go there and finally get it functioning but not until about 10 PM at night. The prisoners also needed water in the meantime and some food so Fr. Joe eventually supplied 10 trucks of water, a few sacks of rice and sugar along with cooking oil.

Thanks to all who support our prison ministry. Please pray for Fr. Joe, the prisoners in the Jeremie prison and HMI that we can continue to bring some comfort and hope to these much forgotten souls existing in very difficult circumstances.