



HAITI MISSION, INC.
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JANUARY 2015

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



Expect the Unexpected

It is now fifteen years since Almighty God called a small group of willing souls from St. Bridget Catholic Church in Schriever, Louisiana to come follow Him into the garden of Gethsemane which in the twenty first century is located in Haiti. That initial trip touched the souls of those missionaries in such a profound way that the image of the garden and the needs they found there have never left their hearts and minds and still continue to drive them to do what they can as best they can. Most especially, all of them continue to share the story with friends, family and literally everyone they meet. The story is very compelling. People can't believe that there is a place (places) on earth that people have to live in conditions worse than any of our farm animals live here in the United States. They can't believe that with all the technology available, people don't have potable water and decent housing and that children are dying because of lack of food and shelter and those who survive have to walk miles every day to fetch water rather than go to school is unbelievable. These are incredibly distressing stories that should shake the sensibilities of people of good will everywhere.

The immensity of the problem and the seemingly insurmountable challenges did not discourage this original band of nine. They just took one step at a time and when the often two-steps-backwards moments came, they just kept taking one more step forward – never quitting, always praying, always trying to see the bright side and continuously feeling the grace of God urging them forward. This has been the story of HMI. It is all about grace.

In those moments of darkness and fear, God's grace always has continued to come through. Never has God left us orphaned. Always He has been there cupping us in the palm of His Hand to carry, caress and comfort us. After a while we figured it out. We came to trust in an uncanny way that He will always do the unexpected – always! So we have come to expect the unexpected.

The magic always seems to come in interesting and unusual ways. Our house construction mentor, dear Fr. Glenn Meaux sent his team from Kobonal Haiti to show us how to build these houses efficiently and receive sufficient funding to move forward in a mighty way. After his advice and the expertise of his team showed us how to reduce the cost of the houses from \$12,500 to \$7,500, his matching funds plan with the use of our Silent Auction funds allowed us to be able to build a house for a \$3,750 donation. It was another one of those "Godincidences" that have continued to occur in the life of HMI's quest to help the poor and needy. It was one of those sign posts that we have come to expect as the unexpected is getting ready to happen.

The thing about God is that He has plenty grace for us, but since we can't handle it all at once, we have to be prepared for it to appear along the way. Most of us are slow learners. It took HMI fifteen years to be able to handle the windfall of grace that is being bestowed on us now. Because of the kindness and generosity of so many, because of the sacrifices of Fr. Joe and his community and because of HMI being sensitive to the urging of the Holy Spirit, the unexpected continues to happen.

As this newsletter goes out, we are preparing for the first mission trip of the year led by the directors, the developers and the driving force of our Silent Auction, Dr. David and Laura Fakier. They are going with a group of nineteen to bring more hope and good news to the communities of Numero Deux and Ravine Sable. This means more houses will be built, more children will be fed and more families will be helped. Praise the Lord for all that He does and will do. Yes, HMI is all about grace – God's grace - that has taught us to come to expect the unexpected. We will continue to live in the light of this trust because Our God is an awesome God who does hear the cry of the poor!

Challenge and a Blessing for the children

As most of you remember, the past few years we have had an anonymous donor offer to match any funds we received to feed the children up to \$15,000 a year and would continue for up to \$75,000 or five years. Even though Bec's bakery is keeping the cost of feeding the children down, we still need \$3000 a month to be sure that all of our school kids get at least one meal daily. Our January issue of the HMI newsletter has traditionally been dedicated to raising those funds. All of you have been willing to pitch in a little something extra and reach our yearly goal. I know you remember the picture of all the kids eating in the Christmas issue. (FYI Incredibly, each year, we have been able to raise the necessary funds in just one month!!) As always, I'll keep everyone updated on the progress with each newsletter. And don't forget that we still count on your regular kindness to keep our everyday functions of the mission going also. Do what you can. Your faithfulness and financial support are vital to the work we are doing. I sleep better knowing that 330 or so kids in Haiti will get a good meal today and every day they come to school – and I know you will too! Thanks again for helping out.

Christmas Chickens

Here is a picture of one of our HMI Family Farm poultry houses. A number of you donate \$\$\$, especially at Christmas time, for animals. Fr. Joe and his team determine what families receive donkeys, goats, pigs, sheep and chickens. These animals are a wonderful blessing to the families who are selected. By buying the chickens from our farm, it is a win-win for all.



Doubles, Doubles and more Doubles!

As the blessings flowed upon our house construction ministry this year, a decision had to be made as to how many houses we could and should build. Based upon the funding available and the donor commitments, initial hopeful projections would allow us to build three houses every two months. That was an exciting prospect. That meant that twenty families within the upcoming year would be in safe, decent housing which would afford them dignity and pride as well as much improved health and happiness for their children. What joy it brought to so many hearts, both here and in Haiti when our construction team built the first “double” this past June. Their level of competence had gotten to the point where in spite of weather or other delays experienced, they could get two houses built in one month. They were proud. Their families benefited because they made more \$\$\$ and more families got out of the mud and mess and into a place where life could be lived rather than survived. Talk about win-win! It was more like miracle-miracle! None of them ever dreamed of something this marvelous ever happening in their lives but it did. So maybe it was a fluke one might say, but it happened again in August and October. Even with challenges to get the cement they needed because of shortages of material in Haiti, they still got the “double” job done on time and in the same good fashion as HMI donors have come to expect and require in those months.

During the same time frame, not to be outdone in generosity, God touched the hearts of a number of you to sponsor houses. Now another decision had to be made. HMI has enough funds to take us into the summer of 2015 at three houses every two months or do we “step it up, pick up the pace” and challenge our Haitian construction team to build doubles EVERY MONTH through May 2015. When I presented the idea to Fr. Joe as a form of Christmas present to the construction team and the needy families of the villages, he replied with a gleeful, “Oh my goodness, what a blessing! Yes we will do it!”

Many, many families there are always praying for us and hoping that one day their name will be selected! We don't know what the future will hold and whether we can continue at this rate after May 2015 but so far God has out done even our wildest dreams. I don't think He will stop anytime soon. God hears the cry of the poor (Ps 34) and He is shouting to HMI to do something for them. We are trying.



We featured Mrs. Sadilla in last month's newsletter. Here she is standing with Fr. Joe in her new house. What a blessing for her and her three children!

Upcoming Events

February 15th: 6 PM – St. Bridget Community Life Annex
Haiti Mission Family pot luck gathering.

March 21st to 28th: Mission trip with the Fakiers

April 27th: Annual fundraiser

Golf Tournament and Silent Auction – Ellendale Country Club – Houma, La.

May 1st to 3rd: HMI 15 year Anniversary Strategic Planning Retreat
Lumen Christi Retreat Center.

May 23rd to 30th: Mission Trip with the Fakiers

June 7th to 17th: Mission trip with Deacon, Mrs. Faie and Renewal Ministries.

FAIE'S FACTS

Thought we'd begin the year with some creative puns for “educated minds.”

Atheism is a non-prophet organization.

A sign on the lawn at a drug rehab center said: 'Keep off the Grass.'

When she saw her first strands of gray hair, she thought she'd dye.

A boiled egg is hard to beat.

And finally, PMS jokes aren't funny. Period! .

Hope you enjoyed! Happy New Year!

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This edition of our newsletter is dedicated to raising the \$15,000 necessary to access the \$15,000 in matching funds to make sure all of our school children get a nice hot meal every day that they attend school. (I know you will sleep better knowing that 330 or so kids in Haiti got to eat today)

Yes Deacon Lloyd, I want to make sure the kids at school get a meal every day.

_____ Here is my sacrificial gift to help keep feeding the children at school. (Every dollar donated is matched dollar for dollar – thanks for helping us reach our goal of \$15,000)

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

Here is my immediate donation to use where most needed:

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

**This monetary gift is made in memory of _____, please
send an acknowledgement card
to: _____**

_____ Please send me _____ packets of Rebecca's prayer cloth and devotional material.

_____ 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 - Caring with Generosity and Joy

"To Know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived.

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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*