

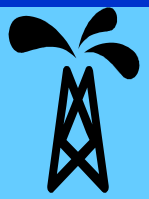


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# HAITI MISSION, INC.

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A Cup of Water

## Greetings in Jesus' name –

And with that greeting, I think how often I forget the power that is in the name of Jesus. We can't do anything of eternal value without Jesus, and it is in His name we live and move and have our being. (Acts 17:28) It seems we can get busy going about our responsibilities and forget to call out to Jesus. That is another

reason we all need each other so much – to encourage each other, to remind each other who we are in Christ and what he has already done for us. So many of you have told us you pray for the Haiti Mission regularly. That message is so powerful and encouraging. We want to remind you that you are remembered in our prayers and especially in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass offered four days every week in the beautiful day chapel dedicated to Our Lady of the Bayous here at St. Bridget Catholic Church in Schriever, Louisiana.

God is so good in using each of us in various ways as we surrender to Him. So, be strong in the Lord and the power of His might! (Eph 6:10) God is so personal; He knows in what areas He wants each of us to grow, and He allows just the circumstances that can make us grow if we surrender to Him. We might see someone and assume he has it "all together" but actually all of us are still growing in some way. If we aren't, we're going backwards and need to refocus, redirect our lives and recommit ourselves to our Lord Jesus Christ and His Way.

## Wonderful Gifts

God has taken all of your wonderful gifts and got us through another year of incredible growth and productivity. Often times I have to stop and remind myself how far we have come and what incredible gains we have made, especially when the bank account gets low and the needs get higher. 750 children are being educated in the schools that you are sponsoring. Pigs are being distributed on a regular basis to some of the neediest folks who never could have afforded one. A family has a new home. Five water wells have been drilled this year, one of which is furnishing fresh, clean water on a regular basis to members of at least fifty families as well as some of the school children and our pig breeding facility. The other wells are in different stages of readiness waiting for their pumps. We are still struggling with having a ready supply of pumps. Please pray that we are able to acquire the funds to build a storage depot to house our UNIMOG tractor, our rig and be able to store pumps and supplies. We have very little storage space so we can't consider stock piling pumps until we get a depot. Fr. Joe has got the property donated for us but it would take about \$50,000 USD to build a satisfactory depot. Can you help with \$1000, \$500, \$100, or any sacrifice to help us continue to help bring clean, fresh water to some really needy people? When you say your blessing before you eat, do you thank God for the water? The first thing you do is drink some water but do you take it for granted? Your donation can help us bring a glass of living water to some thirsty souls!

## Wonderful Water

Jamie Orr, our wonderful water-well driller from Indiana just came back from Haiti where he was instrumental in getting the well drilled at Kay-en-Rond sponsored by Ryan's Well Foundation. What a wonderful job he did but he did too much. He came back suffering from heat exhaustion and dehydration – a common malady in Haiti that sneaks up on unwary



Thank God he is better and God Bless him for his tremendous work and willingness to continue to go down there to work with and train our fabulous Haitian drill team of Gary, Raquel, Louis and Abel. The drill team is developing their skills at a very rapid rate and hopefully, will be able to drill and complete wells on their own in the near future.

Americans who think they can beat that Haitian Sun. Mrs. Faie wasn't there to remind Jamie to get out of the Sun, wear a cap, drink enough water, take rest periods, etc. Since he wanted so badly to finish the well and accomplish all the other "to-do" lists that I had given him, he overdid it.

## Difficult Moments

We've had some difficult moments this past year and have learned some hard lessons, but God has been faithful and so have you. Our plan to team up with Pat and Sue Bingham and bring a new school building to one of the villages is coming along. We are still trusting that God will touch the hearts of a few more people so we can reach our goal of \$70,000 USD. We already have \$40,000 USD pledged. Praise God!! Fr. Joe has the plans already in place and once we have the funds committed, we can start construction. Maybe you would like to help with this project! The picture of the building is below. Isn't it beautiful? It will have a community library and a kitchen!!! No school building around has either one of these!! We will eventually have a feeding program for our children. A hot meal once a day!! What a blessing for all of the children, especially the ones who some days go without real food for three days and so have to eat mud cookies for their survival (see accompanying article.) For those of you who sponsor a teacher every month; please know that the teachers, the students and their parents are sooooo grateful. The parents could never afford to pay to send their children to school. Although many of them do pay a small fee, many are not able and what you are sending every month allows us to keep the schools going. We only hope that soon we will be able to furnish one meal a day because now at all the sites there are wells and once the pumps are installed they will have – you guessed it – good clean water to drink right at their school!!! It is difficult to learn when you are hungry, thirsty or sick. Clean water is the beginning of health and wholeness. Our hope is that through our being there they will continue to get a basic education and through the love they experience from your benevolence, be able to encounter Jesus, the living water for their souls. After this article was written \$30,000 USD was pledged to complete the targeted goal of \$70,000 USD. Thank God for his faithfulness and praise God that the building can begin. (see the layout of the new school on the back of this newsletter.)

## Upcoming Events

We have some wonderful upcoming events that we want all of you to participate in. Our annual Haiti Rummage sale will be October 4<sup>th</sup> from 8AM to 12 noon at the St. Bridget Community Life Annex. We will begin accepting usable items on Monday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at the center. We also will need lots of help throughout the week to set up everything and especially on Saturday afternoon to clean-up and clear out!! Don't forget that students can get service items. Bring your junk - oops – I mean your usable, saleable but no longer wanted treasures – and help us bring clean water and hope to more people!

Another wonderful gift from Pete and Charlene Cavalier, members of our Board of directors, was 100 steak dinners from Outback Steak house. Pete and Charlene bid on the dinners which were a donation to Habitat for Humanity. Their bid helped Habitat and they then donated them to Haiti Mission. Talk about blessing two birds with one stone – God Bless you Pete and Charlene!!! Steak Night at the St. Bridget Community Center will be on November 7, 2008. Special entertainment is planned that you really will enjoy!!

## God is Good!

Faie and I have been invited to go to three different parishes this Fall to tell the story about Haiti Mission and to invite people to join our family of friends and supporters. Please pray that we can convey God's message and that other hearts will be touched to help us help others.

Yes, God is great and God is good especially here at Haiti Mission. We're so thankful for all of you. We are especially glad that we were able to find Jamie Orr to go down to drill wells and train the men in Haiti how to drill. What a blessing he has been! It just shows again and again how God the Almighty can direct us through life if we just let Him guide us. That is why you are able to help us drill wells for a dry and thirsty land in Haiti. It's only by the Grace of God that you all have a part in giving clean water to the poor people in Haiti. Remember that the blessings you are receiving and will receive are out of this world.



Drill Team



Drill Team hard at work.

## Haitian Mud cookies – An article by Mary Moss.

For many Haitians the mud upon which they walk is the only thing preventing starvation. The 2007 hurricane season dealt a crushing blow to the region. Many Haitians are homeless, unemployed; many crops were wiped out, so access to food is severely limited in some areas. The poorest Haitians are unable to afford even a daily bowl of rice because of soaring food prices. One AP article reports food prices have gone up 50% over last year, effectively placing even a staple like rice out of financial reach for many. As a last resort to stave off starvation, Haitians have taken to eating "cookies" about the size of silver dollar pancakes made from dirt, salt and vegetable shortening. While this mud has been prized by pregnant women and children in Haiti for its antacid properties and as a source of calcium, it is a far cry from complete nutrition needed to thrive. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N. is becoming more and more concerned about food prices, which are up 40% in some Caribbean islands. The food shortage and exorbitant prices of what little is available have caused the agency to declare a state of emergency in Haiti and several other countries in the region, At the market in one Haitian slum, two cups of rice sell for 60 cents--a 10 cent increase since December alone. Other staples like beans, fruit and condensed milk have also risen at a similar rate. Even the cost of the edible clay has gone up by almost \$1.50 in the past month.

The mud cookies are a bargain though, compared to the high cost of food staples. It costs about \$5 to make 100 cookies. Jonathan M. Katz - Associated Press reports, "A reporter sampling a cookie found that it had a smooth consistency and sucked all the moisture out of the mouth as soon as it touched the tongue. For hours, an unpleasant taste of dirt lingered." Dr. Gabriel Thimothée, executive director of Haiti's health ministry discourages those he sees eating the mud cookies. His concern is that relying upon the cookies for sustenance puts one at risk for malnutrition. Some Haitians rely upon income from selling the mud cookies to provide for their families.

## Faie's Facts

### The Almighty can change:

A MESS into MESSAGE  
A TRIAL into TRIumph

A TEST into TESTimony  
A VICTIM into VICTory

**BLESSED BE THE NAME OF THE LORD!**