



Haitian Christian Mission Australia

www.hcmaustralia.org.au
hcmaustralia@gmail.com

Dear Friends,

How quickly the past months have flown, since our trip to Haiti with 60 Minutes. It has been an exciting time in one sense in that through the tragedy of the Haiti earthquake, which caused so much devastation and loss of lives and property, the plight of the Haitian people has been brought to the attention on the world scene. For us here in Australia it means a raised awareness of the ongoing struggles of the Haitian people, and an opportunity for us to speak at many and varied functions and events about the work of the Haitian Christian Mission, our involvement in that, and our goals for the future of HCM and also the promotion of the Child Sponsorship Program.

This has resulted in wonderful responses from Australians such as yourself. We have seen the number of children now receiving ongoing support through sponsorship grow, meaning lasting changes in the lives of these children and their families.

We do appreciate all our sponsors, and warmly welcome all our new sponsors. I can never stress enough to you how very important you are in the life of your child, and the great differences you are making to help them secure a better future.

So many generous people have also responded with donations both financial and in the form of goods for distribution in Haiti. We have had business men and women, nurses, teachers, school and kindergarten children, churches and many ordinary "Aussies" give so freely and with compassion. We can never thank all our donors enough for their wonderful support. We have had a variety of fundraisers which so many have volunteered their time and effort to support. From our Ballarat Runs For Haiti Fun Run to garage sales, biscuit and donut drives etc. We've seen our fundraising grow and every dollar has been used to assist the hurting and homeless people of Haiti under the supervision of HCM.

Money has been used to purchase many medical supplies, assisted in feeding the hungry, provided much needed sanitary and hygiene supplies, including disinfectants and cleaning supplies, hand sanitisers etc.

Two lovely Aussie ladies donated their time in volunteering with HCM and assisting in the hospital etc, as well as distributing Trauma Teddies to children who have lost limbs due to infection of broken bones. How tragic that a relatively uncomplicated injury such as a broken leg could result in the leg being amputated due to severe infection as a result of lack of medical attention. These Trauma Teddies became a symbol of hope and love from the people of Australia, and brought a smile to the faces of the precious children who held them close and cuddled them.

We are so thrilled that together, with all those who contributed, we raised the amazing amount of \$36,000 which was sent to Haiti recently. This money has enabled us to purchase a block of land. This is the beginning of the Australian Village of Hope, and part of the money has been set aside for the construction of the first home for one of the families left homeless after the earthquake, and also funds to erect a secure fence around the property. As we continue to raise funds we will construct more homes for other families, as there are currently 1.3 million people homeless or living in temporary tent shelters. We are also seeking financial support for Steve to enable him to travel to Haiti to supervise the beginning of construction and associated projects,, so if you know of any generous donors please let us know!

Our son Jonas and his wife and children will also be travelling to Haiti early in 2011, where they will be working with HCM in various areas. Jonas has had considerable experience in the building industry, so this experience will be of great use. They plan to be in Haiti for 6 months, and will be taking a container of donated building and medical supplies with them. If you would like to contribute please contact us.



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HCM is currently building a warehouse for food distribution throughout our schools, churches and orphanages.

The plan is underway to enlarge our hospital capacity to more than double its current size, with works completed by March 2011.

We have a new orphanage at Fonds-Parisien, with 9 children being cared for. A new well is under consideration in prevention of cholera. The existing well is in danger of contamination in the future because homes and outhouses are built above the well.

A large portion of land has been purchased in the country with plans to build a kindergarten, elementary school, high school and also a university. Plans also include an athletic field, a lab, and an experimentation field for trees, soil test, fisheries etc. We will also build to accommodate teaching staff, missionaries and other workers.

The woodworking shop is now functioning, providing skill training and future employment opportunities

The two top stories of the high school in Port-au-Prince have now been torn down, and the bottom stories have been repaired allowing the school to now safely operate. The same also applied to the kindergarten, which is again in operation.

The elementary school building in Port-au-Prince is functioning, but the building will require a large amount of money to have it repaired. The children are learning under the shelter of tents.

The difficulties for the Haitian people continue, with cholera claiming the lives of 442 people to date, and causing the hospitalization of 6,749 people. The unsanitary conditions in which so many people are forced to live are breeding grounds for disease.

Our mission hospital is currently treating an average of 150 people a day. We are awaiting the arrival of an ambulance, donated to HCM to assist in the transportation of patients.

Two 14-passenger new Toyota vans are in service for missionaries working with HCM. The Toyota pickup is taking a beating and will not last long if it continues to haul building materials and food to remote areas. We need a heavy duty truck to haul construction materials. Our next need will be for a dump truck.

One of our churches has suffered 8 cholera related deaths, and 35 cholera related sick people.

Now the hurricane Thomas is pounding over Haiti. The people are wet and hungry. The UN forces are doing their best to help with logistics. Port-au-Prince and Fonds-Parisien were spared. But the city of Leogane, that was the centre of the earthquake, was flooded. So far 6 people are reported drowned.

As you can see from the above information, there is much happening in Haiti, and the workers of HCM are flat out keeping up with all the daily demands. The Haitian people are no strangers to tragedy and hardship, and yet they continue on, often with a beautiful smile on their face, against all the odds to try and provide for their loved ones.

With Christmas fast approaching you may wish to send greetings to your child in Haiti. Mail can be sent to :

Haitian Christian Mission
Ps. Etienne Prophete
3807 Beresford Rd. East
West Palm Beach,
Florida, U.S.A. 33417

You can include a small gift if you wish, or if you want to send an extra amount of money, I can include that with your December sponsorship payment.

We are honoured to be a part of HCM and see all that is being achieved for the Haitian people. We know the money is used wisely and not placed in the hands of corrupt people. We see the work in Haiti grow, and the lives of so many men, women and precious children being changed for the better. You are a part of that, and we sincerely thank you for your commitment and compassion, your faithful giving and your ongoing support.

Bless you all,
Debbie and Steve Rasmussen