

SOME FACTS ABOUT HAITI

- ✿ Native Haitians were pre-Columbian Amerindians called Taíno, “the good people.” The Taíno named their land “Ayiti,” meaning “Land of Mountains”—a term that evolved into “Haiti.”
- ✿ Eighty percent of Haitians are Roman Catholic, 16% are Protestant, and 4% are other. Voodoo is often practiced alongside Christianity.
- ✿ Haitian currency is named after the gourd. Gourds were so important to the Haitian people that in 1807, President Henri Christophe made them the base of national currency and declared all gourds the property of the state. Today, the Haitian currency is called “gourdes.”
- ✿ In the eighteenth century, St. Dominique (Haiti) was the richest colony in the French Empire and was known as the “Pearl of the Antilles.” It grew rich mainly through the importation of slaves and through devastating environmental degradation. Haiti is currently one of the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere.
- ✿ Haiti is one of the few countries in the world where the destruction of the original woodland is almost complete due to competition over scarce land, intense demand for charcoal, unsound agricultural practices, and feral goats which overgraze. This massive deforestation has led to lethal mudslides and flash floods. A muddy brown ring surrounds Haiti where topsoil has washed into the sea.
- ✿ Throughout the mid and late twentieth century, Haiti experienced a “brain drain” as educated professionals and business people left the nation to escape brutal dictators. This exodus weakened Haiti because it was left with fewer skilled workers to run businesses, health centers, gov. offices, and schools.
- ✿ Haiti is the second oldest independent nation in the Western Hemisphere, after the United States.
- ✿ From 1804-1915, more than 70 dictators ruled Haiti.
- ✿ The life expectancy for Haiti is low: 50 years for men and 53 years for women.

Haiti Team 2013

March 24 - April 2



A ministry of
Memorial United Methodist Church
of Clovis, CA (MUMC)

With special partnership with
Sierra Grace United Methodist Church
of Fresno, CA (SGUMC)

Team leaders:



Sara Glazebrook
coordinator for youth ministries
at MUMC



Warren McGuffin
coordinator for our
annual conference's
UMVIM work in Haiti

Other team members:



Andy Hansen-Smith
(MUMC) current president
of United Methodist Men



Emma Hansen-Smith
(MUMC) senior at
Buchanan High School



Tessa Hansen-Smith
(MUMC) freshman at
Buchanan High School



Rob Isakson
(SGUMC) Choir Member



Diane Zastovnik
(MUMC) Financial Officer



Janette Saavedra
(MUMC) senior pastor



Mando Saavedra
(MUMC) senior at
Clovis East High School



Jim Scott
(MUMC) retired pastor,



Teri Scott
(MUMC) current
District President of
United Methodist Women



Corrie Williams
(MUMC) senior at
Roosevelt High School



Darren Williams
(MUMC) co-chair of
Stewardship



Laura Williams
(MUMC) co-chair of
Children's ministries



Steve Whaite
(SGUMC) current chair
of Administrative Council

What will our team be doing in Haiti?

Haiti has had ongoing struggles with a myriad of issues causing chronic poverty for most Haitians. The United Methodist Church has been working in Haiti for many years trying to help address the root causes of poverty.

Since the devastating earthquake that killed, injured or made homeless some 3 million people in 2010, the nation of Haiti remains broken. Medicine, sanitation, electricity, education, jobs—all are vital to restoring livable conditions. The task is daunting and the list of needs can be overwhelming, **but it all starts with food.**



In 2011, UMVIM team members Warren McGuffin, Phil Bandy and Steve Elliot journeyed to Thomas, Haiti, to help rebuild the town's devastated school. Seeing children come to school hungry, the team also took on the mission of feeding them. Soon, somber and lethargic young faces gave way to bright eyes, laughter and a new eagerness to learn. But the men knew the children would go hungry again unless drastic action was taken. And so, the Thomas Food Project was born.

Each day, the 200 children of the Thomas School are fed a healthy meal of fresh vegetables, rice & beans or pasta, plus meat, fish or poultry and a drink. But the Thomas Food Project is more than just a school lunch program. With a goal of self-sustainability, plans also include a school garden, agriculture classes and healthier, more cost-efficient ways of cooking. Micro-enterprises will be implemented as a source of ongoing income and financial independence.

We appreciate your faithful support!

Here are 2 more ways you and your friends can assist the people of Haiti.



Each Volunteer In Mission team is asked to bring with them a gift to leave behind for those they have served. Below is a list of items our Haiti team hopes to bring a leave behind. We are asking members of the congregation to help by purchasing an item to donate. To make sure we get the correct items, signups for donations will be in the Narthex on Sundays, and church office throughout the week.

Here are some of the things we need:

- 15 air mattresses (new - twin size)
- 15 twin size sheet sets
- 15 mosquito nets
- 2 foot pumps to inflate air mattresses (may be new or gently used)
- 1 digital camera (may be new or used - should do video & stills and be extremely user friendly)
- shoes for children
- unlocked ATT cell phones (the only kind that are compatible with Haitian cell companies)
- any device with a solar charger (and solar chargers themselves)

Be looking for sales in the coming weeks when these items will be less expensive.

These donations may be brought to MUMC **on March 10** to be part of the "Shower for Haiti" at the **2nd Sunday lunch.**

YOU CAN BE A PRAYER PARTNER AND HAVE A "SHARE" IN THIS MISSION.

Prayer Partners: You pray for team members; they pray for you. We hope EVERYONE in our congregations will choose to be a prayer partner for at least one person on the team (**Entry level**)

Share Owners: 100 "shares" will pay for one round-trip plane ticket - \$568.20.

HERE ARE VARIOUS LEVELS OF "SHARES" OFFERED AS A GUIDE TO DONATING:

Entry level: no donation needed.

"Thank you gift" - a Bible bookmark with one prayer partner ribbon

1st Step: 1 "share" owner - donation of \$5.68

"Thank you gift" - Bible bookmark with up to 2 prayer partner ribbons

2nd Step: 4 "share" owner - donation of \$22.73

"Thank you gift" - Bible bookmark with up to 5 prayer partner ribbons and a Haitian flag patch

3rd Step: 10 "share" owner - donation of \$56.82

"Thank you gift" - up to 2 Bible bookmarks with up to 10 prayer partner ribbons, Haitian flag patch, and a handmade gift from the Haiti team

4th Step: 20 "share" owner - donation of \$113.64

"Thank you gift" - up to 4 Bible bookmarks with up to 15 prayer partner ribbons, a Haitian flag patch, a handmade gift from the Haiti team members and a handmade item from a Haitian artisan

5th Step: 50 "share" owner - donation \$284.10

"Thank you gift" - up to 4 Bible bookmarks with up to 15 prayer partner ribbons, a Haitian flag patch, a handmade gift from the Haiti team members and a handmade item from a Haitian artisan, and a mug of fair-trade treats

Top step: 100 "share" owner - donation \$568.20

"Thank you gift" - up to 4 Bible bookmarks with up to 15 prayer partner ribbons, a Haitian flag patch, a handmade gift from the Haiti team members and a handmade item from a Haitian artisan, and a basket of fair-trade treats

Skip the steps, take the elevator!: 176 "share" owner - donation \$1000

"Thank you gift" - up to 4 Bible bookmarks with up to 15 prayer partner ribbons, a Haitian flag patch, a handmade gift from the Haiti team members and a handmade item from a Haitian artisan, and a basket of fair-trade treats, and a framed and signed portrait of the team in Haiti.

Corporate sponsorship: if you know of a business that would like to sponsor the Haiti team, please talk with Sara Glazebrook at 455-7960 or Sara@mem-umc.org. We would like to have an opportunity to discuss ways we can mutually bless each other.

