



Vol. 1, No. 3
October 2013

OUR CORE PURPOSE

HELLO! This is our last update for 2013, on behalf of several organizations that are supported by the MICHIGAN AREA HAITI TASK FORCE (MAHTF) of the United Methodist Church, Detroit and West Michigan Conferences. Our Task Force, in covenant with The Eglise Methodiste d'Haiti, supports the many ministries of the United Methodist Church in the Republic of Haiti. Our mission is to inform and encourage your participation in the ministries of our church to the people of Haiti.

—Dr. Bill Cansfield & Pam Mettler, Co-Editors



HAPI CHRISTMAS WISH LIST

HAPI, Haitian Artisans for Peace International, was founded in 2007 as a fair trade artisan co-op focused on spirituality and creativity.

HAPI is "encouraging creativity, promoting gender equality, creating economic opportunity, nurturing spirituality and growing healthy communities."

Marketing of art produced supports women's economic development and empowerment. Some Christmas support ideas:

- \$100 provides a woman a micro business loan. There are currently 20 accountability groups and a long waiting list.
- Contributions can also be made to community-based health care, educational opportunities, plus skill training.

Here is a link to HAPI where you will find a whole catalog of gift opportunities:
www.HaitianArtisans.com

Contribute to HAPI through your U.M. Church, Advance Special #3020490.
E-mail: www.HaitianArtisans.com

"Nwe'l": Christmas in Haiti

This special e-letter is for UM Church Missions and Social Concerns Commissions, plus individuals wishing to support the people of Haiti this holiday season.

You and/or your Church may wish to honor people of Haiti this Christmas season through gifts and prayers. If your church has a "Christ-Centered Christmas" offering, a "Giving Tree" or similar gift-giving opportunities, please consider some of these gifts to the people of Haiti. They are all much-needed gifts that will save lives, help the poor and bring joy to the people being served by the Methodist Presence in the Republic of Haiti.



HAITI RESPONSE PLAN/UMVIM HAITI REPLACED BY NEW EMH-VIM PROGRAM

The Haiti Response Plan/UMVIM Haiti was created three years ago to facilitate volunteers to assist in the repair and rebuilding of churches, schools and clinics of the Methodist Church of Haiti (EMH) that were destroyed or damaged by the January 12, 2010 quake. October 31st marks the end of the Haiti Response Plan and the beginning of a new EMH-led Volunteer-in-Mission program.

The new EMH-VIM program will facilitate volunteer participation in church and community development projects, in addition to construction and repair projects.

Community development projects may include: agriculture, health & hygiene, medical, dental, clean water, teaching English, primary & secondary education, Christian education, business & micro-credit, and first aid.

The September 27, 2013 "News From the Haiti Response Plan," available at: haitivolunteers@yahoo.com contains a link to a more complete description of the EMH-VIM Program.



Would you like to give or receive a Haiti T-shirt, sold by, and in support of the Michigan Area Haiti Task Force? Please e-mail Norma Taylor: ntaylor302@yahoo.com



Keith Mumma, International Child Care
 USA National Director
 Work: 269/382-9960; Mobile: 269/598-1313
 Email: keith@internationalchildcare.org

Give a gift of healing and hope through Grace Children's Hospital, which has been serving the people of the Republic of Haiti since 1967. Following are several gift ideas:

• **Vaccinations: \$30**

Tuberculosis, measles, mumps and other childhood diseases that have been virtually eradicated in the U.S. are still common to Haiti's children. Just \$30 will vaccinate and provide basic health care for a child for one year.

• **Hygiene & Sanitation: \$100**

Help provide hygiene education, sanitation facilities or a clean water source in a community. Up to 90% of diarrheal illness, the leading cause of death among children, can be attributed to poor sanitation/hygiene.

• **Healthy Births: \$60**

Haiti has one of the highest infant mortality rates in the world. For \$60 you can help train, equip and support two Traditional Birth Attendants (midwives) to assist in healthy births for an entire year.

• **Rehabilitation: \$25**

There is little help for amputees or individuals with physical or mental disabilities in Haiti & the Dominican Republic. Trained rehabilitation workers teach families & individuals the skills they need to live more fulfilling lives.

• **Grace Children's Hospital: \$50**

Grace Children's Hospital was founded in 1967, and is recognized as Haiti's leading medical facility dedicated to the treatment of children with TB. Each year, the hospital receives thousands of children who are suffering from TB, HIV and other diseases. Due to the 2010 earthquake, the hospital is in the process of rebuilding.

Following is a link to the organization's alternative gift catalogue:

http://us.internationalchildcare.org/sites/internationalchildcare.org/files/attachments/icc_gift_brochure_1.pdf

Haiti Hot Lunch Program Needs Your Gifts

Give the gift of a hot lunch to a school child. The Michigan Area Haiti Task Force covenant with the Methodist Church of Haiti states that we will "Promote the Advance Specials...especially the Haiti Hot Lunch Program." Your gift of \$100 will provide a hot lunch for 50 school children in Methodist Schools in Haiti. Donate to UMCOR Advance #418790. A downloadable brochure is available at www.mahtf.org.



Do you have a partner for lunch today?

Consider Funding For Tree Planting By: Reverend Don Gotham

Consider the things you've done in a moment of desperation: a twist tie used to replace a ponytail holder...a nickel or a dime used in place of a screwdriver...a piece of masking tape instead of a bandaid...We can all make do when we have to but none of us would make a habit of sending our daughter off to school with cast-off parts of packaging for bread. We only improvise with such items when we are caught off guard or find ourselves in a moment of desperation.



Haiti is a place where improvising and taking care of the needs of the moment is how life is lived. This is a large factor of why the trees that once beautifully forested Haiti are gone. The need for fuel to cook is real. It is so real that what we would only consider doing in a moment of desperation is the way of life in Haiti.

In 1923 over 60% of Haiti was forested. By 2006, only 2% was still forested. The deforestation has caused severe erosion problems. A normal rainfall hampers fishing in ocean villages, as the mountain soil which carries in river water out to the ocean poisons ocean fish.



Mission teams from Michigan have planted trees in Haiti since 2007. Most recently, the teams have been hiring technicians from the nurseries to put on tree-planting clinics to educate Haitians on the proper planting and care of trees. At left, for example, is a five-foot Mango tree after one year of nurture.

Ten dollars provides for the tree, the clinic to teach someone how to plant and care for it, plus provides funds for the mission team to work on additional projects. If you would like to know more, contact Rev. Don Gotham, Chairperson, Michigan Area Haiti Task Force at 586/731-7667, or send an E-mail: dongotham@sbcglobal.net

CONTACT US

Need further information about the work of the Michigan Area Haiti Task Force? Have a good story or photo to share? Please call or e-mail us at the following:

- Dr. Bill Cansfield: kbcansfield@gmail.com; (616) 846-2569
- Pam Mettler: pmettler@iserv.net; (616) 402-3144

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