

# Helping Hands FOR HAITI

Winter 2008-2009 *Blessed by God - Motivated to Serve* [www.helpinghandsforhaiti.com](http://www.helpinghandsforhaiti.com)

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## **THE WAY THINGS ARE** by Dave Hansen

Are we making any progress in Haiti? That question comes up frequently from the many supporters of Helping Hands for Haiti. If we measure progress by being able to help our Haitian friends meet their basic needs of food, shelter, and clothing, we are still falling short of our goals. The recent hurricanes destroyed many of the crops, as well as the homes, in the Jumelle area, putting more hardship on the local people. But progress should be viewed from both sides of the equation. Through the “First Responders”, numerous churches, and other friends of Haiti, we directed over \$5,000 in direct aid to Jumelle and the surrounding area. This was the only help that this area received. We very much desire for the people of Jumelle to have a better life, but for right

now, the “progress” that is being made is that all of YOU have shown your compassion by following God’s word to “feed the hungry and clothe the poor”. And the people of Jumelle respond with “*mesi anpil*”. (many thanks!)



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## **FEBRUARY TEAM PREPARES**

Excitement is mounting as plans evolve for the February Helping Hands for Haiti mission trip. Nine first time volunteers will join ten veterans for the eleven day “life changing experience” to the Artibonite Valley region of Haiti. The doctors and related medical personnel will volunteer their time at the Hospital Albert Schweitzer while our four nurses will do a health clinic at Jumelle. Others look forward to conducting a Vacation Bible School for more than 100 children to include showing the “Jesus” film in Creole and making many crafts including shirt

painting and making jewelry. We also look forward to teaching adult bible classes and opportunities to work with sewing and solar oven cooking. Other projects of interest this year include introducing filtration water purification, composting, building latrines, and working with bees and honey production. We ask for your prayers that God will give us safety and rewarding work. We thank you for your sharing financially or through clothing and other items donated. We invite you to consider a mission trip in the future!

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## **THE DOCTOR IS IN** *by Dr. Tom Gilmore*

We are still working on the possibility of getting pap smears done at no cost to Hospital Albert Schweitzer (HAS). That generous offer was made by the pathologists of the Avera system. There are a few speed bumps in the system, but the need is still there and the willingness to help is also there. Cervical cancer remains the biggest cause of death due to cancer in 3<sup>rd</sup> world women. There are several reasons for this. Among them are the access to health care and the timely reporting of results when the tests are done. If a program can be initiated that will get results back to the health care providers at HAS in a timely fashion the women of the Artibonite valley may have one less barrier to living a more complete life. What a wonderful Christmas gift that would be!

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## **YOU MADE A DIFFERENCE**

### **The “FIRST RESPONDERS”**

Haiti is a country of nearly nine million people. Most live in poverty. Soaring food prices and hurricanes have added additional hardship in the struggle to exist. We want to help. Where do we start? The good news is that we have already started. Many of you have joined a group called the “First Responders”. First Responders agree to contribute \$10 when called upon to “respond” to a crisis in Haiti. You will be called upon to contribute \$10 no more than four times per year. In 2008, as food prices nearly doubled, the First Responders provided funds to not only extend the school lunch program through the summer months, but to expand the feeding program to include the elderly and those in the most need. When the hurricanes relentlessly pounded the village of Jumelle the First Responders were once again called upon. Working through our coordinator (Pierre Fritzner) and the church in Jumelle, more than 80 families received money for emergency food and garden seeds for replanting. If you would like to join the “First Responders” email your name and email address (regular address if you don’t have internet) to [dave@helpinghandsforhaiti.com](mailto:dave@helpinghandsforhaiti.com). You will then be notified of the next call for help.

## **RECOMMENDED READING**

### **”Three Cups of Tea” by Greg Mortenson**

This is a “must read” book. It is an inspiring personal account of how one person can make a difference. Author Greg Mortenson is a former mountaineer and military veteran. He is the son of Minnesota born parents who were missionaries and teachers. A graduate of the University of South Dakota, Greg now lives in Montana with his wife and two children. In 1993 Greg drifted into an impoverished Pakistan village in the Karakoram mountains after a failed attempt to climb K2. Moved by the inhabitant’s kindness, he promised to return and build a school. (much like our endeavors in Haiti) “Three Cups of Tea” is the true story of that promise and its extraordinary outcome. A “must read” book that you will enjoy.

*-Jerilyn*

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## **MISSION BREAKFAST**

Peace Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls will be hosting a “Mission Breakfast” on Super Bowl Sunday (Feb. 1) in the fellowship hall...all proceeds go to Mission. The mission team leaves for Haiti on Feb. 12. *-Maggie Schmidt*

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**CHRISTMAS IS COMING SOON!** It is a special time of year when we remember our Savior's coming to earth to give us hope and the promise of life everlasting. This time of year can be painful for those without that hope. There is no joy when you don't know where your next meal is coming from. Haitians have already been hit by floods and inflated prices. We can be the bearers of hope for the future by including shopping for Haiti on our Christmas list.

Let me share some alternative Christmas gift ideas:

- Seeds for a family garden - \$7**
- Bible in Creole - \$10**
- Talking Bible-solar power - \$35**
- Rice (50 kilograms) - \$100**
- Goat - \$35**
- Chickens - \$10**
- Piglets - \$35**
- Water purification system - \$50**
- Sponsor a school child - \$300**  
(pays for a year of school and includes school uniform, supplies, tests, meals, and shoes)



*Giving goats to a needy Haitian family*



*School lunch program*



*The family of Barron and Fleranise - Only 3 of the children attend school.*

**Honor a family member, pastor, teacher or loved one by sending a check to:  
Helping Hands for Haiti, 2313 South Roosevelt Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57106.  
Include the name and address of the person being honored and we will send them a note acknowledging your gift. Thank you for your gift of Hope. God bless you.**

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Peace Lutheran Church  
5509 W 41<sup>st</sup> St.  
Sioux Falls, SD 57106

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**Helping Hands for  
Haiti Newsletter**

**Get involved**

**PRAY** - Pray for the teams' efforts and all the people of Haiti.

**GO** – Consider joining a team for a future trip to Haiti.

**DONATE** – Any gift you can share is important. Every dollar we collect directly impacts the people of Haiti in a very positive way. Please prayerfully consider a financial commitment to our efforts. Helping Hands for Haiti is a non-profit organization.

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*“To those whom much is given, much is expected.”*

*You and I are “those” people.*

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Want to learn more about Helping Hands for Haiti? Please visit our website, [www.helpinghandsforhaiti.com](http://www.helpinghandsforhaiti.com). Here you can view pictures, learn more about our history, mission and ongoing projects, contact us, make a donation or read journal entries from our trips.