



## Haiti Friendship Ministries

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### November 2008 Newsletter

It has been awhile since our last HFM newsletter. Life has been a bit busy with some big changes, mainly with our wedding at the end of June, and the sale of the townhouse and move to Hopewell. God has truly blessed our lives! In this newsletter we want to bring you up to date with the situation in Haiti, where a brutal hurricane season has hit the country hard, and our plans for a team mission trip early next year.

#### Hurricanes

Within about a month's timeframe, from early August through early September, Haiti was hit by four hurricanes / tropical storms: Fay, Gustav, Hannah, and Ike. Most of the televised news was focused on the northern part of the country, where some towns were left completely submerged and the UN and other agencies struggled to deliver relief because roads and bridges were wiped out. However, the southern part of Haiti, where we have focused our efforts, was also hit very hard. The city of Petit Goave, where Ed Lockett's ministry is based, pretty much took a direct hit by Gustav at hurricane strength. Many people lost their homes, their livestock, and the few possessions that they had. Ed has been trying to help with cash gifts to families that he knows through the church and in his neighborhood, so people can buy rice, water, and some materials to work on their homes. There is no way to give out material donations without causing a riot, and the needs are so desperate that he is assured that people are using the money to take care of their basic needs to survive. Most Haitians are not concerned with savings and retirement accounts, because under normal circumstances their focus is on how to survive from day-to-day. What Haiti has experienced recently has brought that desperation to a new level. If you would like to help some of our most desperate brothers and sisters in the Lord during this particularly harsh time, you can make a donation to Missionary Ventures, designating it for "HFM - relief." The funds will go to Ed's work in helping many of these families over the next few months.

#### Marchasse

The new school year in Haiti was delayed at least one month because schools that were not damaged or destroyed were used as shelters for people who lost their homes or were not able to live in them until the extensive repair work could be done. Pastor Abner reports that the schools in Marchasse, as well as those in Bananier and Petit Goave, were able to start in October. Construction for a new church building in Marchasse, however, has been on hold. Pastor Abner is having an engineer put together a budget for supplies and labor, which with what the country has experienced recently will most likely be much different than originally planned. After that is accomplished and provided to us, we will begin to release funds that have already been donated, and hopefully continue to collect more to complete that much needed job.

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## A Haiti Missionary Venture

It has been almost four years since we have taken a team to Haiti, and we feel the Lord saying that it's time. Preliminary details:

- When?* February 28 – March 7, 2009
- Where?* Mostly in Marchasse, a remote village with no electricity, running water, internet or stores. There are lots of people and children (like most of Haiti). Team members will definitely be roughing it, in camp-like conditions. It's about a seven-hour bumpy trip through mountains to get there.
- What?* What will we be doing? Let's rephrase the question: What do you want to do? Although there will be opportunities provided for VBS, home visitation and evangelism, we want to give people the opportunity to use their gifts, talents and passions for the Lord in a missions setting.
- Who?* You? Can't go? You can help out here with prayer, funds (team members, projects, ministry supplies), or transportation to and/or from the airport (JFKennedy).
- Why?* Jesus said to "Go", basically to make an impact with His love in the remotest parts of the earth and experience Him in a powerful way as we get out of our comfort zones.
- How?* How to get involved? If interested, contact us ASAP!

### Web site

Our web site has been out-of-date, but we are trying to make it more current. Check it out when you get a chance: [www.HaitiFriendship.org](http://www.HaitiFriendship.org). On it you will find archives of HFM and Ed Lockett newsletters, information on our relationship with Missionary Ventures International, and more information on this ministry, projects we are involved with, and mission trips.

### Contact

Many of you receive these newsletters by email. If we do not have your email you are missing out on more regular updates on Haiti. The newsletters come out on average three times a year. However, emails are sent out anytime there is any news that is important or when Ed sends us an update. If you would like to receive email updates but not currently getting them, please send an email: [HaitiFriendship@yahoo.com](mailto:HaitiFriendship@yahoo.com)

For the least of these,

*Joel & Carole*