Eglise Methodiste d’Haiti
July 2020 Newsletter

Food Insecurity

The single largest problem facing the Haitian people today is food insecurity and the resultant hunger, malnutrition, and approaching starvation.

The exchange rate for the gourde to the US Dollar continues to climb and is now 110 to the dollar. As a result of lost buying power, many Haitians are going hungry. The second installment of the spenddown of the Haitian Hot Lunch Program ($63,000) has been completed. With this distribution, we were able to provide temporary relief to the 22,000 Methodist school children but will only result in less than 5 meals per child. Because schools are not in session, this distribution was by a supplement of dry commodities to each school family and the meals were prepared in the homes rather than at the school.

Covid 19 has put the Haitian economy into a tailspin. Tourism is almost nonexistent. Not only are NGO’s and mission teams not traveling to Haiti, the diaspora has greatly reduced their travel. Hotels are at only 10-15% capacity. The new Best Western Hotel in Petionville is closed, boarded up and the word is they will not reopen. Restaurants are empty. I spent a few days last week at the Wahoo Bay Beach Resort. There were only a handful of guests and only four rooms were occupied. Unemployment in the service industry which normally is a large share of the for pay employment is nearly nil. This is affecting the entire economy of Haiti.

Many families are becoming desperate as they do not know where their next meal is coming from. Through the District Office, we have been able to facilitate a few food distributions. There is a desperate need for funding to purchase much needed food and to deliver it to the hungry. The plan is for any donations for food relief to be disbursed at the discretion of Bishop Dorcely. Please consider making a financial contribution to the Haiti District Office to purchase and distribute food. The need is real and the need is now.

Corona Virus

The Corona Virus is the major topic of concern at the present time. Officially the number of confirmed cases of CoVid 19 has risen to 7,260 resulting in 156 deaths for the nation of Haiti. Because there is only limited testing, it is unclear what the real numbers are but there does not seem to be wide spread illness and deaths occurring.

For the most part across the country, CoVid 19 protocols and procedures are being followed when possible. Physical distancing is still an issue but masks are widespread and hand washing is being utilized.

The Haitian Government has reopened the international airport and regularly schedule flights have resumed. Six flights a day are now available for returning friends, guests and missioners. Each airline has their own set of protocols which include the wearing of masks at the departing airports and for the entire duration of the flights.

The EMH Guesthouse has drafted a procedure and protocols to be used as our guests begin to return. The health and safety of our returning missioners is a primary concern for the management and staff of the guesthouse.
Security Concerns
Security seems to be a continually changing event. Disruptions in the Martissant area continue to be a problem. Occasional political demonstrations occur in other parts of the city but are localized and short term.

EMH Guesthouse
We continue to persevere as the Guesthouse remains vacant with no guests coming to Haiti. The employees are still not being paid although Eric and Vivian continue to work every day for no pay. As a cost cutting move, we eliminated security service at the gates for now but will resume the service when guests return. We were able to consolidate the guesthouse electrical system into the District Office electrical system so we now have power five days a week from 9am until 4pm. This provides enough power to keep batteries charged and to pump water from the cistern to the rooftop tanks. This move has eliminated the current need for fuel for the guesthouse generator but it has increased the fuel consumption at the District Office. Please prayerfully consider making a contribution for July, August and September to cover the ongoing operating and maintenance costs of the EMH Guesthouse.

Current Team Schedules
There is still a Level 4 “Do Not Travel” advisory from the US State Department. Although travel is still permitted, most travel insurance companies will not issue policies under a Level 4 Alert and no teams are currently scheduled.

Project Review
Construction: In spite of the lack of travel by teams to Haiti, God’s people have been busy doing construction in Haiti. Several teams have continued to send their construction funds so that the people of Haiti can complete construction projects.

Les Anglais
The current phase of construction at Les Anglais has been completed consistent with the availability of funds. Future work will resume as funds are available. Remaining work includes stucco and painting inside and out.

The good news is that with the work supported by the good people of Sugarland, Texas, the congregation at Les Anglais is now able to worship in their new sanctuary. The congregation has been meeting in a rented home church for nearly thirty years and now it has a place to call its own. The congregation is very happy with their new home and extend their thanks to all who have helped them achieve their dream.
**Gobin**
Gobin has been deemed complete except for paint which will have to wait for future funding. Plans were first made in 2015 to rebuild the sanctuary at Gobin that had been severely damaged beyond repair. In November 2016 Hurricane Matthew completed the first phase of reconstruction which to demolish the existing structure to allow a new foundation to be laid. Construction was finally begun in the Spring of 2017 and completed in Summer of 2020. Thank you to Hearts for Haiti for their continued support.

![Gobin images]

**David**
The new sanctuary at David is now complete. Thank you to the Jeremie Haiti Project from Michigan for your continued support.

**Original Church at David**

![Original Church at David images]

**New Sanctuary at David**

![New Sanctuary at David images]
Olivier Education Center
Construction work on the Education Center at Olivier is complete. Thank you to Christ Church, Sugar Land and Fulshear United Methodist Church for your continued support.

Chiraque Water Well
The water well at Chiraque will make water far more accessible than in the past. The well is complete, the pump has been installed and set and an enclosure built for the generator to power the pump. Thank you to the Jeremie Haiti Project from Michigan for your support.
There are still several priority construction projects that need to be addressed. Most of these can proceed without teams being physically present. I would like to encourage teams that had hoped to come to Haiti this year to send the money they had planned to spend on construction and the money they would have otherwise spent on travel expenses allow the projects to continue. There is sufficient personnel and talent on the ground in Haiti to allow these projects to continue in the absence of teams.

The completion of the sanctuaries at Roseaux and Les Anglais, the new sanctuary for Sanite, and the basketball court and school expansion at Carrefour certainly fall into this category.

For more details, go to the webpage at eglisemethodistedhaiti.org or email me at emhmissionvolunteer@yahoo.com

Medical Projects:
There is a critical need for support for the medical clinics. During this time of uncertainty due to the Covid 19 virus it is more important than usual for the people to seek medical help. In addition to regular care, several mobile medical clinics have gone to remote rural villages for assessments and a distribution of Covid 19 information. Many people are either unaware of Covid 19 or have no information on how they should protect themselves. Haitian doctors in the EMH system are ready to travel to remote areas but lack funding for transportation and medications to take into the field. Please consider supporting our medical personnel in this way.

Sewing Projects:
At seven different locations including Jeremie, the Jeremie prison, Yvon, Sobiere, Cap Haitian, Furcy, and the Petionville Guesthouse, sewing projects have been initiated to make face masks for Corona Virus protection. These are all being funded by teams or individual donors. Hundreds of masks are being made and distributed every week.

Patterns and instructions are available to other groups who might want to participate.

Contributions toward the purchase of fabric are still needed and more than welcome. Contact David Draeger at emhmissionvolunteer@yahoo.com for the latest details.

Education:
School is scheduled to resume in mid-August. Many of the Methodist school teachers are as much as two years in arrears in salaries. There is an ongoing need for school uniforms, new school shoes and school supplies. Any assistance in these areas would be greatly appreciated.

Other Humanitarian Projects
There are also several humanitarian projects of food aid, agricultural assistance, medical, and education assistance being conducted by individuals, groups teams and congregations that are not related to Eglise Methodiste d’ Haiti.

Thank you to all of you that help in other ways.

The people of Haiti are keeping their brothers and sisters in the United States in their thoughts and prayers.

Please keep the people of Haiti in your continued prayers.

Just remember that God is still in control. I read the Book and the Good News is that at the end, GOD WINS!

David Draeger

June 22, 2020