



HELPS INTERNATIONAL

A Commitment to Serve the Nations

Hello Family & Friends

This is an update on what HELPS International and their partners have been doing to continue to help our brothers and sisters in Haiti over the last six months.

In January of this year I travelled to Haiti for a week to prepare the land that we are using to build six houses on. These houses are designated for families who were displaced by the earthquake in January 2010. Each of these families will have at least one family member with an amputation as a result of the earthquake.



The first thing we had built was a gravel road which spanned from the main road

to the back property where we are building. We then had three concrete slabs laid. Each of the slabs will have two houses on them. In February, a team of 30 people from across Canada, organized by HELPS, Pastor Harry from Ontario and Doug Gutzmann from Calgary, all travelled to Haiti for a week to work on building 6 houses. Two houses have been completed, two others are half done (still in need of a roof each) and the last two houses have not yet been started. We will also need to build a sanitation house and have a water well installed. When this is done it will complete the first stage of the "HOPE Community".



During our February mission trip we also had three medical clinics; two in communities around St. Ard and one for approximately 100 Pastors that were visiting at the time. In addition, we also raised \$11,200 to buy rice and beans which we put into smaller bags to be given out into eight different communities. A total of 2100 bags of rice and beans were handed out.



HELPS desire is to complete the first stages of the HOPE Community project by the end of this year. HELPS International is planning a Work Camp to HAITI from November 22-29th, 2011. This will follow after Children of Hope's work camp (November 15-22).

We would like to take 15-20 people who have some experience in bricklaying, carpentry and also painting. Our goal is to install the roofs on houses Three and Four, and we would also like to start and finish building houses Five and Six by the end of the work camp week.

HELPS would also like to help feed families in the displaced camps. We are hoping to raise \$5000 to buy rice and beans to be given to these families during the week that we are there.

IF YOU, OR SOMEONE IN YOUR CHURCH HAS A DESIRE TO GO ON A WORK CAMP TO HAITI OR WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE RICE AND BEANS FUND FOR THE NOVEMBER 22-29 WORK CAMP, PLEASE CONTACT CHUCK KERR at HELPS International, BY CALLING 905-812-9760 OR E-MAIL at charles.kerr@rogers.com

HELPS recently did a "Peanut Butter Blitz", asking individuals and churches to give \$30 for a case of peanut butter. We were looking to raise enough for 15-20 cases and in the end raised enough for 30 cases. This was awesome. We sent the cases of peanut butter, boxes of clothes, tools and other food items to HAITI on August 7th, via Anderson IN. and Dr. Mark Fulton's group.

We would like to thank all of you who gave to the "Peanut Butter Blitz" and also to the clothing drive. Both needs were met and exceeded.

Again, HELPS will have a WORK CAMP to HAITI on November 22-29, 2011. Please call Chuck Kerr @ 905-812-9760 or e-mail @ charles.kerr@rogers.com if you are interested in being part of this Work Camp.

HELPS International would like to give a big THANK YOU to all of the churches and individuals that have given to HELPS and the work in HAITI over the last year and a half.

We THANK YOU, and the churches and people of Haiti THANK YOU.

GOD BLESS!

Chuck Kerr
HELPS International

A few thoughts from Doug Gutzmann, Western Coordinator for the February 2011 mission trip...

As a first time visitor to Haiti, I was very excited to be a member of the February home-building team. As we prepared for the trip, we knew we would be met by a variety of emotions and experiences, but were not really sure what aspects would impact us most. Would it be the vast destruction caused by the January 2010 earthquake? The suffering of those wounded or left homeless by the quake? The hungry children and their parents, desperate to provide for their families? Or would it be the joy of helping to build homes for the homeless and feeding the hungry? To be sure, all of these experiences and many, many others made lasting impressions on each member of the team. But there were two experiences that really stood out. The first of these was experiencing how hope in Christ is visibly sustaining those that have so little. We saw clear evidence of this on many occasions, but particularly touching was witnessing the Haitian congregation singing "Because He lives, I can face tomorrow. Because He lives, all fear is gone". Despite having every reason to worry, these dear people were worshipping with joy on their faces, clearly depending on Christ to satisfy their many needs.

The second observation that really made an impact on us was to witness how the international body of Christ is joining together to sustain the Haitians thru this enormous crisis. International governments and large NGOs are making slow progress in helping Haiti recover from the destruction of the earthquake and years of political turmoil. In the meantime, Christian missionaries, schools, hospitals, churches, food centers and tent cities are keeping Haitians alive. It was unbelievable to see so many Christian building compounds along the highway, so many school busses belonging to Christian organizations on the roads, and so many Christian individuals and teams on our flights in and out of Haiti! The body of Christ is visibly working together, orchestrated by the Lord Jesus, to bring relief and hope to Haiti.

Haiti is a remarkable place and a trip there is an unbelievably humbling experience. Let's continue to help, give and pray for those that have such great needs, and for the many that are dedicating their time and energy in the mission field!

*Best regards,
Doug*



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With our Haitian Team



Packing Rice and Beans



Unloading Rice and Beans for Food Distribution

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