



**"... Actively Demonstrating the Love of Christ and
Sharing The Gospel Message..."**

**Information and Preparation
Guide for Serving in Haiti**

www.harvestfieldhaiti.org

HARVEST FIELD *Ministries*

About Harvest Field Ministries

Harvest Field Ministries is a non-profit, Christian organization committed to meeting the spiritual, physical, and educational needs of children and families in the impoverished country of Haiti.

We desire to see future generations of healthy, educated, self-sustaining Haitian communities living with integrity and striving to make Jesus famous in their communities.

Harvest Field Ministries

We are excited that you are considering serving with Harvest Field! We hope this information will be helpful. We don't expect this brochure to answer every question you may have, but we hope it gives you a foundational understanding of what, where, how, and why Harvest Field serves, and also how you can partner with us to make the ministry stronger.

WHAT

Our Mission: To meet the spiritual, physical, and educational needs of impoverished children & families in Haiti.

Ou Vision: We desire to see future generations of healthy, educated, self-sustaining Haitian communities living with integrity and striving to make Jesus famous.

WHERE

The majority of our work is currently in the region of Les Anglais, Haiti which is a coastal area at the far tip of the southern peninsula. The town of Les Anglais has a population of about 8,000 people (within a 45 minute walk) and the region has a population of about 25,000 (within a 3 hour walk). It is an 8 hour drive from the capital of Port-au-Prince. There is no electricity, except for a few individuals who have generators or solar panels. There is no running water - most people get their water from a community well, collect their rainwater from their roof, or get it from the river. One of LA's major challenges is that it is just on the other side of a river, and there is no bridge. Most of the year, the water is shallow enough that vehicles can pass the riverbed without too much trouble. But when the waters rise, it is impossible to cross the river, cutting Les Anglais off from the bigger cities (and from essential food & supply deliveries). LA sits right on the coast, and is overlooked by huge mountains. It is full of beautiful people working hard daily trying their best to provide for their families.

HOW

We work diligently to **actively demonstrate the love of Christ and to Share The Gospel Message**. We accomplish this through concentrating on 4 key areas:

1. Provide quality care & education for vulnerable children and families.
2. Provide vocational training & job creation opportunities.
3. Improve the local healthcare.
4. Train, equip, and encourage local pastors and leaders.

WHY

To bring God glory. By doing our part to make disciples of all nations, and by actively demonstrating Christ's love.



When Considering Whether to Serve...

Should I go serve in Haiti?

Christ commands us to go into all nations of the world...to places just like Haiti (Matthew 28:19, Mark 16:15, Acts 1:8). This is a call to all followers of Christ to “GO”. As we prepare to enter the mission field, whether in Haiti, or in our own hometown, it is important to search our hearts and ask ourselves several important questions.

Why am I going?

God wants us to go serve for the right reasons, with the right heart. Sometimes we can make serving others more about ourselves than about those we serve. We’ve seen some people go to Haiti because they are spiritually dry and in search of that “mountain top experience”. We’ve heard others share that they are essentially just going out of a sense of obligation or guilt. We believe God wants us to go, but we ought to give ourselves time to search our motivations for serving. Before we jump into cross-cultural, overseas missions, we should be confident that we are going out of a humble, compassionate heart, with a desire to help the ministry be more effective.

Can I strengthen the host ministry’s existing work?

Short-term teams are not the primary answer to Haiti’s long-term problems, and when done carelessly have actually harmed instead of helped. But when done in a thoughtful way with a plan to be part of, and strengthen the already existing work of the ministry, short-term teams can add amazing benefits to the ongoing work. Harvest Field needs short-term teams to partner with us so we can utilize the full range of gifts & talents that God provides to His people.

Can I be a learner?

Haiti’s problems were not created overnight. Hundreds of years of oppression, corruption, political turmoil, natural disasters, man-made environmental devastation, and damaging foreign intervention have added to the struggle of the Haitian people. Many missionaries, humanitarians, and anthropologists have spent their entire life serving in Haiti and studying its problems, and most of those experts will tell you they still don’t have exact answers about how to “fix” things. So we don’t go to “fix”. Instead we want to approach serving in Haiti with an attitude to learn, to

build relationships, and to empower the people to make their own lives better. We believe God honors that approach and step by step, He reveals to us how we can be a part of His amazing plan to bring restoration so that one day His Kingdom can come here on earth, as it is in Heaven.



ABOUT HAITI

You need to investigate and learn as much as possible about the history, culture, and struggles of Haiti. Below is a very small snapshot but we encourage you to study online, read books, and learn as much as possible prior to serving in Haiti. A list of suggested books is in the back of this guide

Haiti shares the small island of Hispanolia with the Dominican Republic and is located about 600 miles southeast of Miami, FL. With approximately 10 million people crowding a country the size of Maryland, Haiti is the most densely populated country in the western hemisphere. It is also the poorest country in the western hemisphere, with the majority of the population living on less than \$2 per day.

Ninety five percent (95%) of the inhabitants of Haiti are descendants of slaves brought from Africa in the 1600’s, not long after Columbus had discovered the island. In the late 1700’s, the slaves grew intolerant of the incredible cruelty they were enduring at the hands of the French land owners, so they revolted and defeated France’s army to obtain their freedom in 1804, becoming the first black republic in the world.

Since the French were a Catholic state at the time Haiti was colonized, they set up many catholic churches and there is still about 50% of the population that identifies their religion as Catholic. The slaves brought voodoo with them from West Africa, a polytheistic religion with one supreme, unreachable deity and dozens of lesser spirit gods which they pray and make sacrifices to. It is estimated that approximately half of all Haitians still practice voodoo to some extent. About 15 percent of people identify themselves as Protestant Christians.

- Haiti is the poorest country in the western hemisphere. 80% of the population lives in abject poverty, surviving on less than \$2 per day.
- 8% of children in Haiti die at birth or as infants. 15% will die before they reach 5 years old.
- The #1 killer of children in Haiti is diarrhea. The #2 killer is dehydration and malnutrition. (Dehydration & Malnutrition are polite terms for starving to death.)



FAQ's about serving in Haiti

Is it Safe?

Haiti is a country with a centuries old history of political instability and crime. The US State Department for many years has maintained the recommendation for Americans to “defer non-essential travel to Haiti”. There is inadequate police force and emergency services. Most medical facilities are lacking and behind the times. Roads are often damaged and inadequately sized, and driving laws are rarely enforced so travel can be treacherous. Mosquitoes carry illnesses such as malaria, typhoid, and dengue fever. All that said, we must acknowledge that scripture is full of examples teaching us that God asks us to do things that may not be considered safe to our culture.

We believe in being obedient to God's will, but we also firmly believe that we should use wisdom in our preparation and in the way we serve. In rural Les Anglais crime is not a big issue like it is in the overcrowded cities (although no community can ever be completely immune from crime). If the current political or social climate dictates, we employ National Police for security escorts. We hire trusted drivers for our transportation. We insist everyone have the vaccinations outlined by the CDC and that everyone takes his or her malaria preventative medicines. We require all team members follow strict safety guidelines set forth by your team leader. We sleep at secure, trusted facilities. We have all these measures in place to minimize any safety issues. We want every team member to return from their trip healthy and ready to go serve again.

In the event of a significant illness or accident, there are a couple of medical facilities in Port-au-Prince that are capable of providing medical care similar to the level to which Americans are accustomed. If there were ever a critical illness or life-threatening injury, there is a helicopter med-evac service provided by a trip insurance policy that most groups purchase. The med-evac service can transport people to a hospital in Miami or Fort Lauderdale.

Can anyone go?

Serving on these trips is geared for mature Christian believers who seek to invest their lives in Kingdom work. You will be exposed to extreme poverty and suffering. Being spiritually and emotionally strong is important. You also need to be physically able to handle the extremes of Haiti's climate and conditions. It is hot and humid, there is no electricity, there is no running water, the terrain is rocky and mountainous, you are climbing in and out of trucks, and there is a great deal of walking.

Where would we go?

Most teams serve in the town of Les Anglais, but a few of our teams serve in the more remote areas of the Les Anglais region. You can find Les Anglais on Google Earth at 18 degrees, 18 minutes, 23

- 55% of the population has no access to clean drinking water. Of the 45% of people that do have access to clean water, most cannot afford it, so they often drink contaminated water anyway.
- Haiti has approximately 70% unemployment. There is little to no industry, manufacturing, or tourism in Haiti to provide a stable job base.
- Haiti is the 3rd worst country in the world for calorie intake with an average caloric consumption of only 450 calories per day.
- It is estimated that approximately 6% of the population is HIV positive.
- There are nearly half a million 'restaveks' in Haiti. This is a form of child servitude that is commonplace and little is done to stop or discourage it.
- There are nearly half a million orphaned children in Haiti. Of these, some have been orphaned by losing parents to death, but many are “economic orphans”. These are children whose parents have abandoned them to an orphanage because they don't have the financial means to provide the child's basic needs.
- Life expectancy for men in Haiti is 49 years; for women is 52.
- Haiti lacks a functioning sewer system or trash collection system. Electricity and running water are available in only a few of the major cities but are not dependable and very few people can afford these luxuries.
- With no reliable energy source, Haitians have cut down trees for decades to make charcoal for cooking. This has created massive deforestation and led to erosion problems. Losing the valuable topsoil has made farming very difficult. This lost soil sediment migrating into the ocean and polluting the waters near the shores has in turn made fishing very difficult because the fish stay offshore in the deeper waters where the small handmade boats cannot reach.
- Amnesty International lists Haiti (tied with Bangladesh) as the world's most corrupt government/nation.

seconds North; 74 degrees, 13 minutes, 8 seconds West. There are a few pictures we've tagged on google earth of the clinic, the river crossing, the orphanage, etc.

Where would we stay?

There is a small guesthouse/hotel in Les Anglais. Accommodations are basic, but they provide beds, toilets, showers (no hot water), and electricity in the evenings (via a diesel generator). The hotel is surrounded by a large security wall and we've never had any safety issues arise while staying here.

What would we do?

There are many ways to serve in Haiti. First, we consider what does the ministry need to make it stronger. Next, we consider the gifts and talents the specific team offers. Finally, we decide how these fit together to best serve.

A few possibilities include:

- Medical, Dental, & Vision Clinics – we provide quarterly clinics in Les Anglais to improve the local healthcare. We can always use MD's of all specialties, DDS/DMD's, RPh/PharmD's, Pharmacy tech's, PA's, RN's, NP's, CNA's, & EMT's. We also need non-medically trained people to serve by helping with logistics, basic triage, data entry, helping with children, etc.
- Educate & Empower – Perhaps you have a skill or knowledge that would be beneficial to teach at our community center. The instruction could be on finance, entrepreneurship, construction skills, CPR, women's self-defense, personal health & hygiene, prenatal health, or a new/expectant mothers class. We welcome discussing any ideas you have for offering a class which would benefit Haitians.
- Invest in a School Teacher – most teachers at the primary school level have not had more than a high school education themselves, and can benefit greatly from training so he/she can be a more effective teacher.
- Invest in the kids at the orphanage and/or church. Taking time to spend with the children both demonstrating God's love and teaching them something useful.
- Construction/Repair Work - From time to time we have needs at the orphanage, community center, or churches. We take this opportunity to meet a tangible need and also to train some Haitian men in carpentry, plumbing, electrical, etc. This gives several young men a temporary job while providing valuable training and experience. If you serve on a construction/repair team, we will have a 1:1 ratio of your team members to local Haitian men who will be employed to assist you.

- Evangelism & Discipleship Training – We work with many pastors and church leaders in the Les Anglais area and they are always eager to have opportunities to be taught scripture and what the bible says about discipling their people and sharing the Gospel Message.

How much does it cost?

Costs vary with each trip depending on size of the team, the location, the duration, the time of year, and the type of service projects undertaken. There are 3 main areas of cost: in-country expenses, project expenses, and airfare. Once all trip details are known, we will provide you a detailed cost estimate for your team. For preliminary budgeting purposes you can assume:

1. \$450 - \$650 per person for the in-country expenses. This includes costs such as airport customs fees, lodging, meals, travel, generators for electricity, translators, & trip insurance policy.
2. \$100 - \$500 per person for project expenses. This includes costs such as medicines (for clinic teams), building supplies (for construction teams), or curriculum (for teaching teams).
3. \$400 - \$950 per person for airfare (if in the eastern United States). Contact American Airlines for estimates on travel. The AA Group Desk offers discounted pricing when purchasing 10 or more tickets together.



PLANNING YOUR TRIP

If you feel God confirming you should serve with us, contact our office and we will talk through several areas of preparation. If you are serving with one of our medical teams or blended teams, then many of these items, such as purpose, dates, etc. will already be determined for you. If you are planning a trip for your own group/church, then we will work with you plan all the items below.

1. *Decide the purpose of your trip.* We will work with you to inform you of specific needs of the ministry, community center, churches, school, and orphanage and then match those needs to the gifts and talents of your team.

2. *Set a date.* Typically a minimum of 5 months preparation time is required to adequately prepare the team. We will work with you to establish a mutually acceptable date. Please realize that we can not always go on your first requested date because we must take into account many aspects including when the ministry needs teams, teams already on the calendar, our leaders' & ministry partners' schedules, the school & orphanage schedules, etc.

3. *Organize your team.* There are many aspects to consider for who will make up a mission team. But we believe the main priority is that the people have the right motives – to demonstrate God's love and to use their God given talents to strengthen the work of the ministry and churches in Les Anglais.

Team members must have the ability to be flexible and get along. If there are people who can't get along with others in the comfort of the United States, then it won't get any easier in the chaos of Haiti. Sometimes God puts together teams that barely know each other – that is fine too. What is important is to be able to make personality differences or personal annoyances secondary to serving the poor.



4. *Get your passports and shots.* All team members will need a current passport. If you do not have one, apply right away because sometimes it can take as long as 16 weeks to obtain, depending on the government's backlog of passport applications. You can pay an extra \$90 fee for an expedited approval, which is highly recommended, if time is tight. If you already have a passport, make sure the expiration is not within 3 months of the trip date.

Travel immunizations are not required by the US or Haitian governments, but they are strongly recommended. In developing countries, due to poor sanitation and lack of childhood vaccinations, you can be exposed to germs and illnesses that are not commonly present in the United States. Check with the CDC or your local health department, but the recommended immunizations usually include MMR, DPT, Hep A, Hep B, and Typhoid. You will also need to get a prescription for malaria preventative (Chloroquine).

5. *Pay the deposits & book your airline tickets.* We will advise when the deposits are due and what amount is required in advance. Airfare is the responsibility of the team members, however we will work with you before you book tickets. Because Les Anglais is a full day's drive from the Port-au-Prince airport, an overnight stay is often required, either in Miami or in Port-au-Prince. American Airlines is the only major carrier with multiple options and is the carrier we suggest for teams.

6. *Prepare the team.* This step is time consuming and is absolutely crucial! Whether it's your first trip out of the states, or you have traveled to Haiti several times, we must make it a priority to prepare our minds and hearts for serving as a guest in another country.

Many people (us included) have gone to serve the poor over the years with wonderful intentions of doing good, but actually caused harm and not even realized it. We request that you read the book *When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty without Hurting the Poor...and Yourself*, by Steve Corbett. This book is grounded in scripture and explains well foundational concepts about poverty (Who are the poor?), principles of serving the poor (Should we do relief, rehabilitation, or development?), and provides strategies (How can we help the poor domestically and internationally?). Good intentions are a great place to start, but we must move beyond only good motives, if we want to produce long-lasting, effective results.

Prior to your trip, you should invest a significant amount of time researching, reading, asking questions, and in prayer and meditation. Start with the mindset of *being a learner* and let that continue all the way through your preparation, into your time serving in Haiti, and continue after you've returned. In the next section titled "Preparing Our Mind, Body, and Heart" you will find some basic guidelines and things to expect about serving in Haiti. There are also several helpful books listed at the back of this guide.

Preparing Our Mind, Body, and Heart

The following will give you some examples of typical interactions in Haiti, and how we expect our teams to conduct themselves. We must be sensitive to Haiti's culture and also respect Harvest Field's relationships with the communities we serve and with our ministry partners.

1. Remember you are a guest in their country.

You probably wouldn't appreciate a group of Europeans who have never spent significant time in the USA coming into your neighborhood for a week and telling you how to fix the US unemployment situation or our public educational system, and pointing out things they feel are wrong with the US culture. Haitians wouldn't enjoy us doing that in their country either. Be humble and ask questions. Sit down and take the time to get to know people. Engage in conversation. But do so *as a learner* and with compassion to listen, learn, and understand their struggle.

2. Greeting and Speaking with Haitians.

Haitians are generally polite and expressive people. Strangers will commonly greet each other. You may want to learn a few Creole greetings and phrases. Upon beginning a conversation, it is common practice to first spend a brief time discussing how they and their family are doing, commenting on weather, or inquiring about any recent events/struggles in their life. After pleasantries are exchanged, then you can move into the topic of discussion.

Even if you are speaking with someone who doesn't speak much English, he/she will likely enjoy talking with you. Many Haitians like learning English from you and will probably want to teach you a few Creole words. There is a very basic Haitian Creole guide in the back of this brochure that can teach you a few commonly used greetings and phrases.

3. Enjoy church services respectfully.

Just as in America, church services vary from place to place but all will have a Haitian flavor to them. Some churches have bands and instruments, while others have only singing. Sometimes you will even find them singing American hymns and praise music (in creole). Haitians rarely get in a hurry, so they might worship for an hour or more before the message starts. Sometimes they will have more than one speaker give full sermons. Their services are usually not rushed. It is totally acceptable to bring your water bottle with you. If you need to excuse yourself from a service, just do so discreetly.

Nearly half of the 10 million people populating Haiti are children and the church services are no different. You will notice that as many as half the seats or more are usually filled by kids. Some churches are strict with the children's behavior and we want to be sensitive to that so we request that you resist the temptation to

distract or play with the kids until after the service is over.

Haitians often enjoy hearing visiting Americans speak to the congregation. The pastor will sometimes ask a member of your group to speak, sometimes on the spur of the moment. If invited by pastor and with your group leader's approval, anyone is welcome to greet the congregation and share your appreciation for their hospitality. If the pastor invites one of your team to preach, provided you have a message grounded in scripture, we will work with you to provide a translator to share a message.

4. Be wise with your safety.

Once out of the larger cities, the concern of crime reduces, but you must still remember you are in a developing country and it will be very obvious you are a foreigner. Common sense must be used by always staying with your group, never flashing money, and watching out for your team members around you. Never leave the guesthouse without your leader's approval and never invite anyone into the guesthouse with you. Always notify your leader or Haitian host immediately if you see anything suspicious or if anyone makes you feel uncomfortable.

You must also be aware of the environment around you. Realize that when walking along a road or a pathway that a tap-tap (a sort of Haitian truck taxi), motorcycle, or horse could come whizzing by at any moment. Don't touch unfamiliar plants or animals. Don't accept or consume food or water other than what is provided at the hotel/guesthouse.

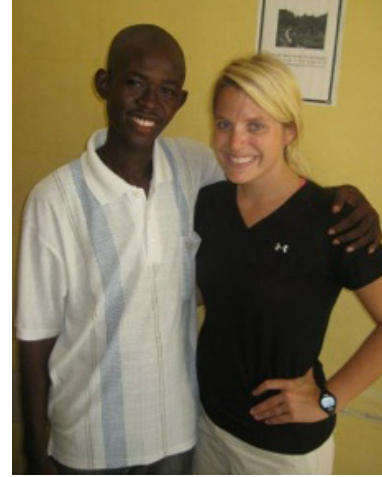
Use antibacterial hand sanitizer frequently to avoid the spread of germs and bacteria, which your body may not be used to.

The sun is intense in Haiti and it is usually very hot and humid. Drink plenty of water and wear sunscreen, especially when working construction, going on walks, and doing other outside or labor intensive work.

Insects and mosquitoes are abundant in Haiti and can carry diseases such as Malaria, Typhoid, & Dengue Fever. Make sure you take your anti-malaria medicine (Chloroquine) and always use a DEET based insect repellent. Some teams bring mosquito nets as well.

5. Food/Meals.

Most of our teams will have breakfast and supper prepared for them, but usually eat lunch on their own with food they brought in their suitcases. Our hosts are very careful in how they clean and prepare food to make sure everything is cooked properly. Some people will



get an upset stomach just because of the unfamiliar food, even if it is properly prepared. Always let your team leader know if you start feeling sick. We bring medicine to help with diarrhea and upset stomachs so don't hesitate to let your group leader know so we can help you start feeling better.

Most people enjoy the Haitian cuisine. But until you know if you like a food, just take a small portion, test it, and if you like it, then eat up! No food in Haiti ever gets thrown out. If everyone in the house eats and there are still leftovers, there will always be someone that will gladly eat what is left, so please do not put a lot of food on your plate if you do not intend to eat it.

We must also be mindful of who is around when snacking or eating an on-the-go lunch. If you are eating in site of others you will likely find yourself being stared at by lots of hungry kids. The result will be that you will feel guilty and they will still be hungry. So if you need to snack while out, it is best to make sure you have a private spot. Otherwise you can wait until you are back at the guest house.

6. Be prepared to lose your personal space.

If you are bothered by the person that gets on an elevator and stands near you, rather than away from you, then prepare to have some therapy. Haiti is the most densely populated country in the western hemisphere. They typically do not have the 'personal space' issues that lots of Americans have. Whether riding in the back of a truck or sitting in church, you will often be elbow to elbow with someone and they will not think a thing about it.

They are generally a "touchy" culture so handshakes, hugs, cheek kisses, pats on the back, etc. are very commonplace. The children often like to grab your hand on a walk or rub your arm. Don't be bothered by this – it is normal Haitian culture.

7. Dress appropriately.

At church, men should wear pants (jeans or khakis) and a nice shirt (a collared golf shirt or button up). When working, men can wear shorts or pants and T-shirts.

Ladies should wear a dress or skirt that is at least knee length to church. While serving through the week, ladies are free to wear modest shorts, capris, or skorts. T-shirts or modest sleeveless shirts are fine, but please avoid spaghetti straps, camis, and low cut necks.

Tennis shoes are fine to wear any time, even at church. Some people choose to wear hiking boots, which is fine also. The important thing is that your shoes be comfortable and suitable for walking on rocky, dirt roads. Most people bring a pair of sandals or flip-flops to wear in the evenings at the guesthouse.

Some groups choose to go to the beach one day. If you choose to visit the beach then your swim attire should be **very** modest.

In the evenings or mornings while at the guesthouse, the ladies

and the guys need to be respectful of each other and of the Haitian workers. Be mindful that there are members of the opposite sex in the guesthouse, and please dress accordingly.

8. Focus on serving.

You are traveling to Haiti to serve your Lord. If you are traveling with a family member, spouse, or significant other, we ask that you make the primary focus on serving others. Serving alongside a loved one is a wonderful experience, but remember you are part of a team, and it is best when the entire team can interact and work together towards the common goal.

Commit to not pursuing or initiating any romantic relationships with any team members or with any locals. This allows God to receive your full attention, which He deserves.

9. Take pictures and video with respect.

We encourage bringing cameras with you. After your trip, it is often hard with only words to convey to others exactly what you experienced. Photos and video are a helpful way to share your experience; however, **you must practice respect and good manners when taking photos.** You would probably not want a tourist walking into your neighborhood and taking pictures of your neighborhood, your house, your kids, or you, unless they first had your permission. Haitians want the same respect you would request, so please ask approval before taking pictures. If you show them the camera and say "Photo OK?" they will understand what you are asking. Most of the time you will receive a gracious smile and nod; sometimes they'll even go get the rest of their friends and family so you can photograph them too. But if they don't want their picture taken, it will be obvious by their reaction. If they decline, politely say "Mesi" and put the camera away. While in the guesthouse, schools, orphanages, or school you are welcome to take pictures or video any time.

10. Respond appropriately when asked for money, items, or information.

Because of the centuries of poverty and the many years of foreign aid in Haiti, you can expect to frequently hear "*Hey blan, give me one dollar/your watch/your hat/etc.*" We want to be compassionate, but having foreigners randomly giving handouts over the years has created problems in Haitian society, so we don't allow our team members to randomly give things away while we are out serving. We realize it is sometimes extremely difficult to say no when you are face to face with extreme poverty, especially when it's children or the elderly asking. We



understand this can be a challenging request, but we ask that you consider the ministry's long-term efforts and acknowledge that when our team members give things away in public, it can cause several problems. It can create significant safety issues for the receiver of the gift – there have been children and the elderly beaten and robbed by others who saw or heard about them receiving a gift from an American. It can also create security problems for our Haitian staff and ministry partners, after the team leaves. Additionally, it can increase a mindset of entitlement to handouts, rather than encouraging them to adopt an attitude of self-reliance. We aren't saying you can never help someone; just that we want to seek our Haitian ministry partners' assistance in how we provide the gift. Our Haitian ministry partners can help us provide your donation to the family in a manner that encourages them to use the gift to treat the cause of the poverty, rather than just a symptom.

If saying no to a request, be polite but direct. Phrases like “maybe later”, or “I'd like to, but I can't”, or “I don't think I can help right now” can sometimes be received as a “yes”, and provide false hope. A simple “no”, is all that is needed. Always let your leader know if someone's requests become excessive or they make you feel unsafe.

Generations of poverty have caused some Haitians to accept a “degaje pa peche” (making it work isn't sin) attitude when it comes to getting something. Therefore, some Haitians will intentionally manipulate your emotions to try to get food or money or try to take things that aren't theirs. We obviously don't condone this, but realize they or their family may be hungry and they might view you as a way to alleviate that for a short time. Most of us have never been in a situation anywhere close to the level of poverty and suffering they endure on a daily basis so be patient before judging their actions.

11. Giving away money.

If you find yourself in a situation where you feel the Lord wants you to bless someone financially, talk to your leader, and they can help you with this. We will try to find a way to use your financial gift in a way that *gives them a hand up, rather than just giving them a handout*. We can provide your financial gift through the local pastor or community center, rather than it coming straight from you. This strengthens the local church and the work of the ministry to foster entrepreneurial thinking.

Your trip fees include paying our Haitian helpers and translators a fair wage, but some groups desire to further bless the Haitian helpers that work with them during the week. This is a great idea, but please talk to your leader about this first. We have had instances

in the past, where because of blessing them without anyone else knowing, one helper is blessed tremendously from several different people, while other helpers get nothing.



12. Giving away stuff.

Some team members decide to leave all of the clothes, toiletries, shoes, etc., and go home with only the clothes they are wearing. This is by no means a requirement, but a reality to remember when packing. If you desire to leave your clothing, hygiene items, etc., let us know and we will get it to a person who needs them.

Some people like to bring lots of give away items (clothes, shoes, hygiene items, toys, etc.) in their checked bags and we have no problem with that, but we do ask that the donations be distributed through one of the local churches or our community center. You can bring us your donation items and the pastors and community center leaders will get the items to the families in most need.

13. Giving away your personal information.

You will likely be asked for your address, phone number, email address, facebook info, etc. We suggest you not provide this information, as it is frequently shared with other Haitians you don't even know and it will likely be used to ask you for money after you've returned home. If there is someone you meet who you want to correspond with, check with your leaders and they will give you advice. You can always reply with a polite “No, I have been told I can not share that”.

14. Practice proper behavior at guesthouse.

You will have busy days serving, but there is always ample time to spend in the evening sitting and talking with the other team members as well as our Haitian hosts and workers. The way you act and speak while around them should be a reflection of the God you serve. Being the hands and feet of Christ means reflecting Him when you are out working in the day as well as when you are behind the walls of the guest house.

We will spend some time in the evenings in group discussion, bible study, and/or worship. You will also have time on your own for prayer, scripture study, fellowship, or resting. You can bring a deck of cards or a good book (there are several book recommendations at the back of this brochure if you are interested in learning more about Haiti). Some folks will get some exercise by going for a jog or walk to the beach, which is fine, provided you notify your team leader so they can assign a translator to go with you.

All your personal items should be kept in your suitcase in your room. Theft has never been a problem at the guesthouse, but we need to respect our Haitian friends by not putting them in a situation that would be a temptation. Please always keep money, cameras, and valuables put away in your closed suitcase, and lock your door when you leave for the day.

15. Be sensitive to how your visit could impact the children at the orphanage.

Whether your primary focus is at the orphanage or not, you will probably have an opportunity to spend some time with the kids at the orphanage. About half the kids at the orphanage have no parents and the other half are economic orphans who we hope to reunite with their parents once their families can provide for their

needs. Most of these children have lived in very desperate situations before coming to the orphanage and several have experienced severe traumas. We want the teams to bring joy and fun to the kids in a manner that is sensitive to their fragility and what is best for them long term.

We work hard to give them a stable environment and consistency in their caregivers. Because many of the kids have lived in different places with different families or orphanages, some of them already display symptoms of bonding issues and Reactive Attachment Disorder (RAD). So while spending time investing in the kids, keep in mind these suggestions to minimize their confusion once you leave.

--If you feel like a child is significantly attaching to you, let us know.

We need to reinforce who their primary caregivers are and that you are just here for a brief visit.

--If one of the kids calls you “mommy” or “poppy”, let us know.

Sometimes in Haitian culture these are just terms of endearment or a sign of respect, but we want to remind them that Pastor Yvon and his wife are their parent figures at the orphanage.

--Play with the kids on their turf. Keep time spent with them focused where they normally are - at the orphanage, school, or church.

Pastor Yvon prefers we not invite the kids to hangout with us at the hotel/guesthouse because it can create powerful bonds that cause the children distress when you leave after a week.

--Avoid mentioning to them if you provide financial assistance for their care. The children understand that the orphanage is primarily funded through generous Americans. But we prefer to keep it general so they don't make a connection of “Mr. Smith provides for little Pierre”. In Haiti where parents have abandoned their children to orphanages due to the inability to feed them or meet basic needs, it is understandable that these children will want to bond with a person they think is financially providing for those basic needs.

16. Don't focus on home.

There are no phone lines where you will be working. Your leader will have a cell phone for emergencies and possibly calling home once for a brief check in with family. We want you to be fully focused on serving, so we ask that you not make a lot of calls home unless it is necessary. Please leave laptops, cell phones, and worries at home so you can be fully focused on serving the people of Haiti.

17. Don't burn up on re-entry.

Be prepared to spend some time de-compressing once you return home. You will likely see extreme poverty in a very personal way. Team members often struggle on their return with knowing how to share/verbalize such an emotional and spiritual experience. Some people have feelings of guilt for stepping back into their American lifestyle. Occasionally, some people have even fallen into depression. We will provide information for the team upon your return which we hope will help you process through the emotions you may be feeling. We will provide contact information for your team leaders, who are always open to discussing any post-trip struggle you may be experiencing. Adjusting after serving in Haiti is tough, but we can help by providing outlets to use your experience and emotions for making a change in someone's life.

Packing Suggestions

American Airlines allows each traveler two (2) carry-on bags that you keep with you on the plane (see AA.com for size restrictions). We request team members pack their personal items in these two (2) carry-ons. This allows the two (2) checked bags (up to 50 lbs) allowed for each traveler to be filled with items that the ministry, orphanage, or churches need; or to be packed with the items needed for your specific team projects. We will work with you to give you a specific list of items you will need to bring in your checked bags.

Suggested Personal Items to Bring

- Passport and Picture ID. It is a good idea to make 2 copies of your passport photo/signature page and leave a copy with a family member and bring a copy with you (kept somewhere different from your passport). In the rare cases we've had of someone losing their passport, providing a photocopy to the embassy has expedited getting a new one issued.
- Bible, journal/notepad, a good book, pens
- Any prescription medicines (in the bottle from the pharmacy with your name on it); don't forget your malaria medicine.
- General medicine – Aspirin/Tylenol/Ibuprofen, Pepto-Bismol, Immodium, Dramamine are sometimes needed. It is recommended that at least one person in the group bring a first aid kit, an antibiotic such as Cipro or Amoxicillin, an anti-nausea medicine like Phenegran or Zofran, a tube of insect bite/anti-itch ointment, and Benedryl.
- Mosquito Repellent - Spray or wipes with high DEET content. (Aerosol cans are not recommended due to airport TSA rules). Some people bring the battery operated clip-on fan to put near their bed at night. The guesthouse does not have mosquito nets, but you are welcome to bring one if desired.
- Toiletries - Soap, shampoo, feminine hygiene products, deodorant, toothbrush & toothpaste, hand sanitizer, wipes, shaving supplies, sun-screen, chapstick, extra contacts/glasses.
- Sleep Items - sheets & pillows are provided on the beds but if it is a large group (more than 18), a few people will need to sleep on cots and will need a few extra sheets. Light sleepers may want to bring ear plugs and/or a sleep aid.
- Trash bags – bring several for trash, dirty clothes, wet clothes, etc.
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Camera, and/or video camera (with charger or extra batteries)
- Hats, visors, bandannas, or pony-tail holders
- Food – unless otherwise planned with your team leader... bring enough dry, non-perishable food for lunch each day and for snacks. Anything that will not easily be crushed or melt – common foods people bring are tuna kits, beef jerky, granola bars, power bars, trail mix, gummy bears, dry cereal, peanuts, and tortilla wraps with peanut butter. The single packet powdered drink mixes are handy if you want something other than water. Haitian coffee is served most mornings at the guesthouse.

- Items for the Truck Ride – if you are prone to motion sickness on long rides, Dramamine, or Scapalamine patches (prescription), or ginger mints are helpful. Some folks bring a pillow or stadium cushion to sit on for long rides in the truck.
- Water – 2 reusable water bottles, with a wide mouth (for easy refilling) work best. They need to be empty at the airport, but once through security in the Miami Airport, you can fill them so you have water for the initial truck ride.
- Clothing recommendation – plenty of socks and underwear for the week. One pair of comfortable walking shoes and one pair of sandals/flip flops.
- Men – 1 pair khaki's and 1 nice shirt for church. Several pairs of shorts or pants and enough shirts for each day.
- Ladies – 1 dress/skirt for church. Several skirts, dresses, shorts, skorts, or capris and enough shirts for each day.

Things you should NOT bring with you...

- **Large amounts of cash (\$200 is usually plenty for most people to cover airport meals, souvenirs, etc.)**
- **Traveler's Checks, ATM/Debit/Credit Cards (they won't work in Haiti)**
- **Smelly perfumes or body sprays (they just attract mosquitoes)**
- **Appliances that use a lot of electricity**
- **Expensive or valuable jewelry**
- **Weapons or Airport TSA banned items**
- **Alcohol or tobacco products**
- **A bad attitude ☺**



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Harvest Field Ministries

Short Term Mission Trip Covenant & Liability Release

You will be traveling as a guest in another country and will be serving all those around you. You must always respect the people of Haiti, their culture, your leaders and your Haitian hosts. Harvest Field Ministries has a long term commitment to meeting the spiritual, educational, and physical needs of the people of Haiti and we never want to jeopardize our ability to be effective in accomplishing our vision due to actions from someone in a short-term mission group. So we ask you to lay down your agendas, be flexible, and trust our leadership.

I acknowledge and agree to the following conditions and realize these requirements are in place for my safety, to bring God glory, and to strengthen the long-term efforts of Harvest Field.

1. I accept that I am traveling to Haiti to serve as a servant-disciple of Jesus Christ. I will act in a manner that reflects Christ when interacting with my fellow team members, my leaders, HFM ministry partners, and the people I am serving. I will abstain from making derogatory comments regarding people, politics, religion/denominational differences, race, traditions, or cultural differences.

2. I will adopt an attitude to *be a learner*. I will make an effort to learn and understand Haiti's culture, and not try to convince them of my own viewpoint or convince them I can 'fix' them or their country. I will abide by the advice I've been given regarding dress/attire, food, interacting with Haitians, my behavior, etc.

3. I promise to lay down my agendas and *be flexible* throughout my trip in Haiti. Just as all our work is a small part of God's overall plan, I acknowledge that my week serving in Haiti is a smaller part of Harvest Field's overall plan. I agree to respect my leaders, not to be demanding, not to offend or cause embarrassment for our Haitian hosts, and to make every effort to help attain Harvest Field's long-term goals.

4. If a good friend or family member is serving with me, we agree to interact with all the members of the team, not just each other. I agree not to initiate or pursue any romantic relationships with any of my team members or locals during the trip.

5. I agree to refrain from giving away money, gifts, or personal information directly to the locals while in Haiti. I acknowledge that while the intent may be pure, that the result can cause problems which Harvest Field and their ministry partners are left to deal with. I promise to discuss with my leader before any gift is shared and abide by my leader's decision.

6. Just as the body of Christ has many parts, I acknowledge that members of my team will all have their individual gifts and talents which will collectively be used in the success of our trip. I will respect the talents of others on my team. I agree to use my gifts for the purpose of bringing God glory on this trip. I further recognize and agree that at times I may be asked to participate in activities that do not suit my talents perfectly, but I will still participate to the best of my ability.

7. I will abstain from using tobacco products or alcoholic beverages while on this trip and during all travels, including flights into and out of the host country. I will abstain from any illegal or prohibited activity while on this trip.

8. I understand and will abide by all safety recommendations provided by my leader. I will never leave my group or go elsewhere with anyone other than those my leader specifically designates. I will not invite anyone back to the hotel/guesthouse unless I have my leader's permission. I will not consume beverage or food, other than what is provided and prepared by our hosts.

9. I acknowledge that I am going to serve in a developing country and am subjecting myself to inherent risks and hazards, and I voluntarily assume all risks, including, but not limited to, poor food & water, illness, epidemics, disease, pests, insects, vermin, poor sanitation, hazardous vehicles/transportation, crime, inadequate police protection, inadequate medical care, civil disturbances, riots, uprisings, or rebellions, physical, mental, & emotional distress, natural disasters, hurricanes, flooding, and earthquakes. I am physically & mentally able to handle the demands of traveling to, and serving in a developing country. I agree on behalf of myself, my heirs, & my successors, to indemnify and hold harmless Harvest Field Ministries, Inc., its directors and officers, its ministry partners, and all associated parties, from any and all liability, for damages that may result to me personally or to my belongings, included but not limited to death, illness, injury, property loss, theft, damage or any harm that may result as a direct result of, or incidental to, work, association with, or travel to, from, or in Haiti, as a guest or worker, from my own negligence or the negligence of others, at any time in past, present, or future work with Harvest Field Ministries.

10. I agree that in case of medical emergency, I authorize my organization's trip leader and/or Harvest Field's staff to make decisions for my best possible care. I agree that any cost incurred will be my responsibility.

11. I agree that in the event my conduct is considered by Harvest Field staff to be unsatisfactory and it jeopardizes the success of Harvest Field's mission or the success of the trip, that my service in connection with this mission trip shall end and I shall return home immediately at my own expense.

12. In signing below, I represent that I am 18 years of age or older and voluntarily accept the preceding conditions. Persons under 18 must have this signed by their parent or guardian.

Date of Trip _____

Organization _____

Organization's Team Leader _____

Name (printed) _____

Name (signature) _____

Parent/Guardian (signature) _____

(if under 18)

Emergency Contact _____

Phone _____

Medical Conditions/Allergies _____

Basic Haitian Creole

We often hear team members say after they return from serving “I wished I had learned some creole before my trip.” Your team will have Haitian translators with you, but many enjoy learning some basic creole so they can greet people and ask some basic questions. Below you will find a few common salutations, phrases, and useful words. For those interested in learning more, we recommend purchasing Haitian Creole Dictionary & Phrasebook, by Charmant Theodore, or Creole Made Easy, by Wally Turnbull. There is also a handy computer program and smartphone app called BYKI/Creole that provides good practice.

A brief history of the language: Haitian Creole is a unique blend of French, Spanish, and several West African Languages. Slaves were being taken from their homes in West Africa by the French, Spanish, and Dutch in the 1600's to work the farms and mines in Haiti. Since they spoke many different languages, communication was a challenge. Through the generations, the Creole language was verbally and informally developed as a way for the people to communicate with each other. After the slave revolt and the people gained their independence from France in 1804, they made French the official language, although few Haitians actually spoke French. In the 1960's Haiti declared French and Creole dual national languages, and in the 1970's the government began developing official grammar rules, spelling, and teaching resources. Today, French is used by the government, in higher education, and by the socially & financially elite. But Creole remains the language of the masses.

Common salutations

Kijan ou ye/Koman ou ye?
(how are you?)

Typical responses

Mwen byen, e ou menm?
(I'm good, what about you?)

Mwen byen ak Jezi
(I'm good, with Jesus)

Tre byen, mesi
(I'm doing great, thanks)

Mwen byen, grasa Dieu
(I'm good, thanks to God)

Pa pi mal
(Not too bad)

Mwen pa bon
(I'm not good/I'm bad)

Mwen grangou
(I'm hungry)

Kijan fanmi ou ye?
(How's your family)

Tout moun byen
(Everybody is doing well)

Sak pase?
(What's up?)

N'ap boule
(I'm chillin'/I'm hanging in there)

Bonjou(Hello) (before lunch); you can add...**msye** (sir), **madam** (ma'am); **mademwazel** (young lady)

Bonswa (Hello) (after lunch until evening)

Bon nwit (Good night) (late evening/bed time)

Salut (Howdy)

Bon vwayaj (Safe travels/Have a good trip)

Common questions

Kijan ou relle?
(What's your name?)

Ki laj ou?
(How old are you?)

Kijan ou di sa?
(How do you say that?)

Kijan ou di “hello”?
(How do you say “hello”?)

Eske ou pale Angle?
(Do you speak English?)

Typical responses

Mwen relle Pierre
(My name is Pierre)

Mwen gen 30 ane
(I'm 30 years old)

Sa se relle “kreyon”
(We call that “kreyon”)

Ou di “bonjou”
(You say “bonjou”)

Mwen pa pale Angle
(I don't speak English)

Common phrases or expressions

Wi, souple (Yes, please)

Non, mesi (No, thanks)

Eskize mwen (Excuse me)

Mwen regret sa/Padon (I'm sorry)

Mwen regret tande ke (I'm sorry to hear that)

Mesi anpil (Thanks a lot)

Pa gen pwoblem/Padekwa (You're welcome)

Mwen pa konprann (I don't understand)

Mwen pa konnen (I don't know)

Mwen renmen sa (I like that)

Mwen pa renmen sa (I don't like that)

Mwen kontan (I'm happy/grateful)

Mwen tris (I'm sad/discouraged)

Mwen bezwen.... (I need....)

twalet (bathroom)

Paste Yvon (pastor Yvon)

kitel (to leave)

telefon (a phone)

Tanpri, mwen ka itilize telefon ou? (Please, can I use your telephone?)

Common words of encouragement

Bondye bene ou (*God bless you*)...said when leaving, or after talking for a while

Bondye konnen tout bagay (*God knows it all*)...sometimes said if someone has just told you their bad situation

Jesi renmen ou apil. (*Jesus loves you very much*)

Ou gen yon bel peyi (*You have a gorgeous country*)

Mwen pral priye pou ou (*I will pray for you*)

Question words

Kikote? (*Where*)

Kimoun? (*Who*)

Kisa? (*What*)

Kile? (*When*)

Kijan?/Koman? (*How*)

Poukisa? (*Why*)

Konbyen? (*How much*)

Kisa sa ye? (*What's that*)

Numbers

1...en	30...trant
2...de	31....trantyen
3...twaw	40...karant
4...kat	50...senkant
5...senk	60...swasant
6...sis	70...swasantdiz
7...set	80...katreven
8...wit	90...katrevendiz
9...nef	100...san
10...dis	200...desan
11...onz	300...twasan
12...douz	1,000...mil
13...trez	2,000...demil
14...katoz	
15...kenz	
16...sez	
17...dizset	
18...dizwit	
19...diznef	
20...ven	
21...ventyen	
22...ventyde	
23...ventytwa	

Suggested Reading

Below are several books that can help you to prepare for your time in Haiti.

When Helping Hurts – How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting the Poor...and Yourself, by Corbett & Fikkert. This book provides biblical foundational concepts about poverty (Who are the poor?), principles (Should we do relief, rehabilitation, or development?), and strategies (How can we help the poor domestically and internationally?).

Orphan Justice: How to Care For Orphans Beyond Adoption, by Johnny Carr. A biblical look at how we can care for orphans and vulnerable children, beyond adoption.

Don't Waste Your Life, by John Piper. This book reminds us that being a believer in Christ does not simply mean trying to live a life avoiding sin. Piper challenges us to live and die boasting in the cross of Christ and making the glory of God your singular passion.

If Jesus Were Mayor, by Bob Moffitt. A book about how local churches (especially in developing countries) can transform their communities and what scripture says about the church's roles, and how God wants to use local churches for His work.

Revolution In World Missions, by KP Yohannan. The story of Dr. K.P. Yohannan, the founder of Gospel for Asia, and how empowering local pastors to share The Gospel can be hugely effective.

Mere Christianity, by C.S. Lewis. This is the popular children's author wartime broadcasts, that he later turned into a book. It provides believers and nonbelievers alike an opportunity to hear a powerful, rational case for the Christian faith.

Following Jesus Through the Eye of a Needle, by Kent Annan. Kent's own story of moving to Haiti to live & serve among the people, the challenges he faced, and the lessons he learned while pursuing Christ.

Haitian Creole Dictionary & Phrasebook, by Charmant Theodore. A handy pocket size English to Creole and Creole to English Dictionary with short lessons on basic sentence structure, pronunciation, and the most commonly used words, phrases, and questions.

Restavec – From Haitian Slave Child to Middle-Class American, by Jean-Robert Cadet. This is Jean-Robert's autobiography about his life growing up as a restavec, and eventually coming to the United States.

Travesty in Haiti – A True Account of Christian Missions, Orphanages, Food Aid, Fraud and Drug Trafficking, by Timothy Schwartz, Ph.D. A social anthropologist's autobiography of his time working with large foreign aid agencies in Haiti and his personal experience in discovering that some of the organizations claiming to help were actually plagued with corruption, apathy, and political agendas.