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## ABOUT US

**Our History:** Hope for Haiti's Children® (HFHC) began in 1995 as a grass-roots, Christ-centered child sponsorship ministry with 12 Haitian children in need. The ministry started with volunteers from two churches – the Connecticut Valley Church of Christ and the Delmas 28 Church of Christ in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Ken Bever (president and founder) organized the U.S. effort and Jeantyard Elmera (currently President of the Haiti non-government organization Espoir Pour les Enfants d’Haiti (EEH) and Senior Minister at the Delmas 28 Church of Christ) organized the Haiti work.



Today, HFHC continues to partner with EEH to now sponsor over 1,500 Haitian children in ten Christian schools located in central and southern Haiti as well as support for a Christian orphanage and a medical clinic in Port-au-Prince. HFHC, with on-going support and cooperation with EEH, is also actively involved in crisis relief efforts -- providing food, clothing, medical, and shelter to many impoverished school-children and their families.

HFHC/EEH has a 20-acre Hope Center in Thomazeau -- about an hour outside of Port-au-Prince. This is the site of the Thomazeau Christian Orphanage & School. A mission Team Center currently occupies this land with housing for 22. Agricultural development & gardening are a focus for this land as well.



HFHC Hope Center

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### HFHC STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe the Bible to be the inspired word of God. We believe in one triune God who created the entire universe. We believe that all people are created in the image of God, but all have sinned and cannot enter eternal glory without a Savior.

We believe that God the Son came to earth by being born of a virgin and named Jesus. We believe Jesus Christ was fully human and fully divine -- the one-and-only Son of God. He lived among men, was crucified for our redemption, and rose the third day for our justification. We believe that He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will know no end.

We believe that the church is the body of Christ on earth and consists of all those who have accepted His grace and have been born of water and the Spirit. We believe the church is a divine institution to which God has committed the message of reconciliation for all nations. We believe that we are saved by grace through faith. That salvation is appropriated through faith and confession in Jesus Christ, repentance from sin, and baptism into Christ for the remission of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

We believe that God’s plan for marriage and families, including that sexual intimacy only occur in a marriage relationship between a man and a woman, is taught in the Bible. We believe that it is our duty to reverence all human life and have a holistic concern for the needs of all people.

## SHORT TERM MISSION TRIPS

Hope for Haiti's Children offers two scheduled mission trips each year. The first is the **Medical Mission Trip** which takes place each January. About 45 people go on this trip and the group is made up of doctors, nurses and volunteers. The group sets up a medical clinic and all sponsored children in the program are brought in to receive checkups, eye & dental exams and needed medicines. This is a vital piece of our on-going commitment to these children; their health is very important to their sponsors and to us. In addition, we will update the information about our children, get an updated photo, and give them school supplies, shirts and other needed items. Our overall purpose is to tangibly demonstrate the love of God.



The second mission trip is the **Youth Conference** which is conducted each July. This trip requires about 22 volunteers who will conduct a three-day conference for our sponsored students ages 13-17, a group of roughly 200 young people. The conference is primarily a spiritual event focusing on Bible classes and devotionals. They will also have time for fun activities, especially soccer. There is a movie night and a talent show, a highlight every year. For each of these trips, we work closely with our brothers and sisters in several churches of Christ in Haiti. Our desire is that Christ will be glorified. Although our desire is to serve, we inevitably end up receiving a fountain of blessings. The smiles, the singing, the faith and the love we witness are unforgettable.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

If you are interested in serving on a mission trip, please fill out a [Mission Trip Interest Form](#) or you may contact our office at (866) 314-9330. Other questions may be directed to [missions@hopeforhaitischildren.org](mailto:missions@hopeforhaitischildren.org). You may submit your Interest Form via email, mail or fax.

When a trip has openings, you will be contacted and sent an application to fill out. Once the application is accepted, a trip deposit of \$100 will be due. **The completed application and \$100 deposit reserves your place on the team.**

## TRIP COST

The trip cost is \$1,000 (excluding the air-fare). It includes:

- Hotel
- Ground transportation in-country
- Breakfast, Dinner & Water each day
- Short Term Medical Trip Insurance
- Tips - these are expected and will be paid by the team leader (airport porters, hotel, etc.)

The remainder of the fees for the trip is due **ONE MONTH before departure date**.  
**Please Note:** Per IRS restrictions, all trip donations and deposits are non-refundable.

## PREPARING FOR YOUR TRIP

We trust that your time spent in Haiti will be a rich and meaningful spiritual experience. Your presence will bless the children and we hope will bless you in return. You will see much poverty – overwhelming poverty. You might feel at a loss as to how to cope with it. We encourage you to look into the poverty – look beyond it. You will see the riches of Haiti in her people, their great faith and reliance on God. You'll see the strength and determination in the daily struggle for survival. You'll see the beauty of God's creativeness in the land. Open your hearts and your eyes and you can't miss it! Then, you will be an awesome blessing to your brothers & sisters, as you will in turn be blessed.

### PASSPORT

A valid passport is required to travel into Haiti. For more information such as application forms and prices, call the Washington Passport and Visa Service at 1-800-272-7776 or go to [www.wpvs.com](http://www.wpvs.com). You can also find information at [www.travel.state.gov/passport](http://www.travel.state.gov/passport), the US Department of State.

**On the days you are traveling in and out of Haiti, be sure to have your passport with you at all times.** We recommend that you make 3 photocopies of your passport:

1. Keep one photocopy at home with family or your primary contact person.
2. Keep one photocopy in your suitcase as a backup for lost documents.
3. Email or send one photocopy to the HFHC address.

In addition to showing your passport at the airport, you may be **required to show a second form of official identification**. This Backup ID must contain your photo, name and address ( i.e. Driver's License)

### AIRLINE RESERVATIONS

You are responsible for round-trip airfare from your point of origin. After you have received confirmation for your trip with HFHC staff, have completed your application and sent in your deposit, the team coordinator will send you an HFHC Flight Guide that shows the flights to book. For security, logistics concerns and cost, it is imperative that all team members book one of the flights listed in the Flight Guide. When you are booking, if you can add Hope for Haiti's Children's business account number to your reservation: **881979**, then your ticket will be connected to our team and HFHC will get benefits as well.

**Please note:** Unless another flight has been approved by the HFHC coordinator, a surcharge of \$200 will be added to the trip fee for booking another flight to cover the added costs of transportation, logistics and security.

Please remember to *wear your Hope for Haiti's Children T-Shirt* on the day of departure so the team will be able to easily recognize each other at the airport. On your day of travel, if you should have a travel emergency, please call the HFHC office at (866) 314-9330.

## MEDICAL TRIP INSURANCE

HFHC covers all mission team members with a basic traveler's insurance policy. The cost of insurance is included in the fee for the trip. Trip insurance is a supplementary insurance to your current personal medical insurance coverage and only covers mission trip related medical needs. You may want to check with your health insurance provider to determine whether coverage applies for illnesses or accidents occurring outside the United States.

If you would like to read more about the policy and what it covers, please visit Missionary Health website. The Short Term Medical **Atlas Series** will be purchased for you with a Maximum Coverage of \$50,000. (<http://www.missionaryhealth.net/shortterm>). There will be copies of your policy kept in the U.S. on file as well as with an HFHC staff member in Haiti.

## VACCINATIONS

All trip participants should visit their personal physician at least 6-8 weeks before departure. Currently, the CDC recommends the following vaccines:

- Tetanus – within the last 2 years
- Malaria Prophylaxis – discuss this with your doctor. Please remember to bring mosquito repellent.
- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B, for healthcare workers
- Typhoid should be up to date.

**Note:** Many county health clinics offer low cost vaccinations.

### **Online Resources**

Center for Disease Control  
[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

Complete travel health  
information for physicians and  
travelers.

[www.MDtravelhealth.com](http://www.MDtravelhealth.com)

## PRESCRIPTIONS

If you are on routine prescriptions to treat a medical condition, bring an adequate supply to cover your needs while in Haiti. Make sure that prescriptions are in original labeled containers for authentication of contents (this includes over the counter medicines like Tylenol, Imodium AD, multivitamins, etc). Also, remember to pack any routine medications in your carry-on.

## LUGGAGE

For international flights, American Airlines currently allows: (**NOTE:** baggage allowance changes frequently) <http://www.aa.com/i18n/travelInformation/baggage/baggageAllowance.jsp>

- **One 50-pound checked bags (no boxes).** The dimensions cannot exceed 62 inches (height+weight+length).  
*Note:* Luggage is sometimes treated roughly in Haiti. If you can find extra-large cloth-sided suitcases or bags that you do not mind getting banged up, it might be best. Large military-type duffels work well.

- **One 40-pound carry-on bag per person** – cannot exceed 45 inches total (a small purse or camera bag is allowed in addition to the carry on but must be able to fit under your seat on the plane)
- **Additional 50-pound checked bag (no boxes) - \$40** We like to reserve one of the 50lb. bags for items needed to run the clinic. This may include items like gifts for the children, supplies for the schools, HFHC T-Shirts or medical items. The HFHC Donations Coordinator will contact you regarding the need to have you transport items into Haiti or to ask for your help to collect donations for the trip.

For a current list of all prohibited items, please check out the website:

<http://www.tsa.gov/travelers/airtravel/prohibited/permitted-prohibited-items.shtm>

## CLOTHING

Light weight, comfortable, summer cotton clothing is best to wear. Haitians, especially Christians, are conservative in their dress. They expect women to wear modest skirts or dresses and men to wear long pants and shirts with sleeves. Please leave all expensive jewelry at home. Here are the clothing recommendations for your trip:

### DURING THE DAY

**Women:** Skirts and Tops (or dresses). The top can be sleeveless, but no tank tops.

**Men:** Long pants and shirts

**Both:** Sandals or lightweight sneakers

**Medical Personnel:** scrubs, if preferred

### CONSTRUCTION OR WORK TEAM

**Men:** shorts and tank tops

**Women:** skirts and t-shirts or modest tank tops

**Both:** Work boots or heavy-duty sneakers, hat/bandanas, rain poncho

### CHURCH ON SUNDAY

**Women:** Modest skirt (dress) with a short-sleeve blouse/shirt

**Men:** Dress pants and a shirt with tie. If you are preaching, you will also need a sport coat.

### AT THE HOTEL

All may change into long shorts, if preferred. Please do not go barefoot.

There may be an opportunity to swim. If you would like to swim, please bring your swimsuit & a towel.

## PERSONAL ITEMS TO BRING

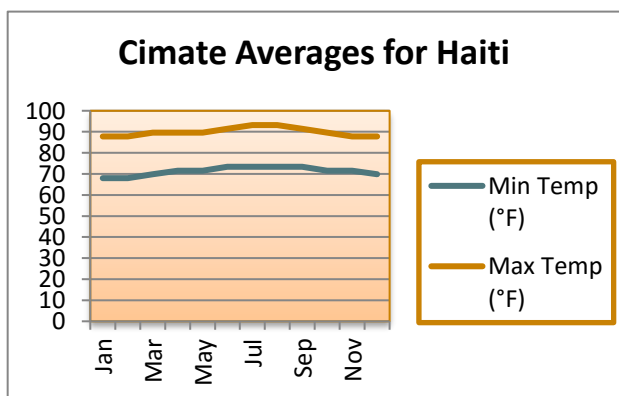
In addition to clothing, here is a list of other items to bring:

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Passport                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunglasses               | <input type="checkbox"/> Optional medications:<br>(i.e. Tylenol, Band-Aids, Imodium,<br>Benadryl) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bible                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sun Block                | <input type="checkbox"/> Cash in small bills (\$1, \$5 or \$10)                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Driver's License         | <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight               | <input type="checkbox"/> Shower shoes (flip flops)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Backpack for day trips   | <input type="checkbox"/> Camera and charger       | <input type="checkbox"/> Swimwear (optional)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Large sport water bottle | <input type="checkbox"/> Toiletries               | <input type="checkbox"/> Towel  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Toilet paper             | <input type="checkbox"/> Pens                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Hand Sanitizer   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Handi-wipes              | <input type="checkbox"/> Travel alarm clock       | <input type="checkbox"/> Journal  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Insect Repellent         | <input type="checkbox"/> Hat                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Food for lunch each day - (ideas<br>are listed in food section below)    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soap                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Earplugs (if preferred)  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shampoo                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Prescription Medications |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wash Cloth/Hand towel    |   |   |

Note: When you pack, you might want to consider putting your items in a large plastic bag (black garbage bags/large Ziplocs, etc) inside your luggage. Often luggage will sit outside on the tarmac and get wet if it is raining.

## CLIMATE

Haiti's climate is generally hot and humid. Some areas of the country are very dry and arid while others are somewhat lush. The rainy season runs from October to May. Other times you should expect clear skies and sunshine.



## ARRIVING IN HAITI

### SECURITY

For your personal security and the security of our group there are few simple things we will ask each team member to do while on the trip. Our Haitian staff asks us to be mindful of these guidelines:

1. Do not discuss details of our itinerary (where we are going, what we are going to do) with other Haitians except our Haiti staff. Please do not leave your printed itinerary where someone can see it, including your hotel room. Please put paper work in your suitcase or backpack.
2. Stay with the group in public street areas and crowds. We have seen isolated incidents where a group team member has left the group to take a "distance photo" and faced an attempted robbery of her purse/camera.

3. Ask your group leader about policies on leaving the hotel with a small group.
4. At night, stay inside the secure hotel compound at all times.
5. Please report any problems immediately to your group leader.

## IMMIGRATION

On the plane, you will receive a green immigration card to fill out before landing. There are some questions on the form:

- **Where will you be staying?** Le Plaza Hotel, 10 rue Capois (Champ de Mars), Port-au-Prince, Haiti
- **Do you have anything to claim?** No
- **Purpose of your trip?** Tourism

Please hold on to this and keep it with your passport. Upon arrival at the Port-au-Prince airport, you will pass through immigration. You will show them your passport and the immigration card. They will tear off the bottom portion of this form and place the other part back inside your passport. Please make sure to keep it there – you will need it again when you leave Haiti.

In addition, you will also need to have your baggage claim tickets issued with your boarding pass (sometimes they stick them on the back of your boarding pass). The trip coordinator will be there at the airport to meet you and will collect these baggage claim tickets.

## CLAIMING YOUR LUGGAGE

At the baggage carousel, claim your luggage and any packages sent with you. When traveling with a team, it will take a united effort to identify all luggage. Before you exit the airport, a customs agent will take your airline luggage claim tickets. If you did not receive all of your luggage, do not give away your luggage claim tickets for the luggage that did not arrive. Without the claim tickets, your luggage may be lost without recourse.

Put something on your bags that marks it for Hope for Haiti's Children (ex. brightly colored duct tape that reads HFHC on it). This will help all of us to identify your luggage.

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## LOST LUGGAGE

If your luggage does not arrive, contact the trip leader who will need to fill out a lost luggage report before leaving the baggage area. At the far end of the baggage claim area is a counter for claims. An airline representative will give you a lost baggage report form.

## TRANSPORTATION

Once leaving the airport, you will find that there is a very large number of airport porters in colored shirts outside the building wanting to assist you with your luggage. Unless your trip leader informs you otherwise, kindly tell these porters: "No, mesi" (No, thanks). The trip leader has already made arrangements for someone to help with the team's luggage.

We will be travelling by bus each day to the hotel/clinic/schools. We will need help to both load and unload the bus each day (also removing the trash). If you are able to assist with this, it will be appreciated.



## WHAT TO EXPECT DURING THE WEEK

### HOTEL

#### ELECTRICITY

The hotels in Haiti will have electricity and some run off of a generator. Often, the generators will run for only certain hours of the day (9 pm-8am, for example). The voltage is the same – 110V. Electricity is inconsistent and may go off at any time. Therefore, always be prepared and carry a flashlight.

#### INTERNET ACCESS & CELL PHONE SERVICE

Internet access is available at most hotels but is not always reliable. If you choose to bring a laptop or other mobile device, please pack it in your carry on. This is both for safety and security. Phone service through a few carriers is available but costly (check with your provider for international access). If you have an account through SKYPE (and an internet connection), you can talk for free to family members.

#### RESTAURANT

The restaurant will be preparing breakfast and dinner for us each day (included in the trip fees). Tipping is not necessary. If you would like to purchase a cold soft drink or bottled water, they are sold at the restaurant or bar but at an additional cost. In deference to the Christian community in Haiti, please refrain from ordering alcoholic beverages during our stay.

#### WAKE UP CALLS

The hotel may not be reliable for wake up calls. It will be a good idea to bring your own travel alarm clock. Each day will have a full schedule, so please make every effort to be on time for all devotionals & meal times.

#### SHOPPING

We will have a special time scheduled during the week to shop as a group for souvenirs from local street vendors. The merchants can be aggressive, but most will come down in price if you bargain with them. There are also Haitian gift shops at the Port-au-Prince airport for your shopping convenience when you leave. Most vendors and hotels will accept American dollars. It is best to bring small bills (\$1, \$5, and \$10). The current exchange rate is:

1 Haitian Gourde(s) = 0.0248004 US Dollar(s) OR \$1 US = 40.322 Haitian Gourde

Remember to always keep your money hidden and reasonably secure. When carrying cash in crowded public areas, keep a firm grip on your wallet or purse.

## GIVING AND DONATIONS

We will be giving gifts to the children in an organized way through the clinic, churches, and schools. Be careful giving gifts to children in unstructured, public groups. This may put you and the child in a difficult or dangerous situation.

### GIFTS TO SPONSORED CHILDREN

If you bring a gift for the child you sponsor or for a friend's child, please let the coordinator of the Gift Station know. They will be keeping a list of all children who have a "special gift" and can notify you when that child comes to the gift station so that you will be able to give that gift to them in person.

Recommendation: When packing special gifts, it might be best to make sure that what is given can fit into 1-gallon sized Ziploc bag. This helps the child to fit everything into their standard sized gift bag that all children will receive (which helps to prevent jealousy or danger of having their items taken from them).

### CHURCH SERVICES

On Sunday, we will have the opportunity to worship at the Delmas 28 Church of Christ in Port-au-Prince. Your presence will be a blessing to the Haitian Christians. An offering is taken at the church services. Feel free to give cheerfully (American dollars are happily accepted).

## FOOD AND WATER

### FOOD

We will be eating breakfast and dinner at the hotel each evening. Many of the restaurants will offer Haitian and American selections. The Haitian diet is made up of a variety of fruits, vegetables, grains and meats. Some of the most common dishes are:

- rice and beans, served with chicken, fish, goat or beef
- spaghetti with ham
- fried bananas

Eating foods you purchase from street vendors is not recommended. In addition, you will want to avoid green salads and other salads that are served cold.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** We will need to pack lunches for the days that we are there. Some examples of lunches:

- Packets of tuna or chicken with crackers
- Peanut butter snacks
- Fruit cups
- Nuts, trail mix
- Breakfast bars
- Applesauce cups
- Protein bars (non-melting)
- Beef jerky
- Cheese crackers

Keeping all foods in Ziploc bags is a good idea.

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## WATER

Bottled water (“Culligan”) will be purchased for the group. Each group will have an assigned “group leader”. Each morning, this leader will be in charge of filling up their groups’ water container so that everyone can fill up their water bottles for the day. Please remember to pack a water bottle for both you and your translator. This container will be taken with us to the clinic so that you can refill it throughout the day. Keeping hydrated is extremely important – so remember to keep drinking!

The water served at the restaurant and at the bar is bottled water and safe to drink. In addition, some of the hotels will provide a water bottle for you each day. Please only drink the water from our container, this provided water bottle, or from the restaurant. **You will want to use bottled water to brush your teeth as well.**

## CULTURE

While in Haiti, always remember that you are a guest in their country. Please act with appropriate humility, respect, and sensitivity.

- We encourage you to greet the Haitians with “Bonjou” before noon and “Bonswa” after noon. Many of them are learning to speak English and would enjoy practicing with you. Inter-personal relationships are very important to the Haitian people. Make sure to acknowledge them before you begin working.
- As we notice things that may seem peculiar or different to us, please be mindful of expressing them in a group. Many of our Haitian translators, leaders, or students will be with us at all times and may find something we say hurtful.
- Be cautious giving your personal address/cell phone/telephone number to your sponsored child or other Haitians. When in Haiti, do not give the details of where we are staying or our itinerary to other people.
- Some people do not want a close-up **photograph** taken. Be respectful and sensitive. Normally this will be to ask permission to take their picture, asking in Creole, “Un foto?” (pronounced *oon photo*). After taking the picture, tell them, “Mesi”. (pronounced *messy*)
- Please do not invite a Haitian (i.e. interpreter, teacher, minister) to the U.S. to visit. Passports and Visas are nearly impossible for average Haitian people to obtain and coming to the U.S. may hinder their desire and vision to minister in their own country and community.

Below you will find an overview of the basic beliefs of the Christians in the churches in which HFHC serves. As we seek to minister and serve, we ask that you respect these beliefs.

#### BELIEFS OF HAITIAN CHRISTIANS -- ASSOCIATED WITH EGLISE DU CHRIST CONGREGATIONS

- God created the world and continues to be active in relationship with it. God is one, but yet has three distinct personalities known as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit supernaturally guided men throughout the ages in writing down God's Word to man – recorded in the Bible.
- God created man in His image and loves each person intensely and desires that each person enjoy a personal, loving, eternal relationship with Him. God also created marriage which unites one man and one woman in a bond which God intends to last a lifetime.
- God is perfectly holy and cannot be in the presence of disobedient, sinful creatures. The glory of eternal life awaits only those who are perfectly without any sin. Everyone, however, when they reach an age where they recognize right from wrong, do sin and therefore are unworthy to enter into the glory of God.
- The sinless Son of God – Jesus Christ – became flesh and was crucified as a sacrifice for the sins of mankind. Raised from the dead on the third day, he lives and reigns today as King of kings and Lord of lords.
- God, in His mercy and grace, offers us salvation through our obedient faith in Christ and in what he did to save mankind on the cross. Through one's faith and commitment to become a life-long follower ("disciple"), Jesus' perfection is credited to a believer. In faith at baptism by water immersion, one is buried in recognition of dying to his old sinful self and in being born again into a living hope.
- At baptism, a believer receives the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit and God adds them to Christ's body – the church. The Holy Spirit gives a Christian strength in living a life that pleases and glorifies God. Guided by God's Word and encouraged by God's people, a Christian partners with God's Spirit in a life-long sanctifying process toward increasing Christ-likeness.
- Christians are commanded to show love to all and are to meet together each Sunday to praise God and encourage each other -- remembering Jesus in taking of the "Lord's Supper". Music during these gatherings is a capella singing (without instruments), expressed from sincere hearts. Christians financially contribute to help the needy and to reach others with the gospel of Jesus.
- The head of the church is Jesus Christ and no church hierarchical structure is recognized. Each Christian is a priest, accountable to Christ as High Priest, but connected to His body. Each mature local congregation is led by a group of male elders who are selected by the local congregation. Evangelists ("preachers") serve to preach the Word to non-believers as well as establish and develop local congregations of believers.

#### BOOKS ABOUT HAITI AND SHORT-TERM MISSIONS

[Serving with Eyes Wide-Open](#) by David Livermore

[Mountains beyond Mountains](#) by Tracy Kidder

[Restavek: From Haitian Slave Child to Middle-Class American](#) by Jean-Robert Cadet

<http://www.everyculture.com/Ge-It/Haiti.html>

<https://kuscholarworks.ku.edu/handle/1808/13312> - Downloadable English-Haitian Creole Dictionary

## LEAVING HAITI

If you choose to leave anything that you brought to Haiti with the Haitians for them to give away to the children, orphanage, etc., there will be an opportunity at the end of the trip to collect these items.

At the airport, you will need:

- The green immigration card you received on the airplane
- Your airline ticket or e-ticket
- You will be asked to show your passport

We trust that your trip has been the trip of a lifetime. Our prayer is that what God allowed you to experience during your time in Haiti will continue to affect you as you return home. We hope that you will partner with us in what God is doing in Haiti through Hope for Haiti's Children.

Do you have a story or testimonial to share? We would love to hear from you. There are so many ways that we communicate with our sponsors and supporters – through eNews, Facebook, our website, presentations, etc. With your own personal experiences, we can help keep the story alive of how God is working through HFHC to bring hope, healing, and glory to His name.

If you would like for us to send you any brochures or would like for someone from HFHC to come and speak to your congregation, please call or send an email to [missions@hopeforhaitischildren.org](mailto:missions@hopeforhaitischildren.org).

*Thank you for serving the Haitian  
people with Hope for Haiti's Children.  
May God Bless you for  
being the hands and feet of Jesus.*



## HAITI FACT SHEET

<b>Area:</b>	10,714 square miles (27,751 km)
<b>Population:</b>	10,110,019
<b>People:</b>	95% black, 5% white
<b>Religion:</b>	54.7% Catholic, 28.5% Protestant, but around half of Haitians may still practice voodoo
<b>Language:</b>	French, Haitian-Creole
<b>Age Structure:</b>	0-14 years: 33.28% 15-24 years: 21.64% 25-54 years: 35.78% 55-64 years: 5.11% 65 years and over: 4.18%
<b>Literacy:</b>	60.7%
<b>Capital:</b>	Port-au-Prince
<b>Government:</b>	Presidential Republic
<b>Time Zone:</b>	Eastern (no daylight savings)
<b>Currency:</b>	Gourdes
<b>Employment:</b>	40.6% are unemployed, more than 2/3 of the labor force do not have formal jobs
<b>Life Expectancy:</b>	63.5 years of age

### Interesting facts:

- Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere ranking as the most “food-insecure” country.
- Haiti occupies the western third of the island of Hispaniola. The Dominican Republic makes up the rest of the island.
- Haiti is located just 700 miles southeast of Florida.
- The name Haiti means “mountainous.” It is the Arawak Indian name for the island.
- The majority of the population does not have ready access to safe drinking water, adequate medical care or sufficient food.
- The mortality rate of Haitian children under the age of five is 10 times greater than that for children in the United States.
- Few social assistance programs exist and the lack of employment opportunities remains one of the most critical problems facing the economy, along with soil erosion and political instability.