

July Update

Note from the Founder:

As I think back to January 2000 and fast-forward to 2007, I can't help but think how far we at the Hope for Haiti Foundation have come. I am often reminded that the trip back in January 2000 was called a "survey" trip. Dear friends, supporters, and collaborators, the lives of the people who made that trip, the families who supported that initial group, and the church that commissioned the trip have not been the same. I can say that the lives of those people have changed, because they have professed it to me over and over again.

We often think and use the word "victim" in its most negative connotation, but over the last seven years I am proud to say that I have come to know a lot of victims. I call these people "the victims of Haiti's passion." Indeed, I have seen for myself what has happened to those who traveled to Haiti in the last seven years with HFHF—that the passion of the people in Haiti and their passion to live are inescapable. Those of us who have been fortunate enough to travel to Haiti have become entangled in such a passion, and we have had no choice but to transfer that energy into establishing relationships, trying to make a difference, and trying to change lives. The lives of the volunteers have changed because they have focused their energy on helping someone else. I believe that by living we change other's lives, the lives of those we interact with; in the end, our lives are changed. I believe that our ultimate purpose on this earth, besides serving God, is not just to get an education, get a good job, raise a family, and then say goodbye to the world; our purpose is living with a passion to make a difference in someone else's life.

For some of us that passion has been Haiti. I think everyone has their own Haiti, something that we are passionate about. The work that has been done in the last seven years in Haiti shows the results of your determination, because you have been involved in some way. You have either supported a loved one who has gone to Haiti to serve, prayed for those who have traveled to Haiti in spite of news of insecurity and instability, given your money to HFHF, or participated in the numerous activities that take place the stateside. You have raised funds through playing in or helping with the golf tournament for the last six years, talked to your friends and families about supporting the foundation, helped sell sporting goods at Duke football or basketball games, helped with garage sales, or wrote letters to your friends and families to convince them to support the foundation—you have helped, and you have made a difference.

You are well aware that our work in Haiti will continue for decades, requiring work for generations to come. Raising and equipping leaders and developing relationships do not happen overnight. Schools, clinics, churches, and hospitals are not built in the blink of an eye; time, effort, sweat, and perseverance are all part of the equation, and we must never give up. The work is difficult but rewarding. The travel can be overwhelming, both physically and mentally, but you keep going back; some of you now have been there at least eight times in the last seven years. That stubbornness is truly appreciated; without you, we would not be where we are today. Your efforts have enabled us to build a school where the kids can come and get an education. The pictures below will give you a glimpse of our projects in Haiti.



This is one of our eight usable classrooms that have been in operation since September 2006.

Your efforts have also enabled us to provide medical care to thousands since January 2000. In January 2007 alone, during a three-day medical clinic, we administered care to more than 1,600 people; here are some of the volunteers in action in Zorange.



Members of the team carried an elderly woman who was just too sick to walk (January 2007 medical trip, to Zorange, Baintet, Haiti)

The relationships that have been created are priceless.



*One of our volunteers (Liz) shares a moment with her patients
(January 2007 medical trip to Zorange, Bainet, Haiti).*

And there are plenty of others in action.



*A volunteer (Pat) cares for a patient
(January 2007 medical trip, to Zorange, Bainet, Haiti).*

As we continue to operate in Haiti, we have every confidence that your support will not waiver, your prayers will be unceasing, and your determination to help will be incomparable. We believe that we will reach our goals for the next twelve months. We plan to:

- Continue with the construction and complete at least five more rooms by September 2007
- Open a secondary school in September 2007
- Find a well-drilling company to drill a well in Zorange by January 2008
- Have a fully staffed and operational clinic by January 2008

- Conduct a mission trip in January 2008
- Establish a Bible training center by September 2008 in order to equip current and future church leaders

I consider myself one of the most blessed people on earth for having the passion to help Haiti, my beloved homeland. I often feel guilty for the joy that I experience just thinking about Haiti and planning a trip. I don't deserve this rush of energy; the excitement is sometimes unbearable. I also consider myself blessed because of the people that I have come to know personally or even just by name (there are plenty that I have not met yet and I may never meet); these people have made my dreams come true because they have partnered with me and my family to help a village, a district, and eventually a country. We have had both first and second generations teaming up and traveling to Haiti to help: We have had medical students, even a homemaker who has gone back to school to get nursing degree. We have had young people with a heart for God who will develop relationships with other young people in Haiti to serve God and help others in spite of the language barrier, which will be overcome eventually. I am honored to know so many of you who care, and I know we are just beginning.

I thank each and every one of you for your determination, your heart, your passion, and your hope for Haiti.

Sincerely,
Jean Elade Eloi