



LifePoint Serving in Haiti

Welcome to the LifePoint missions trip to Haiti. We are excited to have you as a part of our team, and trust that God will make this trip one of the most meaningful and fruitful experiences of your life!

This manual of information is designed to help you prepare for your ministry in Haiti. The manual includes due dates, support raising steps, a packing guide and all you will need to know as you prepare for Haiti. You will also find U.S. passport information and travel and vaccination information.

This might look a bit overwhelming at first, but don't panic! The packet will answer many of your questions. I suggest that you spend some time reading through everything so that you become familiar with all the information. We will be in touch with you periodically to see how you are coming along. If you have any questions, please call Brian at 407-399-8406 or e-mail him at brian@thousandhillsministry.org

May God richly bless you and teach you to trust Him more during this time of preparation. We are praying with you and trust He will give you great joy and anticipation for the work He will do through you!



We will be partnering on this trip with Thousand Hills Ministry. Our team leader will be Brian Stout who is the founder and director of THM. Thousand Hill Ministry serves to strengthen the church in Haiti. They support gospel-based economic & community development programs declaring the good news of Jesus Christ in word and deed.

Thousand Hills Ministry was founded in 2011 to support the life-changing efforts of Haitian Christians who believe God wants to bless their land and their people, through economic development and job creation.

By providing tools and training in agriculture, irrigation, and livestock care to church-based projects, they are helping demonstrate and declare the love of God to the people of Haiti.

Coming alongside local Christians as supporters and partners, they can help others in their community find hope and dignity as they are empowered to make a future for themselves.

Rather than creating dependency, we seek to call others to discover their destiny as co-laborers in God's kingdom.

Brian left a successful career in corporate America in 2007 after a short-term missions trip to Haiti opened his eyes to the needs in the developing world—and the opportunities to be part of the answer. Since then he has traveled to Haiti numerous times to help support local church initiatives. He helped found Thousand Hills Ministry in 2011 to focus exclusively on gospel-based economic development projects in Haiti. Brian and his wife, Kathy, have three children, and live in Lake Mary, Fla.

Financial Information and Due Dates

Trip Cost: \$1350

- *Round Trip Airfare from FL to Haiti
- *Hotel in FL (first night of the trip)
- *Housing and all meals while in Haiti
- *Transportation while in Haiti

Description	Due Date	Cost	
Trip agreement	March 19		
Deposit	March 19	\$350	
Passport	April 20	\$143 approx + photos	
Shots	(optional - talk to your doctor)		
Final Payment	May 21	\$1000	

Other Financial Responsibilities:

- *Travel to and from Fort Pierce, FL
- *Personal supplies(check packing list for needed items)
- *Spending Money (\$50-\$100 suggested maximum amount)
- *Fundraising for Ministry Project

Passport Instructions:

1. When you apply for your passport, make sure that you receive it at least 4 weeks before you leave for your Haiti trip. You can apply at <http://www.travel.state.gov> or in person at the County Administration Building.
*You will need two passport pictures to get your passport. These can be taken at the records office for \$8 or any Walgreens locations.
*You will need a certified copy of your birth certificate.
2. When you receive your passport, sign it and upload a copy to thousandhillsministry.org

Recommended Shots: Tetanus, Hepatitis A/B, Typhoid. Tetanus and Hepatitis A/B can given at your regular clinic. Typhoid will need to be given at the Seminole County Health Dept. 400 W. Airport Blvd. Sanford, FL 32773. 407-665-3000

Packing Guide

Cargo Allowance: On Missionary Flights International (MFI) each passenger is allowed as many pieces of baggage up to 50 pounds total. There will be an additional charge of \$2.00 per pound that exceed the weight limit. Please have cash to pay for any overages at the counter.

Trip Attire: Attire is explained in the FAQ section of the guide.

What to bring:

Passport (and a Xerox copy)
Bible and pen
Emergency Contact Information
Malaria Medication
Toiletries (110 volt electricity)
Towel and washcloth
Laundry bag
Water bottle (labeled with name)
Flashlight (extra batteries)
Small battery operated fans (you will need it)
Cash (in small bills)
Tennis shoes for hiking
Sunglasses
Mosquito Repellent with Deet
Hand sanitizer
Photo of Family (not extravagant)
Camera and charger/extra batteries
Any medications or medical equipment that you need (remember to bring 2 inhalers if you have asthma)

Comfort Items:

Reading Material for downtime
ear plugs
hat and bandana
mosquito netting
tissues & wipes
ibuprofen, ibuprofen PM, Imodium AD
Sunblock
chapstick
ziplock bags (XL bags can store dirty clothes
snack food(granola bars, beef jerky, etc)

FAQ's

Is it safe to travel to Haiti?

Yes and No. As with all countries, it depends on what part of the country you travel to. The US State Department has issued travel warning on Haiti continuously for a number of years. There is generally political instability, as is found in most third world countries. The capital city, Port Au Prince, is the hotbed for most of the unrest, though there are occasional manifestations in other parts of the country. UN Peace Keeping Forces are on the ground. Laciennne, our destination for this trip, is much safer. Our mission partners on the ground in Haiti will notify us immediately if a situation arises that makes it unsafe for travel.

Is it safe to eat in Haiti?

The food in Haiti is delicious, Caribbean fare. Rice, beans, chicken, plantains, pineapple and papaya are on the menu. The food is prepared safely. Of course, you would not want to eat from a street vendor or anyone other than our hosts.

Is the water safe to drink?

Yes, Purified bottled water can be purchased in Haiti and our hosts will provide ample clean, safe drinking water for the team. Be sure to bring a water bottle.

What are the lodging conditions like?

We will stay in the ministry house at Open Door church in Laciennne. The facility is secure, staffed and comfortable. There is running water and generator-powered electricity. They have showers and american flushing toilets. Haiti is always hot...and humid! This is where you small fans come in...

Do they speak English in Haiti?

The official language in Haiti is Creole. A small percentage of the educated also speak French. We will minister with translators, and the Haitian people are very eager to learn English, as it is a gateway to economic improvement.

Will I need to exchange money?

Haiti's currency is somewhat complicated. The currency is the Gourde. But don't worry about exchanging money. They will be happy to accept your American dollars.

How can I be reached in Haiti in case of emergency?

Pastor Wiljean Compere's phone number in Haiti is 011-509-34647407. Our Thousand Hills leader, Brian Stout's number is 407-399-8406. There is international coverage in Haiti through AT&T.

What do I wear for work projects?

Shorts/jeans are acceptable, although shorts must be the longer type(No running shorts), work boots, sneakers.

What do I wear for church?

Bring casual dress clothes. Men-Dockers/dress slacks & golf shirt or button up shirt. LADIES-skirt/dress should be knee length or longer and shoulders must be covered.

What should I wear for ministry?

Casual dress similar to what you would wear to church.

What should I wear for evening at the ministry house?

Comfortable clothing, i.e.. shorts, t-shirts, sandals/flip flops

What should I NOT wear? (Haitian Christian culture frowns upon these things)

Ladies - avoid tops with spaghetti straps/bare shoulders. Caution on the side of modesty. Avoid excessive jewelry and make-up.

Men - piercings of any kind, please remove for the trip.

ALL -if possible, cover any tattoos with clothing.

Haitian Cultural and Social Customs

Physical Affection

Hand Holding - You may notice boys holding hands as they walk or talk. This is purely friendship and carries no other significance.

Arm Holding - If someone has just washed their hands or has especially dirty hands, they will extend their forearm instead of their hand for a "handshake".

Bathrooms

Water - Water comes from rainwater captured on rooftops and guttered into cisterns. Water can also be purchased from a tanker truck . Water is precious; do NOT let it run. Take short, low volume showers.

Hot Water - There isn't any. Only the most luxurious buildings have hot water. Our facility does not.

Flushing - Due to the value and expense of water, toilets are often not flushed after "light duty" use. This is not negligence or lack of sanitation; it is conservation. They have a saying, "When it's yellow, let it mellow. When it's brown, flush it down."

Toilet Paper- Public toilets(if you can find one) are not equipped with toilet paper. Always carry your own in your bag. Some toilets will not flush any paper, so you may see dirty toilet paper in the waste cans. The toilets in the ministry house are sturdy enough to flush toilet paper.

Ministry Philosophy

Begging - You will be approached by many people, whether at the airport or in the village, who ask you for money, shoes, or some item you are wearing. We make it our practice to meet the needs of the people in Haiti through the local church and its leadership. We support the church and their ministries, and in turn they are able to meet the needs of the people.

As outsiders, we don't understand the culture, customs and real needs like the Haitian leadership of the local church does. We trust their judgement and allow them to make determinations on what needs to address. Working through the local church helps us to avoid encouraging a culture of begging and strengthens the church's impact.

Support - You may be asked by someone to help support them for a new business, for secondary school, college, marriage or some other need. Let this person know that you will pray for them, and that you will speak with Pastor Wiljean about their need.

Gift Giving- While in Haiti, you will develop relationships with the Haitian people. Some will become very dear to you. You will want to help them. These are our recommendations:

Candy/trinkets - You may want to pass out candy or bracelets to the children. Check with your team leader to make sure this is appropriate. When we do pass out these items, we always do so with the help of our Haitian leaders.

Gifts - If you would like to give clothes, shoes, sunglasses, tools or other items to a Haitian friend, please speak with your team leader about this. We will clear this with our Haitian leaders to make sure that it is appropriate. We typically leave these things with our Haitian friends our last day before we leave for the airport.

****Recommended Reading:** [When Helping Hurts: Alleviating the Poverty Without Hurting The Poor...And Ourselves](#) by Brian Fikkert and Steve Corbett.

About Haiti

Area: 10,714 square miles

Population: 9,900,000

People: 95% black/ 5% white

Religion: 80% catholic, 20% protestant, 60% voodoo

Language: Haitian-Creole, French

Literacy: 52%

Capital: Port-au-Prince

Government: Presidential Republic

Currency: Gourdes

Employment: 2/3 of the population is unemployed

Life Expectancy: 61 years

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 700 miles southeast of Florida.

The name Haiti comes from the indigenous Taíno language. It is the French spelling for the original word Ayiti, which was the native name given to the entire island of Hispaniola to mean, “land of high mountains”.

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 of children in the United States.

Few social assistance programs exist and the lack of employment opportunities remains one of the most critical problems.

History of Haiti

Haiti is a nation of over 9 million people in a mountainous country that is approximately the size of Maryland. Upon first landing on the north coast of Haiti in December 1492, Columbus noted, "The land is very high...with very good air." On Christmas Eve, 1492, the Santa Maria ran aground on a coral reef and was abandoned in Limonade Pass near Cap-Haitien, where its remains presumably still lie. Although Columbus gave Spanish names to many towns and harbors, the name Haiti (based on the Arawak Indian word meaning mountainous land) is still used today. While it was once rich in sugar, tobacco, coffee, indigo, and cocoa, Haiti is now the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere.

The indigenous population was completely wiped out shortly after the arrival of Europeans. African slaves were forced to work the French plantations. While French is the official language of the island, Creole (a blend of seventeenth-century provincial French and West African languages) is Haiti's national language and the sole language of 85 percent of the country. It is a matter of great Haitian pride that Haiti was founded over 200 years ago by slaves that threw the "yoke of their masters", the first independent black republic. The history of Haiti during the last 500 years has been tumultuous.

During the mid-1700's, Cap-Haitien was reported to have been France's wealthiest colonial city. It was famous for its beautiful architecture and was dubbed the Paris of the Antilles. Cap-Haitien, originally called Cap Francaise and then Cap Christophe, is the second largest city in Haiti, with an estimated population of 130,000 people. It is the major city for the 775,000 people in the Northern Department. It is situated on the northern coast bordering Haiti's fertile Plaine du Nord, which once produced sizable crops of sugarcane, tobacco, cocoa, indigo, coffee, and cotton for export.

It was in the hills bordering the Plaine du Nord near Cap-Haitien, in 1791, that the thirteen year battle began that would eventually lead the independence from France and freedom for the black slaves who worked the plantations.

Lacienne Church (founded 2008) Pastor Oclane Onesias

This is the area where Pastor Wiljean grew up. In August of 2008, Open Door Hinche was born. The church has quickly grown, with over 400 members now attending. They have now built their own church building, christian school as well as a mission house on Pastor Wiljean's family land, which he has donated to the church. God is doing great things through this church!

Map from Google Earth showing location in Haiti of airports and ministry campus.

