

## Important Update about Team Travel to Haiti

5/16/21

Dear Friends,

I hope you and your loved ones are well as we continue to navigate these unusual times. Friends like you are at the heart of our ministry, and we have greatly missed seeing you in person and serving with you in Haiti.

I am writing today to share a status update on volunteer teams returning to HOM mission sites in Haiti. **We currently expect team travel will resume no earlier than March 2022.** This decision has been made with the guidance of our Haitian leadership, with two main factors informing this timeline.

First, the COVID-19 pandemic – which thankfully has not hit Haiti too hard – is resulting in certain requirements by the Haitian government for those who wish to enter the country. Our Haitian partner MICECC is closely monitoring these requirements and making plans for any changes that need to be implemented in order to safely host volunteers from abroad on their campuses. Second, the 2021 Haitian elections are creating some uncertainty as the Haitian people are eager for a fair and democratic process. Assuming these elections result in the inauguration of a new President in February 2022 and election-related uncertainty passes, we would anticipate that teams could then return to Haiti.

While these factors are beyond anyone's control, it does not make the timeline for a return to Haiti any less disappointing. Our Haitian colleagues are eager for the return of volunteer teams who do so much and keep our ministry thriving, and we look forward to your return.

While team travel is on hold, please know that **we still need you**. In many ways, we need your support more than ever. Whether or not we can be in Haiti physically, maintenance is still necessary, construction of vital projects continues, patients need care, and students strive to learn. Over the past year, HOM has been blessed by the ways in which groups have supported projects despite the inability to physically go to Haiti. For example, one church has supported the construction of the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of a youth center at Repatriote, and another church has helped with necessary additions to the children's church at Cite Soleil. Another church supported exterior painting at the Terre Noire school.

I am hopeful that your team or church will also consider "adopting" a project. We have over 50 projects identified. Here are examples of some of our most pressing needs:

- Outfitting the science room at the Terre Noire primary school with new benches, tables, and equipment, as well as repainting.
- Providing interior finishes for the church kitchen at Repatriote, including a new stove, propane, sinks, windows, & doors.

- Financial support for the health clinic. The lack of visiting teams who typically bring essential supplies has increased what the clinic must now purchase. A unrestricted gift for the clinic would ease this financial burden.
- Hosting a school supply drive and shipping supplies to Haiti for the upcoming school year. Similarly, the lack of visiting teams means the schools are running low on essential supplies that students need to learn.

Please contact Ben Mitcham or Vince Tanner at [trips@haitiom.org](mailto:trips@haitiom.org) with any questions you might have and to discuss adopting a project. **Thank you for prayerfully considering these options.**

In the words of the Apostle Paul, “For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ” (Colossians 2:5). Thank you for being with our Haitian brothers and sisters in spirit during this time and for your faithful example of Christ’s love despite challenges.

Grace and peace,



Gary W. Fulton  
Executive Director

PS: Another great way to stay connected despite the distance is to hold a Zoom event. Pastor Leon or Nadege Gay are delighted to speak with your team or church to talk about the current situation on the ground in Haiti and in the communities we serve. Please let Ben or Vince know if you would like to schedule a conversation!