

Sharing the Gospel with the people of Haiti through evangelism, education and medical care in partnership with the Mission Communautaire de l'Eglise Chrétienne des Cités. (MICECC)

A Publication of Haiti Outreach Ministries



“LIFE GOES ON”

The reality of daily life in Haiti continues to be challenging due to the ongoing insecurity and violence, drastic cost increases, and lack of democratically elected government. Adding to all this came the June 2 and 3 heavy rains which led to massive flooding resulting in over 50 deaths and 40,000 households affected. One of the hardest-hit areas was the Repatriote community, and on the night of June 3, over 700 community members took shelter in our Repatriote church, sleeping on pews as they were driven out of their homes. Following the storm, Pastor Leon visited households who were left with 2-3 feet of filthy standing water inside their homes and basic goods such as clothing and bedding washed away.

Yet, life goes on. Our staff in all areas of the ministry – education, health care, churches, clean water, construction – continue to do heroic work, driven by unshakable faith and a desire to improve the lives of their brothers and sisters. When asked about the current situation in Haiti, medical director Dr. Suzie Plaisir says, “We cannot stay in a corner in fear. Yes, life is hard. But life must continue.”

The clinic continues to be on the front lines, treating approximately 85 patients per day. Anilus Jean, clinic administrator, reports an increase in the number of individuals, particularly children, seeking care; the courtyard is full with waiting patients before the clinic doors even open each morning. The recent rains have resulted in rising cholera cases, and both the clinic staff and the MASTAS community health project team have been engaged in prevention and treatment activities.

The education staff is on the cusp of concluding the 22-23 academic year. The four schools continue to serve as an oasis of love and stability for the 1,866 students served. Yet, the impact of the socioeconomic environment has been felt. Fritzon Tranquille, director of the Cité Soleil primary school, reports “This year, we encountered more students who had to be absent because of poor health and others who struggled with behavior because their environment is getting more violent.” The education staff is working hard to prepare the 9th and 13th grade students to take national exams. Fritzon adds, “We thank the Lord for allowing us to have a great year of school, despite the difficulties that our country is facing. God has shown his goodness to us.”

As this newsletter goes to press, the construction team is completing the final roofing, plumbing, and electrical work for phase I of the Bible College on the Espwa Campus. Seeing the first classroom building and related infrastructure come to life has Espwa living up to its name as a campus of hope. It is a tangible reminder that, thanks to the perseverance of the ministry’s staff, life indeed goes on.



Clinic patients praying in courtyard; Baryè Fè staff enjoy a laugh together; construction crew hard at work.

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A LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CAROLINE CHAMBRE HAMMOCK



The author Anne Lamott wrote a book several years ago with a title that has always stayed with me; it's called *Help, Thanks, Wow*. Her premise is that these three words

essentially capture our prayers in life - asking for guidance, offering gratitude, and expressing wonder. Certainly we do use many more words and phrases in telling God what's in our heart. But sometimes - depending on the circumstance - it's all we can do just to utter one of these prayer words, trusting that God fully knows the rest. Over the past several months in the life of this ministry, these words have come to mind for me many times.

Help was what I prayed when Leon and other Haitian staff started sending messages and photos on June 3 about

the heavy rains that wouldn't stop and the flooding that was taking place in the communities. The scenes were heartbreaking of people trying to hang on to their already meager possessions and attempting to cross huge swaths of water. And then the rain finally ended, but it was clear the water left behind was dangerously unclean. I prayed that, while Mother Nature is a fickle friend, God our Father would provide the help - and hope - so desperately needed by these hurting communities.

Thanks has been prayed more times than I can count in recent months. When I receive photos from Jacky of the schools, I am so grateful to God for her leadership, for the commitment of the entire school staff, and for the 1,900 students. As one administrator said recently, "For us in Haiti, it was a year not like any other one." Yet they have persevered, steadfast in their belief that education is the key to a better future for Haiti. I am so thankful for God's

protection over our staff and students during this challenging school year.

Wow may be my favorite prayer. When HOM shared the news of the flooding, supporters responded swiftly and generously to help. When cholera cases start to rise again, the MASTAS community health team quickly came up with a response plan. When it should have been his day of rest, Leon was bailing filthy flood water out of homes in Repatriote. When many new activities have been curtailed in Haiti, HOM's construction team successfully built us a Bible College. *Wow, wow, wow, and wow!*

God is good, and that is a prayer we can't say often enough.

Peace,

Caroline Chambre Hammock

THOUGHTS FROM HOM BOARD CHAIR CAROL VASSEY



Bon ete, friends! Summer (ete) often brings new adventures and long-awaited vacations. As most of you are aware, in Haiti June brought even more difficulties. Haitian families are dealing with so much upheaval - the skyrocketing cost of living, the day-to-day food shortages and the general insecurity they face just trying to live. Then the natural disasters occurred, which seem to happen in Haiti more than any of the other places in the western hemisphere. First on Saturday, June 3, Port-au-Prince suffered a torrential 24-hour rainfall that resulted in extreme flooding within just hours. Nine days later there were still two feet of water standing in our neighborhoods. Then, on Tuesday, June 6, there was a 4.9 magnitude earthquake in Jeremie, about 100 miles east of Port-au-Prince, on that peninsula that looks like a comma attached to the southern mainland of Haiti. While we mourn with those who lost family and homes, we can be thankful that the loss of life was lower than it might have been. All of this

wreaks havoc on families, farms, and homes, which in my mind seems like one catastrophe after another. I cry out in my prayers, "why, Lord, why?!"

Then I remember, even in the face of all this heartbreak, so much good remains actively at work in Haiti! First, all of YOU, our supporters, to have been so very generous in donating through the disaster relief option on the HOM website: MESI! THANK YOU! And to our partners in ministry, the churches and organizations who have been so quick to respond, MERCI! We are filled with gratitude and will work diligently to provide relief and rebuilding quickly to those in need.

John 6:28 tells us that Jesus was asked: "What must we do to perform the works of God?" And Jesus answered, "You must believe..." When people ask me why I care so much about Haiti, and remark that Haiti is 'a lost cause,' I tell them that I believe that God is still at work in the world, and ESPECIALLY in Haiti. With our brothers and sisters in Haiti, and our generous ministry partners, so much has been accomplished in Haiti, even in the last few months! The construction of the Bible College is well-underway (which provides employment to many ready-and-willing-to-work Haitians), clean water is being provided in our neighborhoods, the medical clinic sees more than 1,000 patients per day, and school has remained in session. As Ms. Jacky would say: "Bondye ap travay!"

Amen, friends? May our chorus of Amens echo in your hearts and prayers!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL MAKES A DIFFERENCE

by Trish Moneyhon

Vacation Bible School! I'm sure there are many thoughts, memories, emotions, etc. that resonate when we hear VBS! For us in the United States, we may think of summer evenings filled with kids' laughter, VBS songs we learned long ago and new ones we sing today, crafts, Bible stories, and snacks of cookies and Kool-Aid. We may have anywhere from 20-100 kids, depending on our area. We have so many resources at our fingertips to make it a memorable time for the kids and the adults. We also have the funds to get everything we need. And if we are honest, we really have all we need in all areas of our lives. We are really blessed. The purpose of that blessing is to be a blessing to others!

Vacation Bible School in Haiti is quite a different story, and today it's even more difficult given the civil unrest and unsafe living environment for everyone. The schools there are just now finishing their school year because of having to be out due to unsafe conditions. We cannot even imagine trying to get to school and be at school without worrying about if you're going to get through the day alive. That is their reality. Also, for them to not have school means that the kids may not eat either. It is the same for Vacation Bible School in Haiti. Our Haitian church partners are making plans to hold VBS from July 17 - August 11. The theme will be Jesus is the Greatest Peace. VBS Coordinator Cenot Fritznel explains, "The VBS team met, and we thought about selecting the lessons which are related to what we have right now as our biggest problems in Haiti. We will show what God did to deliver the Israelites from slavery and give them peace. The Egyptians did not have any power to trouble them anymore. And the Israelites received the word of God in the desert. We will be teaching a few actions of Jesus and present Jesus as the greatest peace... so when we have Jesus, we have peace in our hearts."

There will be 120 teachers and 600 children between the Menelas (Repatriote), Cité Soleil, and Terre Noire campuses. Cité Soleil will have two groups; one at Cité Soleil church and one for those living closer to Terre Noire. Again, this is due to concerns about traveling safely. The cost of everything in Haiti has gone up considerably too. Finding and being able to get the resources they need is difficult, but God is greater than any of our circumstances. The cost of food is very expensive too. The budget for the three churches to have VBS for this many people and to feed them each day is around \$23,130. That

sounds like a lot but think about this: The cost of food for the month for all three campuses is around \$13,827. They spend a week training their teachers and so they also feed them for that week. There are also monitors that will be working and are not included in the training so there's about 100 more people. Roughly 1,000 people will be fed spiritually and physically for approximately a little over a month. This cost also includes a picnic for all the workers as a thank you after the VBS is completed. Having the VBS also allows those parents that do have a way to earn money to have someone looking after their child from 7:30-12:30 PM which would be the time they would sell their goods at the market. I'm not telling you all of this to guilt you in to giving. This is just information for you to have and if God so moves your heart, then great!

There are so many aspects to Haiti in VBS. It's so much more than what we think of it. It means meeting a critical need for so many families. For the past several years, I have helped to raise the funds to keep VBS going in Haiti since it is not safe for teams to travel there. So far for this year we have secured \$18,575 and still need \$4,554. It is not too late to be that blessing! If your church has not thought about it, now is the time!



Activities of the 2022 VBS. The kids will do more activities like this during this summer's VBS! From top, making crafts, lunch, devotion time, sports.

You can give by donating online at www.haitiom.org and designating "VBS" or mailing a check with this designation to HOM, PO Box 942, Matthews NC 28106.

Thank you for being a blessing to the VBS program in Haiti!

RISE AGAINST HUNGER - A NOURISHING PARTNERSHIP



by Gary Fulton

Haiti Outreach Ministries is fortunate to have a long-standing partnership with Rise Against Hunger (RAH), to provide nutritious meals to the students who attend our schools and vulnerable patients at our medical clinic. Our partnership is especially important now as Haiti is facing a severe humanitarian crisis in which food is hard to find, and the food that is available is often-times prohibitively expensive due to Haiti's soaring inflation rate. UNICEF estimates that over 100,000 children are at immediate risk of starving to death. According to the United Nations, approximately 4.9 million people, almost half of the population of Haiti, are experiencing acute food insecurity.

RAH is doing important work. It's website says it "is growing a global movement to end hunger by empowering communities, nourishing lives and

responding to emergencies," with the goal of "Experiencing a World Without Hunger." We see the positive impact of RAH every day on our campuses.

Like many of you, I have had the privilege to participate in several volunteer meal packaging events through churches in my community. Each meal consists of rice, soy, dehydrated vegetables and a micronutrient packet. This means every meal provides

We are currently receiving two containers of food a year. This equals 570,240 meals per year!

Beginning in 2023 we are receiving funding from RAH through their Local Regional Procurement program. This critical funding enables us to purchase additional fresh food items and cooking oil to benefit the over 1,900 students who attend our schools. The food items we purchase with these funds include: maize, beans, tomatoes, onions, bananas, carrots and leafy vegetables, as they are available. This

Joanel, a teacher at Repatriote says, "It makes me happy to see the students have energy after they eat." He says they seem happier and they can focus more on their studies after they eat.

Hadassa, a student in Cité Soleil, says, "The food helps me to be smart and to work well."



Joseph, a student in Terre Noire, says, "Sometimes I come to school hungry because my parents do not have money to feed me."



needed calories and contains 20 essential vitamins and minerals.

It was exciting to see the Rise Against Hunger

meal boxes in the cooking area at the school in Terre Noire the first time I visited Haiti and then to see students eating the meals with big smiles on their faces. In January we opened our new kitchen at the Baryè Fè secondary school and began serving RAH meals daily to our secondary students.

additional support is a wonderful, life-sustaining gift during this time of even greater hunger and food insecurity.

The meals and support we receive from Rise Against Hunger provide more than nutrition - they provide the opportunity to learn without the distraction of hunger pains and they provide the possibility for malnourished patients to regain strength to be able to take care of their families. Nadege Gay, the former Assistant Superintendent, says it well, "The meals that RAH provides are a tangible way of caring for the students and expressing love." The meals provide hope in the face of adversity.

Luchina, a student at the primary school at Repatriote, says she is glad to eat Rise Against Hunger meals because, "they give me strength and energy so that I can learn in class and play during recess."

"Haiti Outreach Ministries is Rise Against Hunger's oldest partner, a very valued partner. Since the beginning of our partnership in 2007, we have been able to distribute over 7 million meals to the children in Haiti. The work we are able to do would not be possible without them."



HOM ED Caroline Chabre Hammock and Alzina Fasadeju from RAH.

— Alzina Fasadeju, Global Impact Program Specialist at Rise Against Hunger

MICECC SPOTLIGHT: DR. SUZIE PLAISIR CHERY

by Janet Horton

Dr. Suzie Plaisir Chery, a pediatrician and the medical director of the MICECC clinic, grew up in Port-au-Prince with her grandmother. When she was a teenager, one of her sisters who was 6 years old at that time fell out of bed and broke her left arm. She was taken to the hospital, but it took time to find an orthopedist for her treatment. That's when Dr. Suzie decided that when she grew up, she would be a doctor to help her family and other people in difficulty. Today, she says "It is always a pleasure for me to be in the company of children because their love is pure, absolute and sincere. I like to practice my profession of pediatrics and find satisfaction in the good health and development of these little beings."

Dr. Suzie came to the MICECC clinic through a former employee who asked her to cover for him a few days a week for two months. She accepted but those two days quickly became a full-time position. When Dr. Solon left, she was a natural choice to replace him as medical director. Under her leadership, the clinic is flourishing, and new programs implemented to expand the care provided. She says, "I am grateful for HOM's enthusiasm to support people who are in difficulty in terms of health and for the support I receive from MICECC. I am very happy to have a dynamic team at my side that gives body and soul to help me give good results." When asked what she would

like to change about her job if she could, she would like to celebrate World Children's Day with small gifts and toys for her patients and reward her dedicated staff with bonuses and other incentives to encourage them.

Dr. Suzie lives in Delmas (about 30 minutes by car from the clinic) with her husband of 17 years, Jean Marc Chery and her 16-year-old son Jean Marc Jr. and 14-year-old daughter, Rhode Annabelle Suzelée Chery. When not working, Dr. Suzie enjoys reading, hearing gospel music, talking with her husband, playing with her kids, and cooking. She participates in face-to-face scientific days (Haitian Society of Pediatrics) and distance learning (three scientific days with Boston Children Hospital per year). Her husband, who is a lawyer, political scientist and government official, is currently living in the United States because of the political turbulence. He is actively involved in the political life of his country. She encouraged him to take a sabbatical while waiting for the situation in the country to improve. She looks forward to the day when he returns, and Haiti is at peace again.



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC MEDICAL MISSION TRIP

Dr. David Rainey, HOM Board Member and veteran leader of medical trips to Haiti, has not allowed the current lockdown on Haiti trips to prevent him from helping Haitians.

Dr. Rainey knew that since 1933, Haitian expats have traveled to the Dominican Republic to work in "bateyes," sugar cane industry towns, and many do not return to Haiti after the harvest. Medical care and other services in these bateyes are very limited, and worker pay is low resulting in significant poverty.

Along with a team comprised of Dr. Joel Bruggen, RN Debra Snipe, HOM Executive Director Caroline Chambre Hammock, HOM Advisory Board Member Tom Lawson and ten Wake Forest Medical School first year students, Dr. Rainey traveled to Barahona, DR this past March. The team was joined by two familiar faces, former HOM interpreters Marline Jean Jacques and Paulinx Gedeus, who served as interpreters on this trip.

The team, supplemented by a Dominican doctor, set up mobile clinics at four different bateyes during the week, traveling from Barahona each morning. The team saw 70-100 Haitian and Dominican patients each day, primarily treating chronic illnesses like hypertension and diabetes along with children's skin problems.

"We had a great team of medical and non-medical folks along with 10 very energetic medical students," said Dr. Rainey.

"Untreated health issues are significant among both Haitians and Dominicans in these bateyes, and we were pleased to be able to serve them, especially when trips to Haiti are not possible".

The Dominican medical mission was in partnership with Iglesia Evangelista Dominicana, led by Pastor Pedro Kery, who for years has had a heart for providing medical and spiritual care for the bateye sugar cane workers.

The trip was an eye-opening experience regarding the unmet needs of Haitian immigrants and refugees living in the DR, and HOM/MICECC is considering how the ministry might be called to assist.



HOM translators Paulinx and Marline at work; mission team group photo.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

by Bob O'Brien

OVERVIEW

The first half year, 2023, has been very challenging for the Construction Group. While tasked with two major projects and several minor projects this year, Haiti's continuing unrest and massive inflation of 15-25% annually provided a challenging backdrop. With the absence of all visiting construction teams, we were blessed that several teams and individuals continued to send funds for maintenance and new construction. On a difficult note, the construction group in Haiti and the US had to say "au revoir" to Marcelin Joseph, our long-term Haitian construction manager who had the opportunity to relocate his family to the US on June 1st. We wish him all the best in this new phase of his journey.

Here are the highlights of activities the past six months.

ESPWA CAMPUS

- Construction was begun in February for Phase I of the Bible College. Marcelin and Emile had to negotiate with two rival gangs to bring construction materials onto the campus, then ensure they were not stolen in the process.



Completed Bible College classroom; Bathroom facility and Bible College building.

From February to June the project came out of the ground to completion. Photos show the finished exterior and the main classroom that can be divided into two separate classrooms when necessary.

- Construction of the toilet facility adjacent to the Bible College is about complete.

BARYÈ FÈ CAMPUS



A view of the 4th classroom building and kitchen facility at Baryè Fè.

- The addition of the third and fourth classroom building and kitchen (as seen above) necessitated the addition of a second generator to the campus. Thanks to Phil Hammond, our electrical designer and the work on site by Marcelin, Emile and electrician Junior Volcy, the generator room electrical panels (see below) were updated to provide sufficient power for the current buildings and the future buildings envisioned for the campus.



- Plans are underway to create more positive drainage of the campus after massive rain events to avoid unintentional lakes at Baryè Fè.

REPATRIOTE CAMPUS

- Design is underway to provide solar energy for the campus. The plan will involve adding 40 or so panels to the roofs.

Plans call for soliciting bids as soon as specifications are complete. With diesel fuel prices high and many times not available, it's the right thing to do.

- Regarding the Youth Building, funds are needed to complete the electrical, exterior painting and library tables/

chairs of the second floor. All other work is complete. The second floor will house a library and study area for the youth of all ages.

CITÉ SOLEIL CAMPUS

With the troubles in Cité Soleil, the raw water from the city that had been depended on as the source for the clean water treatment plant is no longer available. MICECC began relying on water trucks to supply for raw water, but now that source is gone. Therefore HOM/MICECC is planning on a hand dug well with a submersible pump to provide water for the clean water treatment plant so Cité Soleil residents can have a source of clean water.

TERRE NOIRE CAMPUS

- MICECC Haitian electricians successfully reinstalled the solar panels and have provided emergency lighting to the offices and Pierre's apartment. MICECC would like to see additional panels added to the array to connect the medical clinic and other facilities.
- Design work has begun on reroofing the medical clinic waiting area and diverting the water that collects in low lying areas around the waiting area.
- The roof above the old gift shop has begun to show signs of structural fatigue. Plans are going forward with replacing the roof without shedding water on neighboring houses.

CLEAN WATER REPORT

All four campuses report a total 259,200 gallons of clean water to the schools

and the communities we serve the first 5 months of the year. As noted above, Cité Soleil has been unable to distribute clean water since the end of April. Maintenance is ongoing by Poudy Wisly, the Water Manager and Maintenance Technician, and repair parts sent from the US have been received in a timely manner.

MAINTENANCE

Maintenance work is being coordinated by Tad Prewitt in the US and Poudy Wisly in Haiti. Items of major maintenance are subcontracted to skilled craftsmen in the neighborhoods HOM/MICECC serves. Maintenance funding continues to be a challenge for the mission.

OVERVIEW

My involvement with the clinic operations is now very limited. This is good, as our goal has always been for our Haitian staff and MICECC to manage the clinic. It is a testament to the excellent leadership of Dr. Suzie Plaisir and Anilus Jean, nurse and administrative assistant, that they are exceeding expectations. Despite the challenges due to the continued violence, unstable economy and staffing issues, the clinic was only closed two working days (for Carnival) and almost 4,000 patients were treated in the first three months of this year. Once the teams can return, we will look at how HOM can best support the clinic. Until then, I remain available to help only on an “as needed” basis.

CLINIC

- In addition to providing medical and dental care, the clinic distributes Rise Against Hunger fortified rice packages to people in the community.
- Plans for equipping an improved lab are under way, currently we are assessing the availability and cost of equipment and supplies. The clinic budget reflects funds allotted to this project.

2023 STATISTICS

General Care Patients	4,798
Pediatric Patients 0-5 y/o	1,293
Total Pediatric Patients	2,091
Ob-Gyn Patients	1,455
Total Medical Patients	8,344
Total Dental Patients	1,693
Vaccinations	Pediatric = 2,522 OB-gyn = 91

PARTNERSHIPS

- The Curamericas/HOM project to provide community based Maternal/Child health education in the Repatriote community continues. The team is conducting a baseline household census and has experienced some challenges in completing this due to the current socioeconomic environment. The team hopes to get the census completed this summer.
- We received a proposal from one of our supporters to create a dental coloring book in Creole for our pediatric dental patients and we look forward to seeing the finished project.

STAFF

- Over the last 6 months, the clinic has continued to experience staff changes – most recently one of the Ob-Gyns resigned and a full-time nurse left.
- Currently we have 17 employees with most positions shared by part-time physicians and nurses.
 - Dr. Plaisir, full-time pediatrician, Dr. Beauharnais and Dr. Netus, part-time pediatrician
 - Dr. Merilus, part time Ob-gyn (we will look for another Ob-gyn to replace Dr. Baptistin)
 - Dr. Gerestant, Dr. Louis and Dr. Dorvelus, part-time Generalists
 - Anilus Jean, nurse/administrative assistant
 - Edeline Miainvil, nurse/pharmacy manager
 - Lourdie Lafortune, nurse/dental assistant
 - Mirgline Médeus and Mireille Toussaint, staff nurses
 - Rose Cassandra Theophile, pharmacy assistant
 - Dr. Walter Joissaint, dentist
 - Jethro Raphael, registrar
 - Jackson Joseph and Raymouse Francois, cleaning staff

TEAMS

- There is no change in team trip status. We continue to be grateful for those teams that continue to support the clinic through donations. We ask that you share both the good news of the amazing work being done by our clinic staff and the need for support so that they can continue to serve our patients with adequate medications and supplies.
- Due to the lack of stable internet and electricity, we have placed plans for exploring telemedicine on hold until conditions stabilize, and we can resolve those issues.
- Following up on the Dr. David Rainey – led medical trip to serve Haitians in the Dominican Republic, HOM is evaluating the feasibility of additional DR mission trips.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CLINIC?

Contact Janet Horton, FNP at medtrips@haitiom.org. Clinic donations are always appreciated at haitiom.org/donate.

DONATIONS

Contributions may be made securely at haitiom.org or by mailing a check to:

Dawn Walker, HOM Financial Secretary
PO Box 942
Matthews, NC 28106

Designate your funds on the check memo line. Undesignated funds will be added to our general fund.



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MINISTRY NEWS



HELP US TURN 35!

Next year will mark HOM's 35th anniversary – a milestone to celebrate! We are in the early stages of planning a gala event and are looking for volunteers to serve on the event planning committee.

Interested in learning more or signing up? Email us at info@haitiom.org.

IN MEMORIAM: SHIRLEY ARMISTEAD, HELPED START HOM



Haiti Outreach Ministries mourns the passing of Shirley Armistead, wife of former HOM President David Armistead. Shirley passed away in March at the age of 86. She was passionate about Haiti from HOM's earliest days when a mission team from her church, Fairmount Christian (Mechanicsville, VA), served as the very first mission team in Cité Soleil. Leon reflects, "The Armisteads befriended me even before there was HOM. Our friendships brought HOM into existence. It was Shirley who recommended her lawyer friend to help us draft the by-laws for HOM and apply for the 501c3 status. Shirley's passing is not just the

loss of a good friend but of a family member."

HOM gives thanks for Shirley's life and long-time commitment to the people of Haiti.

HOM has a new website! We'll be adding more ministry news and updates to the Stories page in addition to our e-newsletter and social media sites.

CHECK IT OUT AT WWW.HAITIOM.ORG