



## HAITI MISSION, INC.

P.O. Box 694 Thibodaux, LA 70302

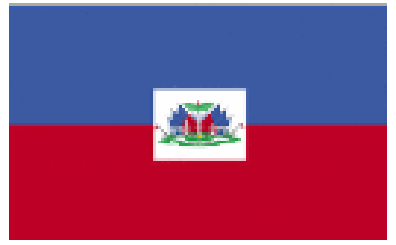
Phone: 985-438-0737

www.haitimissioninc.com

## Thanksgiving 2024

*"To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded."*

*Ralph Waldo Emerson*



## CENTENARIAN AND SOCCER



Maurice Léonce

After many challenges and many difficulties, we were able to open the first St. Bridget school in Numero Deux. After counting our blessings and praising the Lord, we realized that we had no recreation equipment. As good Americans, we brought a few basketballs, footballs, baseballs, bats and a couple of soccer balls! We soon came to realize that we could have left everything home except the soccer balls. What joy and glee did the kids express when we gave them those soccer balls! Thus began our attempt to bring soccer balls on each trip to give to school and families in the community. Shortly after letting it be known that we were accepting donations for soccer balls, the tragic demise of dear Nicole Davis (see her story on the HMI website) resulted in a tremendous outpouring of support in memory of Nicole. Then at some point in time, on one of the mission trips, the Fakiers met Mr. Maurice Léonce who requested some soccer uniforms and some balls. Little did they realize until later who Mr. Maurice was and what caliber of soccer player and coach he was. This is another one of those remarkable workings of Divine

Providence that has used the willing hearts and hands of HMI to bring about hope and encouragement in the people of Haiti. Read the remarkable story below of the 103 year old Mr. Maurice Léonce.

*A brilliant soccer star of the 1940s, he wore the colors of the Haitian Star while simultaneously practicing : sports animation, poetry and dance. At 21, he continued to practice football while becoming a sports instructor. At the end of his football career, he switched to coaching. He was part of the first coaches promotion formed by French technician Paul Baron. He would later obtain two more coaching degrees in Haiti, one of which was under the guidance of Greek coach Dan Gordianis. With three coaching degrees and a long experience as a physical educator, he embarked on coaching young people in order to prepare for the future by instilling in them a love of the country through sports in general and football in particular. Around 1964 under the regime of François Duvalier he went into exile in New York where he lived there 31 years before his return to Haiti in 1996 after having founded a football school in Queens with Frantz Saint-Lot. Maurice Léonce has published a collection of poems entitled Anacaona and is a coach of the "Grand'Anse École de Football" for the 6 to 14 years old that he founded in 2002 with his friend Guy Loubeau. In 2004, the Haitian Football Federation, decided to honor him, by awarding him a coaching diploma for his devotion to training young people. "You have to be a sacred sportsman like Maurice Léonce to get there, without any major handicap. This outstanding marathoner in the race of life, whose 103 years we are celebrating.. It is this man, full of vigor in his great age with infallible memory, whom we honor for his loyal services to the Haitian Nation," declared Minister Jacquet who "salutes with deference the imposing personality of Maurice Léonce who has a living human heritage of national and international renown.*

(A tribute to Maurice Léonce de Jérémie, who celebrated his 103rd birthday on September 10, 2024, was celebrated by Father Joe beginning with a special Mass in New York and then a special party in Numero Deux.)

For more information regarding how soccer balls can bring peace and joy to a world filled with hatred and violence, see [www.oneworldplayproject.com](http://www.oneworldplayproject.com)



Nicole Anne Davis – “Our Soccer Saint” May 12, 1989 – March 5, 2008

## Thanksgiving

Every year for Thanksgiving, Faie and I like to share this special message that expresses what is in our hearts and souls regarding an adventure we have been called to journey on with you. As always, we know reflecting on these words will be more than something a person does or feels, but is an offering that honors and glorifies God. Thanksgiving is a theme of many of the Psalms and a powerful means of charging us with spiritual refreshment. Biblical language speaks to God in praise and nurtures us with divine peace and comfort. Perhaps that's why thanksgiving is a command in the Psalms - "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever"(Psalm 107:1) as well as in the Prophetic Books - "In that day you will say, 'Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted'(Isaiah 12:4). In his wisdom, God knows our need to focus on his unconditional love for us and the positive results of a grateful heart. During this time when we are focused on helping our dear friends survive some incredible challenges, thanksgiving is very special. There are many reasons to give thanks to God this year! We know you will enjoy and appreciate them as we share our 2024 Thanksgiving message.

Faie and I give thanks for all of you who are on this HMI journey with us. We are so humbled and appreciative that you have responded to the "cry of the poor" via the HMI model and concept; so let us always be thankful: for God's greatness, for God's mercy - "Let them thank the Lord for his mercy" (Psalm 107: 8). for God's protection - "In God I trust, I do not fear. What can man do to me? (Psalm 56:12). for salvation - "I thank you, for you answered me; you have been my savior" (Psalm 118:21). for daily provisions - "...supplying the needs of the holy ones" (2 Corinthians 9:12). for God's grace - "...for the grace of God bestowed on you" (1 Corinthians 1:4). for healing - "...he had been healed, returned glorifying God" ( Luke 17:16). for victory over sin - The sting of death is sin,...But thanks be to God who gives us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:57).for all people - "...thanksgiving..for everyone" (1 Timothy 2:1). for everything - "...giving thanks always for everything"(Ephesians 5:20). And last but not least, "Thanks be to God!

With Joyful Praise and Thanksgiving

*Haiti Mission, Inc.*

## Prayer for our Governmental and Church Leaders

An important part of our daily prayer should be to pray for those in leadership of church and state. This has been part of our church history since humanity began but especially since Jesus came to save us and set us free. The following is from St. Paul's letter to Timothy. It certainly is as beautiful and practical today as it was then.

*I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. [1 Timothy 2:1-4](#)*

What a Thanksgiving! From a humble beginning of trying to help a few folks in miserable surroundings by building them a new house to now having built 375 as of this writing. Words cannot express what the effect of such an initiative has been on the lives of so many families. None of it could have been possible without so many minor and not so minor miracles happening along the way at just the time needed showing us what to do and how to do it. It also would not have been possible without the trust and financial sacrifices of so many of our friends and donors that have hung in there with HMI throughout the years. Most especially, none of this would have been possible without the inspiration of our dear little patron, Rebecca Claire Fakier, who continues to give her dad and mom new energy and enthusiasm to encourage all of us to do more to help those in need.

Meet two more of the families being blessed by your continued prayerful support of the work of HMI!



“Before”



“After”

Haiti House #371  
Micaëlla Pierre

Micaëlla Pierre and her husband, Delarge Overt, live in Numero Deux. To take care of their five children, she sells cosmetic products while Delarge is a painter. Micaëlla and Delarge have prayed for many years to be able to find land on which to build a house. We share her joy in being able to move from her terrible circumstances into her beautiful new home. She thanks all who have made their prayers a reality.

Haiti House #370  
Roudy "Diderot" Antoine

Roudy "Diderot" Antoine has long been known to those who travel to Numero Deux. He is still in school but has secured a small job with the HMI construction team which allows him to help himself and his father who is a widower. He is engaged to Michelene Louis who is in nursing school. Being one of HMI's most reliable, hard workers and known for his kindness, it is a great joy to see him start his married life in a new home. He thanks God and HMI for his blessings!



“Before”



“After”



3rd Annual St. Bridget Haiti Mission School-Numero Deux  
Teacher Support & Feeding the Children Appeal

We are thrilled to report that as of the beginning of the school year and the close of the special appeal on September 14, 2024, a total of \$24,220 had been received which includes the \$10,000 in matching donations. We were only \$780 short of our goal of \$25,000, however with our monthly contributors we will be in good financial condition to cover expenses for the 2024-2025 school year. The contributions will be split equally between the Teacher Support & Feeding the Children restricted accounts. Thank you! Mesi Anpil! Supporters of HMI continue to be amazingly generous!

We would also like to once again thank our dedicated monthly donors who contribute nearly 30% of the funds needed to keep St. Bridget School-Numero Deux open for approximately 300 students and 18 staff members. God has blessed the children at St. Bridget’s School-Numero Deux through your generosity! Together we can continue to serve God while “feeding his little ones, body, mind and soul.

HMI Teacher Support & Feeding the Children Team



Happy, healthy, smiling faces.  
It wasn’t always like this.  
Without your help it would  
be a much different story.

Upcoming Events and  
Important Dates  
in the life of HMI

May 12<sup>th</sup> 2025  
Haiti Mission 16<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Silent Auction/Golf tournament ECC

Hopefully, we will be able to travel to Haiti more often this upcoming year. If you are interested in travelling with us on one of our mission trips, please contact Dr. David Fakier at 985-804-3112 so he can advise you of availability and get you scheduled. God Bless you for your mission heart! (Passports must have at least six months left before expiration in order to enter Haiti.)

FAIE’S FACTS ...

SHIPS  
There are many ships that sail in the sea of life: Friendship, partnership, companionship, relationship, hardship. When the storms come to set you adrift, remember there is a ship which you can use as an anchor - WORSHIP!  
God Bless.  
Have a smooth sailing day.

Haiti Mission, Inc.  
POB 694  
Thibodaux, LA. 70302  
985-855-3127  
[www.haitimissioninc.com](http://www.haitimissioninc.com)



The political situation in Haiti is still such that food, fuel and basic living needs are challenging to get, and when available, have become much more expensive. This newsletter is dedicated to raising funds to help the families whom we have come to know and love in the villages around Jeremie, Haiti. Those families are especially hoping and praying that one day they may receive one of the beautiful homes that HMI has been able to build for many of their friends and neighbors. Anything you can do special this Thanksgiving season would be a wonderful blessing. May God bless you and your loved ones for your commitment to the poor by giving in whatever way the Holy Spirit directs you.

**Yes, Here is my immediate donation to use where most needed:**

**\$1000 \_\_\_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_\_\_ \$250 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_**

**“Special Needs”**

- \_\_\_\_\_ **\$4000 would sponsor a new home and get a family “out of the mud and into safe secure housing.”** (Even though the cost of constructing our Haiti homes has increased to \$9000, a \$5000 matching money for each home will be provided by funds raised from the annual silent auction through December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ **\$12 annual membership in the “Woman-to-Woman” club of Haiti that helps poor women get the medical treatment and other financial aid they may need.**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Here’s my help for feeding the children.**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ copies of A Tale of One Citie - From That to This. (Enclosed is \$20 per book & \$5 S&H per order) Please ship to:**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**This monetary gift is made in memory of \_\_\_\_\_,**  
**please send an acknowledgement card to:**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_ **Send me envelopes to be a monthly "helping hand”**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **I will be a prayer partner and pray for the Haiti Mission.**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Please put me on your email/info list. email:** \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ **I am interested in going on a mission trip. Call me @:** \_\_\_\_\_
- Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Haiti Mission Inc. is a 509(a)(1) tax exempt public charity under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code Tax ID#14-1861365*  
Haiti Mission, Inc. does not discriminate because of race, religion, sex, age, disability, national origin or financial status.

***“He who has compassion on the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his good deeds.”***  
**Pvb 19:17**

***THANKS FOR HELPING!!***  
***No donation is too small. No gift unappreciated!***