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Thanksgiving 2025

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

Ralph Waldo Emerson



Thanksgiving Message from Deacon Lloyd and Mrs. Faie



This Thanksgiving, we pause with grateful hearts.

We give thanks for the gift of life, for daily bread, and for the strength of community.

We give thanks for the resilience of the Haitian people, who continue to shine with courage and hope even in the face of hardship.

Even in the midst of the difficult and adverse situation in Haiti, we are grateful that God has made it possible for us to continue ministering as we have been called to do. Each meal served, each house built, each hand held, each life touched is a testimony to His faithfulness and to the compassion of friends like you who stand with us.

May this season of gratitude remind us that true thanksgiving is found not only in words, but in acts of love and solidarity.

As we share what we have, may joy multiply, may hope be renewed, and may peace take root in every heart.

From our family to yours, we wish you a blessed and meaningful Thanksgiving.

Gracious God, we thank You for Your unending love and provision. Bless the people of Haiti, strengthen those who serve, and inspire all of us to be instruments of Your peace and compassion. May gratitude dwell deeply in our hearts and may our lives reflect Your goodness.

Amen.



Volunteer Spotlight: Joe Cunningham's story

I first joined Haiti Mission Inc. in 2008 after my friend Gary Lirette encouraged me to go. Gary had introduced me to the mission a couple of years earlier after moving to Natchitoches from Houma, and he often told me how much I would enjoy going to Haiti. In August 2008, I finally went with him and Deacon Lloyd, and that one trip opened the door to eight more. It was through Gary that I also met Deacon Lloyd, Ms. Faie, David and Laura Fakier, Ken Trahan, Daryl Schonacher, and so many other incredible people whose faith and generosity inspired me to want to be a better version of myself. My first impression upon arriving in Haiti was simple but powerful: silence of thought, silence of self, and the realization to "get over yourself." Haiti was what it was because it stripped away distractions and

reminded me of the bigger picture, that we are there to serve, not complain.

One memory I'll never forget is of a young boy we called Neu Deux. His parents and twin brother had passed away, and he lived with his grandmother, hence the nickname, which means "two of us." He was smaller than the other boys and often left out, but when I gave him a small box of candy, he immediately shared it with everyone else. That moment showed me the unselfishness of the Haitian children and reminded me that mission work isn't about us; it's about them.

Mission work has also changed my faith. I asked my children to never say "I'm starving" again, because seeing true hunger gave me perspective. I've come to understand that there is something bigger than me and bigger than now. God will take care of what comes next, but in the meantime, He calls us to step in and help. That lesson has stayed with me and continues to guide how I live and serve.

Since those early trips to Haiti, my heart for service has only grown. I've volunteered with my daughter in Morocco, with my wife in Greece, and later in Poland and Ukraine, serving refugees in crisis. Each place has shaped my outlook, strengthened my faith, and reminded me to see life's challenges differently.

My advice to anyone considering a mission trip is this: leave "you" at home and arrive for them. Let your face show love, not pity. And remember, you don't have to travel across the world to make a difference; simple acts of kindness at home matter just as much.

4th Annual St. Bridget Haiti Mission School-Numero Deux Teacher Support & Feeding the Children Appeal

Over the past six weeks we have collected donations dedicated to Teacher Support and Feeding the Children. Approximately 300 children went back to school on October 1, 2025.

We are thrilled to report that as of the close of this separate appeal on September 14, 2025, a total of \$25,700 had been received! We had a few larger donations in the last week to help us surpass our goal of \$25,000! Based on the success of this year's appeal along with our monthly contributors, we will be in good financial condition to cover expenses for the 2025-2026 school year.

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.

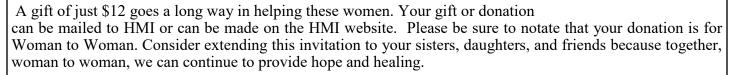
Woman to Woman Appeal

Every woman deserves the chance to live with dignity, health, and hope. Yet in Haiti, countless women face devastating medical bills they simply cannot afford. Many mothers go without essential treatment, leaving them unable to care for their families. Others suffer in silence, knowing help is out of reach.

Through our Woman-to-Woman Project, your generosity has already changed lives. Last year we collected \$4406 for this project. This year we are striving to reach \$5000 to meet some of these needs.

These donations go directly toward real and urgent needs:

- Bus rides so ill women don't have to walk miles to medical appointments
- Doctor visits and much-needed medicines
- Eye drops to prevent blindness
- Minor surgeries that women cannot afford on their own
- And many other necessities that bring comfort and healing



Your compassion today ensures that no woman is left behind simply because she was born into poverty. Together, we can carry forward the charity that Our Lord has instilled in us, lifting up our sisters in Haiti with dignity and love.



We're thrilled to share a milestone that belongs to all of us, house number 408 has just been completed in the Numero Deux region of Haiti!

What began as a dream has now become a growing community, one home at a time. Thanks to your continued support, another family now has a safe, dignified place to call their own. In a region where housing insecurity is a daily challenge, this new home represents more than just shelter, it stands for stability, resilience, and the power of compassion in action.

Join us as we celebrate this achievement, meet the family moving in, and look ahead to what's next.

Meet another one of the families being blessed by your continued prayerful support of the work of HMI!

Lucienne Jean Louis

Lucienne Jean Louis is a mother of 11 children and a widow. She has buried two of her children and her husband. She is proud to have 30 grandchildren. In her pitiful shack she lived with one of her sons who cared for the two of them mostly by farming. Now, praise God, that she has a beautiful new home near Ravine Sable, not only her son will live with her, but one of her daughters and 4 of her grandchildren as well. She praises God for His tender mercies and thanks the donors who made her new home possible.



Upcoming Events and Important dates in the life of HMI

May 11, 2026

Haiti Mission 16^{7h} Annual Silent Auction/Golf tournament at Ellendale Country Club, Houma, LA

