

HMI first began building homes in the Jeremie region of Haiti in April 2008. The homes were constructed based on a model put together by Father Jomanas Eustache in coordination with an architect and engineer. The homes were solid concrete foundation with smooth coat cinder block finish. The expense to build these homes began at \$10,000 and by June 2012 (because of the jump in material costs due to the January 2010 earthquake) had risen to \$12,500. At that price tag, HMI was only able to build seventeen homes over the five-year period.

We knew that if we were going to be able to help more families, we needed to try to redesign the homes and make them more cost-effective. We could see the difference the new homes were making for the families who received them, and we desperately wanted to help more people. And then God stepped in and introduced us to Fr. Meaux. We first met with Fr. Meaux at Applebee's restaurant in St. Martinville, LA. when he was in the states for an R&R and fundraising visit. He was gracious enough to invite us to visit his mission and compound in Kobonal, Haiti. In February 2013, my husband David and I traveled to Haiti with Deacon Lloyd Duplantis and his wife Faie to spend time with Fr. Glenn and get a better understanding about their home building project. We were able to witness firsthand what Cross Catholic and Fr. Meaux had been able to achieve. We set about making changes to the way that we were building homes and eventually came up with a structure that was very similar to the homes built near Kobonal. While in Kobonal we met, "Bingo", Fr. Meaux's second-in-command and several members of their construction team.

In 2013, HMI began dedicating all the donations from the Silent Auction to home construction. We came up with a plan to have Bingo and 10 members of his crew travel to Jeremie and to assist Dr. David and Deacon Lloyd in setting up the procedures for our "new" Kobanol/Numero Deux Model Homes. They helped train our construction foreman and crews and built three homes in three weeks. The second week was supervised by Pete Cavalier & Rudy Soignet. HMI negotiated for better pricing in Haiti, and we were able to reduce the cost from \$12,500 to \$7,500 per home while maintaining the quality that we felt was needed. The goal was to build one home per month and employ 10-12 Haitian men!

Because of the success of the Silent Auction, we decided to fund a restricted match for half the cost of the home (\$3,750). With the match in place, every combination of donors of \$3,750 enabled HMI to send funding to build a home. Since the institution of our new model homes in July of 2013 – June 2022 we were able to build Home #255, building up to four homes per month and employing 75 Haitian men!

Construction cost in Haiti increases like everywhere in the world, so we had a modest increase in price to \$8,000 for the next 91 homes built between July 2022 – August 2024. The last increase in price was in September 2024 and homes now cost \$9,000.

We are still building 3 homes per month at that price, while employing 75 men in the construction of these homes and should complete Home #417 by the end of 2025. God has a plan way better than ours!

We have been blessed for the past few years with a few major donors who have helped offset the extra we have needed. (The money that we raise in our silent auction is dedicated as matching money for house building donations. That allows the donors to dedicate a house for \$4,500 with the remaining \$4,500 needed to complete the house supplied by the silent auction donations.)

We will be forever grateful to Fr. Meaux, his construction team, and Almighty God for helping us put together this incredibly efficient and effective way of getting so many people out of misery into poverty that will allow them to grow and develop into the dignity that God intended for us all.

Laura Fakier

Updated: August 25, 2025

Dr David and Laura Fakier are the chairpersons for the Haiti Mission, Inc. annual Silent Auction. The Silent Auction raises matching funds dedicated to build homes for the people who live in the villages outside of Jeremie, Haiti. The Fakiers have traveled to Haiti nearly 30 times since 2009 and have personally seen the deplorable conditions in which many, if not most, of the inhabitants of the villages live. They have been blessed to witness the difference that building a home for a family makes in the lives of several generations. In their words, "It changes everything!"

**Would you like to help? Go to the donation tab and pick House Construction:**

**Each Home cost \$9,000**

**Half a House \$4,500** (\$4,500 match will come from the Silent Auction)

\$4500 covers half of the cost of the home and it can be dedicated in honor or in memory of a loved one

**Foundation and Walls \$2,000**

\$2000 will help to pay for the foundation and walls of one of the homes

**Rafters and Roof \$1,000**

\$1000 will help to pay for the wooden rafters and to place the tin on the roof of one of our homes

**Carpentry and Masonry Labor \$500**

\$500 will help to pay for Carpentry and Masonry Labor

**Tin Roof \$250**

\$250 will help to pay for the tin for the roof of one of our homes

**Wooden Shutters and Paint \$100**

\$100 will help to pay for the wooden shutters on the homes and paint