

# HAITI OUTREACH MISSION

Please note on your calendar.

**Our combined Haiti Outreach Mission 2014 annual meeting for the Board and all other interested persons**

**will be:**

**Sunday  
November 2  
2:00 PM**

St. David's Episcopal Church  
16200 West Twelve Mile Road  
Southfield, MI 48076  
<http://stdavidssf.org>  
248-557-5430

**We look forward to seeing you!**

This edition of the Haiti Outreach Mission Newsletter includes the good news regarding a new generator and repaired gate for the St. Pierre Clinic (page 2) and our need for an ongoing capital improvement campaign (page 7). Be sure to read the wonderful reflection Dr. Lesli Ballard wrote upon her return from this years mission trip. And do look at photos from the trip (pages 4,5,7) and photos of the clinic staff (page 6). Donations and fundraiser money goes toward paying staff wages. Page 8 lists fundraising events from the past year. Ron McKay from St. Blasé, one of our earliest volunteers, showed me his photos taken during the expansion of St. Pierre school in 2001. Many of them are reproduced on page 9 and 10.

Bill McNece



An Ecumenical Humanitarian  
Lay Mission

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charitable organization

5700 Crooks Road  
Suite 100  
Troy, MI 48098-4100  
248-474-3548

[www.haitioutreachmission.org](http://www.haitioutreachmission.org)

*MARK RIDLEY'S COMEDY CASTLE*

**St. David's Help For Haiti**  
**November 19, 2014**

**WHERE** COMEDY CASTLE  
269 E. Fourth Street, Royal Oak

**WHEN** Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-9:30 p.m.

**WHAT** A fundraising evening sponsored by St. David's in Southfield to help support the St. Pierre Medical Clinic in Mirebalais and a Haitian medical student.

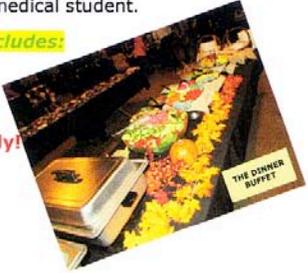
**This fun filled evening includes:**

- Silent Auction
- 50/50 Drawing
- Dinner
- 90 minutes of Comedy!

**COST** \$35 a ticket - Cash Bar







**THE DINNER BUFFET**



## A Generator for Haiti Outreach Mission's Medical/Dental Clinic!

During our May mission trip we discovered that we had power at the clinic early in the morning and after that – nothing. We were told work was being done at the hydroelectric plant and power was turned on only from 6PM to 8PM Monday through Friday as work making electrical repairs on the grid was continuing. (Power was slightly more reliable on the weekend.) We were also told that this work might continue for three years! Our dentist, Dr. Anthony, was particularly vexed, as without power, he could only pull teeth and only work until his instruments were all used. Without power the clinic's autoclave sterilizer did not work. So during our Mission trip Fr. Jeannot told us that the number one need for the clinic was a generator. The number two need was a new gate.

Anonymous donors were prepared to make a generator happen. Children at the St. Blasé Bible School raised \$900. And other individual donors from St. Blasé (at \$500 a piece) raised the St. Blasé total to \$3800! And then a Detroit based Haitian American organization, ESPOIR, asked HOM to apply for a grant. We did and they gave us \$1500. Then they gave us another \$1200! And a local physician who has been with us in Haiti donated! Others contributed who wished to remain anonymous. What a blessing!

A Kubota diesel 7 KW generator was purchased in Port au Prince, Haiti for \$5,800. John & Claudia Messina and Sam & Kate Messina volunteered to install it August 7-11, 2014. An important part of this process was an in-service given to Francois Mirtyl, the clinic staff member who will be in charge of the generator (see page 6). He learned the maintenance schedule and the proper procedure to start and stop the generator.

John Messina located a welder who was interested in the job to repair the clinics front gate. "I explained what we wanted and how I wanted it done. He quoted a price of \$220. I told him I would give him \$250 if he could have the gate at least hung by Sunday . . . After services (at St. Louis Catholic Church and St. Pierre Episcopal Church) we went to the clinic. Painting was being completed on the gates. I paid the man who repaired the gates the \$250 I had promised him, plus an additional \$30, for a total of \$280 for a job well done. As you can see from the pictures I am providing."



## Dr. Lesli Ballard Reflects on Her First Haiti Mission

When James (*Rector of St. Clare's church, Rev. James C. Rhodenhiser*) first asked if I'd be interested in going to (*Mirebalais*), Haiti as part of the May 2014 outreach mission, I was excited, but a bit concerned. I hadn't needed to think about tropical medicine much since medical school, and I was concerned about knowing and remembering enough to help. Also Mark (*Davis-Craig*) made it clear that the trip would be no picnic. Still, I had always wanted to be able to do something like this, and when my husband, very generously, said he could handle everything at home for a week, I said I'd love to go.

I had some misgivings on the way down. The rest of the group waited until we were in Miami to start talking about the giant spiders, which didn't make me happier. Still the people that I was with were all so wonderful, fun and kind that I felt that I could possibly even deal with spiders. My other concern was that they said the new Partners in Health (PIH) Hospital had opened in Mirebalais. PIH is Paul Farmer's organization, the person featured in the book "Mountains Beyond Mountains," who has long advocated a preferential option for the poor. What could we give that his organization couldn't? I wondered if we were really needed in Mirebalais given that the hospital had opened. It turned out that I didn't need to worry on either count. Fortunately, I never saw a single giant spider. Unfortunately, the hospital had so many patients attempting to receive almost free care that the wait to be seen could be a month or more. Instead of being unneeded, there were more people coming to our St. Pierre clinic than we could see. There were long lines of people waiting to see us every day, and there were even some scuffles at the door as people tried to push their way into the clinic. We were warned not to tell when our last day would be, because it would increase the desperation of the people to get into the clinic, and in the past people had even started throwing rocks.

Mark Davis-Craig was one of the missionaries who took on the toughest jobs. He occasionally was one of the people who worked the door and decided who got in. Ill-looking people, babies, very small children, and the elderly were allowed to come in first. Mark also was the one who shared a room with, and tended to, one of the volunteers who was injured the first day in Haiti. So before and after working a 12-hour day, Mark would help his roommate get dressed and get his arm in a sling. Despite that, the horrible heat that left many of us feeling ill, and a couple of volunteers getting symptoms of heat exhaustion, Mark never seemed to lose his energy and cheerful attitude. I was grateful that Mark was there, as this was a huge blessing, especially when my own energy was flagging a bit. Nancy (*Dr. Nancy Hopwood*) was also wonderful. She was completely unflappable, and it was great to have another pediatrician around who had done this before.

We were able to do a lot of little bits of good. I saw worse Ringworm than I had ever seen before, and a lot of Tinea Capitis, and plenty of Impetigo. I saw severely anemic children, so bad that they looked like they could be in cancer wards. I saw a lot of children who needed more food. We were able to give out simple medications. We had a fluoride team that went to schools, and painted the children's teeth with fluoride. We were able to give deworming pills. We were able to give out formula and multivitamins and



*Dr. Lesli was also a part of HOM's mobile medical clinic during our mission trip in May, here seeing a patient in Hinche*

prenatal vitamins to many of the people who needed them. We could have used even more. I asked the children with severe anemia to come back and get checked out in a few weeks to make sure that it was iron deficiency, and not something worse, and that it had resolved. (In the US we'd get lab tests to be certain of the cause, but this was Haiti, and what we had available was multivitamins.) I wished that I had brought more money. I occasionally handed out a few dollars to the most desperate cases, where kids seemed really underfed, or had a serious medical problem and really needed the registration fee for the Hospital, but I didn't bring that much. Other volunteers were doing the same thing, but had brought more money with them. They told us not to hand out cash when we first came, but most of us did occasionally anyway. I regret my initial decision to "follow the rules."

This was a wonderful, but complex experience. People who are fighting for survival are occasionally difficult when they are trying to get things for their kids. (Even if they didn't need medication, selling it might enable them to buy food, or pay school fees.) Still I felt that we were able to do some good for some of the people that needed it, and that is all that we can expect to do. If I am able to go again, I will be better prepared. I would like to go again, both because the need is there, and because the group of people that I got to work with was so wonderful, especially Dominique (*Dr. Dominique Monde-Matthews*). It was a blessing.



*Mark Davis-Craig at the front door of the St. Pierre Clinic*



*The other side of the front door with Rob Hoffman gate keeping*



*Fluoride team / Jodi Boyce-Thelen / Sr. Anne Murphy / Collège Mgr Rémy Augustin (middle school) / former St. Blasé Orphanage*



*Dr. Nancy Hopwood and patient in the St. Pierre Clinic*



*Prayer in the St. Pierre Clinic before seeing patients and giving fluoride treatments.*



*Dr. Dominique getting a history. Their mother died of cholera. Thirteen year old is raising her two sisters.*



*Rob Hoffman and Tom Maza working on the HOM water purification system.*



*Jan Ernst, Yoldie Esterlin and Cherie Thurner in the St. Pierre Clinic Pharmacy*



*Medical student Dr. Socrates Morisseau (supported by St. David's church) working by flashlight*

## STAFF AT ST. PIERRE CLINIC



*Yoldie Esterlin*

Yoldie is a nurse, in charge of the pharmacy and clinic manager.



*Claudette Pierre*

Claudette works at the intake desk and is one of HOM's longest serving staff members.



*Francois Mirtyl*

Francois's duties include maintaining the clinic generator and traveling to Port-a-Prince to buy medications.



*Marie Joe Joseph*

Marie is the custodian of the medical and dental suites.

## WALL PROBLEMS

It has recently come to light that a number of families that live near the St. Pierre clinic have no lavatory facilities. Some have dug a hole through the back wall of the clinic to gain access to the clinic toilets despite the fact that water must be carried to flush the toilets! In addition to other measures - HOM needs to repair the clinic wall. So -

*Our security wall/razor wire needs expansion and repair.  
Our water system needs to be rehabilitated.*

***We need to undertake  
A capital improvement campaign!***



***St. Blasé orphanage has transitioned into  
College Mgr. Remy Augustin, a middle school***



*College Mgr. Remy Augustin students anticipating their first HOM fluoride experience*

## Fundraisers in the Past Year

St. David's fundraiser at Mark Ridley's Comedy Club 11/13/13



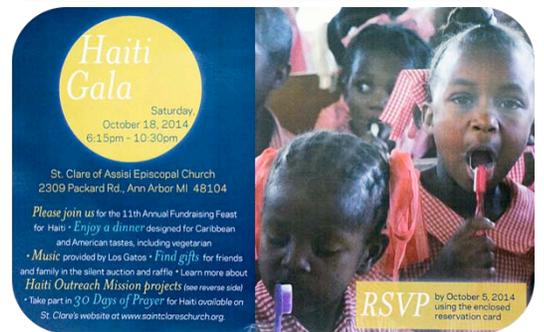
Billy McNeece's 8<sup>th</sup> Birthday party/HOM Fundraiser 11/23/13



Corpus Christi's The Haiti Dinner Event 5/31/14



St. Clare of Assisi Haiti Gala Fundraiser 10/18/14



RON MCKAY PHOTOS  
EXPANSION OF ST. PIERRE HIGH SCHOOL  
MIREBALAIS, HAITI  
2001



*Church on the right & school on the left*



*Herman*



*Lining up rows where wall will be made.*



*Joe, Herman & John*



*Taking shape!!!*



*Re=rod to form column*



*Almost done with wall*

*Most of the picture captions are redacted from comments written by Ron on the back of his photographs.*



*Ron McKay working at St. Louis*