

# Haiti Missions Trip Information



Haiti is located in the Caribbean Sea about 600 miles south of Florida. It shares an island with the Dominican Republic. It is the second poorest country in the world. It is a third world country with people of African descent. The primary language is Haitian Creole with the educated people speaking French. The currency is Haitian gourdes. The main religion is voodoo, or the worship of Satan, often mixed with Catholicism.

You will be staying in Walondry, Haiti with missionary Harry Peart and his family. Brother Peart and his wife Melissa have four children – Benjamin (12), Madelyn (10), Micah (7), and Bethany (5). The Pearts work closely with missionary Tim Bower and his wife RoseAnne. The Bowers have six children – Lloyd (15), Joshua (14), Michael (12), Samantha (12), Hannah (7), and SarahAnne (5). Also Dr. Anne Livingston, a medical missionary, lives with the Pearts and operates a medical clinic on the compound in Walondry.

The Pearts and Bowers are involved in church planting ministries in Walondry and surrounding villages. Also located on the compound are a Bible College, a Ladies' Professional School, and a Haitian elementary school. You will be introduced to each of these ministries, as well as the medical clinic, during your stay in Haiti.

You are coming to Haiti to use your talents to enrich the Lord's work in Haiti and to ultimately further the spread of the gospel. We hope your visit with us will be one in which the Lord does great things in your life and in the lives of the Haitians you will meet.

## **Preliminary Trip Information**

### **Travel Arrangements**

Our teams use Missionary Flights International to fly to Haiti ([www.missionaryflights.org](http://www.missionaryflights.org)). They are a mission organization which is very flexible in flying you and your supplies to Haiti.

Cost of Flight: \$450.00 round trip from Ft. Pierce, FL (You are allowed 50 pounds of luggage. Anything over 50 pounds will cost \$1.50 per pound.)

The flight leaves Ft. Pierce, FL around 6am on either a Tuesday or Thursday. You must make arrangements to either fly or drive to Ft. Pierce. The closest large airports to fly into is Orlando (Sanford) or West Palm Beach. You could then rent a car to drive to Ft. Pierce.

Before you make any definite travel plans, research the MFI website ([www.missionaryflights.org](http://www.missionaryflights.org)). They have very detailed information on rental car services and hotel suggestions.

American Airlines is the only large commercial airline which flies into Haiti. Please do not try to fly using this route. The flight only flies to Port-Au-Prince which is about a 10 hour trip for us. We fly into the airport in Cap Haitian, Haiti.

### **Passports**

A passport is required to re-enter the USA from Haiti. You may contact your local Post Office for information regarding passports.

### **Vaccinations**

The Health Department recommends that you have the following immunizations before you travel to Haiti:

1. Hepatitis A
2. Hepatitis B
3. Typhoid
4. Tetanus

You will also need to take a malaria preventative medication. Contact your local physician or travel nurse at the health department concerning immunizations.

Since you will not be in direct contact with blood borne pathogens (unless you come with a medical team) or eating outside the missionary's home, we only require you to have Hepatitis A, Tetanus, and malaria preventative medicine when you come to visit us.

\*For more information concerning travel to Haiti, go to [www.travax.com](http://www.travax.com).

## Personal Information Sheet

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Weight \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Nationality \_\_\_\_\_  
Passport Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Church \_\_\_\_\_  
Health Problems (e.g. asthma, heart problems, diabetes, etc.)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Current Medications (List name, dosage, number of times taken per day, and medical reason for medication.)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Allergies  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Work/Ministry Interests \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### In Case of Emergency Contact:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

### **Acknowledgement:**

I understand and acknowledge that there are risks involved in travelling to another country. I hereby assume any and all legal responsibility for personal injury and/or property damage or loss while on this trip.

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Packing List

- **PASSPORT REQUIRED**
- Hand Sanitizer
- Insect Repellent
- Soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, etc.
- Comfortable and cool clothes and shoes
- Hat, sunscreen, sunglasses
- Bible
- Camera (with extra batteries and film)
- Flashlight (with extra batteries)
- Lunch food (anything that does not need to be heated that you can eat for lunch)
- Snacks
- Bottles of water and a refillable water bottle
- A plastic cup with your name on it. If you drink coffee, bring the coffee and creamer (we have sugar and powdered milk).
- Battery operated fan
- Medications (Bring one month's supply in case you cannot get out of the country.)
- Epi-pen (if you need it for allergic reactions)
- Anything else that you think you must have. ***Remember there are no convenience stores or supermarkets in Haiti.*** You cannot run down to Wal-Mart to get anything that you need. If you think you need it, bring it.
- A willing spirit
- ***The ability to be flexible***

### **Dress Code**

**Men:** Work pants or shorts and old T-shirts for working. A shirt and tie is good for Sunday services. A golf shirt is appropriate for visitation and Wednesday services.

**Women:** Lightweight skirts, jumpers, or dresses which come to the knee. Shirts must be modest and not show cleavage or midriff. Please do not bring sleeveless shirts, shorts, or pants. You will need a cool but somewhat dressy dress for Sunday.

### **Do Not Bring the Following:**

- Hair dryers, curling irons, or anything electrical
- A lot of jewelry or money. You will have very few expenses (maybe \$20-\$50) while in Haiti.
- Tobacco products – **NO TOBACCO PRODUCTS CAN BE USED WHILE IN HAITI.**

## Haitian Language and Customs

Haiti is a third world country, the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Although they are very poor, most people are very friendly to outsiders. Here are some things you will want to remember:

- You will always be a novelty during your stay in Haiti. You will attract attention and draw a crowd everywhere you go. Get used to being called “blanc” (white). Since you are viewed as a rich American, you will constantly be asked for money. **DO NOT GIVE ANYTHING TO ANY OF THE HAITIANS.** If you feel led to give a Haitian a gift, ask the missionary first. **DO NOT GIVE OUT YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, EMAIL ADDRESS, OR PHONE NUMBER.**
- Do not promise to do anything for a Haitian (i.e. send something back, pay for school, etc.) unless you ask the missionary first. Also if you promise to do something and the missionary says that it is OK, please fulfill that promise. The Haitians will not forget that you made that promise and if you do not fulfill it, it is a bad testimony for the missionaries.
- Attempt to learn to speak Creole. When meeting anyone, it is expected that you greet them with “bonjour” in the morning and “bonswa” in the afternoon. When leaving, you say “bye-bye.” Not greeting someone is considered rude. The Haitian people take no offense at our clumsy attempts to speak Creole. They love to help you try to learn.
- Don’t forget your manners. The Haitian ladies that cook and wash for you love to hear you say thanks. Use “mesi” (pronounced like “messy”) for “thank you” and “souple” (pronounced like “sou-play”) for “please.”
- Never whistle in public. It is considered an insult, especially by older Haitians.
- Never cross your legs in public. For men, it is a sign of disrespect. For ladies, it is inviting a man to sit with you.
- Men with facial hair get more respect in Haiti. You may want to consider growing a moustache or beard for the trip.
- It is a custom in Haiti for men to hold hands with men and ladies to hold hands with ladies. It is not a sign of homosexuality.
- A Haitian woman may kiss another woman or man on the cheek as a greeting. Just turn your cheek and accept the kiss. A Haitian man should never kiss a woman for a greeting.
- Do not look shocked if you see a person relieving themselves or breastfeeding in public. Because the culture permits it, many adults bathe in public view, and children work in the gardens naked. You will see naked people. If this seems offensive to you, you may want to think twice about your trip.
- **Remember: You are not in America.** You are in Haiti. Things are different, but they are not wrong. A Haitian may not understand your English when you are making fun of their culture, but they can understand your facial expressions and body language. Please be respectful of their culture. Also, remember that after you leave, we, as missionaries, and our ministries, will remain behind. Please do not ruin our chances of ministering to an individual by your negative reactions to Haitian food, culture, or customs.
- When you are in Haiti, you will be affected by the poverty that you see. You will want to financially help every Haitian you come into contact with. Haitians need the Gospel first and foremost. It can change their lives, and God can give them a victorious and productive life in Haiti. Haitians have to learn to be content with their lives in Haiti just like you have to learn to be content with your life in the USA.

## Things to Remember

- You will stay with missionaries in their homes. Sheets, pillows, towels, and washcloths will be provided.
- We do have running water with showers and indoor toilet facilities. We do not guarantee hot water.
- We do have limited electricity and internet, but it is not guaranteed. Prepare your family that they may not hear from you until you return to Florida.
- We have filtered drinking water in coolers inside the house. ***Never drink any water that is not in a cooler from the missionary's house.*** Do not open your mouth in the shower. Always brush your teeth with the filtered water in the cooler.
- Water is the only drink you are guaranteed to have. We can purchase sodas or make tea or lemonade but only if those things are available. There are no diet sodas available in Haiti. If you need a special drink or if you do not like water, bring your own drinks.
- You will eat Haitian food for some of the meals. Please try the food and remember to say thank you to those who have prepared the food. Do not throw the food away in front of the Haitian ladies.
- We try not to waste in Haiti. Before you throw something in the trash, ask if it can be used again.
- Remember, your mother does not live here. Pick up after yourself in the bathroom, and keep your room neat. You are here to serve, not to be served.
- **STAY HEALTHY!** Always wash your hands before you eat anything. Do not eat anything until you are told it is safe to do so. Fruits and vegetables must be soaked in bleach water before they can be eaten. Never eat anything a Haitian gives you unless you ask the missionary first. Also, never buy or eat food that has not been prepared by the missionary or one of his workers.
- **NEVER GO OFF BY YOURSELF!!!!** Haiti is not a safe place. Do not leave the compound without permission. It is **NEVER** safe to go out at night.
- Plan for minor inconveniences like no hot water, no ice, no running water, short showers, etc. Be flexible and you will be fine.
- Plan on a change of plans. Things like muddy roads, getting stuck in the river, torrential rains, and other unplanned events are often God's way of giving you a special opportunity to minister that you had not planned on.
- Keep your passport and immigration card in a safe place.
- Do not leave your things lying around. Keep your things, especially your money, in a safe place.
- **Remember: You are not in America.** Things in Haiti can get unstable and violent very quickly. Always be alert and on guard. Do not trust anyone in Haiti that is not affiliated with the missionaries.
- In the midst of the busyness, make sure to take time every day to spend time with the Lord. The spiritual oppression in Haiti can be very strong. Make sure that you are at your best spiritually before, during, and after the trip. Before you come, make sure that you are saved and right with the Lord, and that it is the Lord's will for you to come. Get many people to pray for you while you are on your trip.
- Your missionary is there to help you. Always ask the missionary if you are uncertain about anything. We want your stay in Haiti to be a time that the Lord can use to better you spiritually.

## Permission Slip and Waiver Agreement

*Please sign and initial all that apply.*

The undersigned, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ hereby agree as follows:

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. We, the parents of \_\_\_\_\_, our minor child, hereby give permission to Open Door Baptist Missions (ODBM), and any agent thereof, including any missionary connected with ODBM, specifically Harry and Melissa Peart, to act in our place and stead as to said minor child for the purpose of a trip to the country of Haiti. We authorize ODBM and its agents to incur medical treatment of said child, obligating us for the expense thereof, (which we agree to reimburse to ODBM or its agents if paid thereby). We hereby waive and release any claim or action, by us or said child, against ODBM and/or its agents, for any cause of any nature, except for willful gross negligence. We agree to hold ODBM and its agents harmless for any expenses, cost, or claims related to this trip incurred by or because of our child. We understand that, as to said child, the entire risk of injury, disease, and so forth, during the trip to Haiti shall be borne by the undersigned and not by ODBM or its agents. We understand that Haiti is a poor nation, with many endemic diseases, dangerous wildlife, low health standards, and other risks. This release and waiver is made in light of that understanding. We also understand that, except as expressly set forth in writing by ODBM, all expenses relating to said trip shall be our sole responsibility.

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. The undersigned is/are intending to visit Haiti, with or without other family members, in connection with the ministries of ODBM. However, the undersigned will not be an agent or employee of ODBM nor have any other relationship with ODBM, but is simply acting as a volunteer. We/I hereby waive and release any claim or action against ODBM or its agents of any nature relating to said visit except for willful gross negligence of ODBM or its agents. We/I understand the entire risk of injury, disease, and so forth, during the trip to Haiti shall be borne by the undersigned and not by ODBM or its agents. We understand that Haiti is a poor nation, with many endemic diseases, dangerous wildlife, low health standards, and other risks. This release and waiver is made in light of that understanding. We also understand that, except as expressly set forth in writing by ODBM, all expenses relating to said trip shall be our sole responsibility.

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. I/we have read the additional materials furnished by ODBM regarding the trip and the expenses thereof. I/we completely understand and agree to the matters set forth therein and will comply, or instruct our child to comply, with all the terms, conditions, and instructions in such materials. I/we have read the ODBM documents on rules and conduct and I/we agree to abide by all the requirements and instructions therein. I/we have also read all of the hazards connected with the trip and I/we agree to take all risks associated therewith.

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_