

SUMMER MISSION TRIP APPLICATION—FOR **ADULTS**

Haiti

July 10 – July 17

THIS APPLICATION IS DUE TO PASTOR BILL HODGEMAN NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 2010.

“All around us we observe a pregnant creation. The difficult times of pain throughout the world are simply birth pangs. But it's not only around us; it's within us. The Spirit of God is arousing us within. We're also feeling the birth pangs.”

Romans 8:22-23, the Message

“The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor. They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations.” Isaiah 61:1-4

On Tuesday, January 12th, a 7.0 earthquake hit the nation of Haiti, leaving hundreds of thousands dead, and millions without food, water, shelter and medical assistance. Buildings crumbled, roads and neighborhoods were destroyed, and lives were changed forever. How does one respond to such unspeakable evil and suffering? What can we offer those whose dreams have turned into ashes?

On that very same Tuesday night, thousands of Christians gathered on hills to praise the Name of Jesus in their Native Creole. Unfettered by crushing loss, they boldly proclaimed their hope, confidence and trust in their Savior. What can we learn from these brothers and sisters who cry out in faith from the ashes? What can they teach us about pure religion, the reality of faith and the Father's heart?

*“Blessed be your name, on the road marked with suffering
Though there's pain in the offering, Blessed be your name.” --Mark & Beth Redman*

PURPOSE: To care for orphans and widows in their distress, to serve and encourage those who labor for the gospel in Leogane, Haiti, to gain a clearer and more vivid picture of the Kingdom of God.

COST: \$575 plus the cost of airfare (total: approximately \$1100)

OUR DOMESTIC PARTNER: Mission E4

Mission E4 is a non-profit, interdenominational ministry out of Hubbardston, MA. It aims to “connect the Body of Christ” and “equip the saints for ministry” (Ephesians 4) through local and global ministry partnerships and intensive discipleship and training. Mission E4 is active locally in central Massachusetts, and also has ongoing partnerships in Albania, Kosovo, Mozambique, the DR and Haiti.

OUR PARTNERS IN HAITI

Mission E4 works through local Haitians leadership in all aspects of its ministry. Currently, their partners in Haiti oversee refugee camps, medical clinics, churches, schools, orphanages and a number of para-church ministries. Their partners currently employ over one hundred Haitians (as crew chiefs, laborers, cooks, security guards, etc.) – which help to stimulate the economy and help locals to provide for their families.

What kind of work will we do?

Mission teams typically perform light construction, and help provide care and support at the various ministry sites (churches, medical clinics, schools and orphanages). In the aftermath of the earthquake, teams will work primarily on setting up refugee camps and medical clinics and rebuilding schools and orphanages. As of this writing, it is unknown as to the nature of the work that will be most needed in July—so a certain amount of flexibility is required on our part.

Right now, there is an urgent need for masons, carpenters, construction workers, doctors, nurses, orthopedic surgeons, architects and engineers. The skills these workers bring are essential to Haiti's healing and reconstruction. They can also serve to teach and guide unskilled members of the team.

Can I really be of use in Haiti?

Yes! There is plenty of room on this team for unskilled workers who have a teachable spirit and a servant heart.

What about housing and food?

At this writing, it is unknown what our accommodations will be—though they will certainly be humble. Team members should be prepared to have their taste buds stretched, and their comfort zones left far behind.

Will it be safe?

Yes, Mission E4 is committed to the safety of their teams. Their compounds are guarded, around the clock, by locals who know their neighbors, and the culture and language well.

What do I need to do to be prepared?

In addition to participating in the training and team building events described later in this packet, all team members are responsible for:

- 1) Talking to their doctor about the medical risks of traveling to Haiti and receiving any vaccines or boosters that the their doctor prescribes and
- 2) Securing a valid U.S. passport before departure. Please keep in mind that this process can take up to eight weeks and costs between \$60 and \$75.
 - a. For more information, visit: travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html
 - b. Please begin this process no later than April 1.

How big will our team be?

Our team will not exceed 30 members—approximately 15 students and 15 adults.

What will a typical day be like?

The daily schedule is intense. Team members wake up early and engage in solo and team devotions before breakfast. After breakfast, teams depart for their 8-9 hour work day. The work days are hot and humid. Teams return to rest, clean up, eat dinner, debrief, and relax as a team before retiring to bed fairly early.

OUR MISSION FIELD: Leogane, Haiti

- Leogane is a small coastal city, about 18 miles outside of the capital, Port-au-Prince.
- The nation of Haiti is home to approximately 9.5 million people, about half of whom are under the age of 20. About 90% of Haitians are of African descent.
- Virtually all Haitians speak Haitian Creole, and some also speak French. The literacy rate (66%) is the lowest in the region. Fewer than 30% of Haitians reach 6th grade. 80% of Haiti's college graduates are now living overseas.

- Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, with the average citizen living on \$2 / day. 80% of the population lives in poverty. 2/3 of the work force works in agriculture. Approximately 1/3 of the government's budget comes from foreign aid.
- The earthquake of January 12, 2010 changed the face of this poverty-stricken nation. Over 230,000 people have been identified as dead, and so far, over 300,000 injured have been treated. The Haitian government estimates that over 250,000 residents and 30,000 commercial buildings were destroyed—including 90% of Leogane's buildings, and many government buildings, schools, universities and hospitals. The earthquake left an estimated 1,000,000 people homeless, and without access to food and water.

ELIGIBILITY & REQUIREMENTS:

- You must be a current high school student.
- You must be:
 - Flexible, teachable, responsible, cheerful and willing to follow directions
 - Willing to sacrifice a chunk of your money and a week of your summer to be a slave to others
 - Willing to abandon your agenda for the sake of the mission of God & the people and communities we'll serve
 - Willing to serve others, no matter how different, no matter the task—without complaining
 - Willing to come alongside students to listen, encourage and teach/instruct with patience and care
- You must raise at least \$200 of the total trip cost, on your own, through work that is fairly paid for. You can raise over \$200, but not less. Any money gained through fundraising events or support letters does not count toward this \$200.
- You will be expected to participate fully in all of the following (unexcused absences* will not be tolerated):
 - Two Training Sessions (Sunday nights at 6pm; potential dates include: 3/28, 4/11, 4/22, 6/27)
 - Homeless Night and/or the 30 Hour Famine: Friday-Saturday, April 30-May 1 (dates tentative; details: TBA)
 - Special Worship Service and Fellowship Lunch with Scott Long (Mission E4) – Sunday, May 2nd (date tentative, details: TBA)
 - Team Building Day: Service Project, Saturday, May 8th, (*tentative*; details: TBA)
 - Team Building Day: Wilderness Education / Ropes Course, Sat., June 5 (*tentative*; details: TBA)
 - Mission Team Commissioning: Sunday, June 27, Morning Worship Service
 - Packing Party, Friday, July 9, 6-8pm, Fellowship Hall
- You will be expected to help with team fundraising and the gathering of any necessary supplies

TRIP COSTS (DETAILED)

- The cost of the trip will be approximately \$1100, and must be paid in full by June 6, 2010
 - Cost breakdown (where is the money going?)
- A \$50 non-refundable deposit must be paid upon acceptance of your application (*which goes toward your total trip cost*). Afterwards, you will receive a payment schedule.
- Team members are encouraged to initiate and participate in individual and team fundraising efforts.
- Partial scholarships will be made available to those in need, perhaps in conjunction with community service. Details will be forthcoming. Talk to Pastor Bill for more information.

* An unexcused absence is anything that could have been prevented by more careful planning and more stringent priorities. Unexcused absences would include: sleeping in, going to a friends house, forgetting, not having a ride, having too much homework, etc. Excused absences would include: a non-negotiable family vacation, an illness, a family emergency, a non-negotiable work day. *It is expected that you will put these dates on your calendar and, insofar as it depends on you, avoid scheduling vacations and work shifts on top of these dates. Translation: ask you boss for the day off or switch shifts with someone; if you parents ask for your input, let them know that you would prefer not to miss one of these events.*

HOW CAN I KNOW IF I AM READY FOR A TRIP LIKE THIS?

COUNT THE COSTS BEFORE YOU APPLY!

- This trip will be **emotionally traumatic**. The face of poverty is a shock to the system.
- The work, combined with the climate and our environment will be **physically demanding**. Nine hour work days, in the heat and humidity can be a stretch for some. Make sure that you're in good health.
- The trip will be **spiritually intense**. Every day begins and ends with worship and devotions. Our intimacy with and dependence on God will be of crucial importance.
- The trip will be **financially burdensome**. \$1100, plus additional costs (passport and vaccines for some). This will require a lot of work and attention in the months ahead.
- A commitment to this team will be **time-consuming**. In addition to the trip, there are training events, team building days, post-trip debriefing, personal and team fundraising, etc. Make sure that you can make these things a priority in the months ahead!
- The choice to go is both **humbling & sobering**. \$1100 would employ 20 Haitians workers for 11 weeks. This is an enormous investment, and you want to make sure that you are going for the right reason, and that you are eager to take on a posture of complete and utter surrender before God and your neighbor.

3) What challenges do you anticipate a trip like this will create for you personally? How can you, and how can the team prepare to meet those challenges?

4) What questions do you have for me?

DISCLAIMER

I have read through this packet and understand what will be required of me during this Mission Trip and also during the months leading up to it. I have counted the costs, and want to serve others in Jesus' Name.

Signature

Date

*****REMINDER: THE DEADLINE TO APPLY IS SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 2010. YOU MUST RETURN THIS COMPLETE APPLICATION TO PASTOR BILL BY THAT DATE!*****

*****UPON ACCEPTANCE OF YOUR APPLICATION, YOU MUST MAKE A \$50 NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT (payable to PSCRC) BY SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 2010.**