



# Mission Haiti, Inc. – Midwest

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“To spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ through a healthcare alliance with the people of Haiti.”

January 30, 2010

Friends of Haiti,

When our 2 Mission Haiti, Inc. – Midwest volunteers arrived in Saint Ard (along with 2 orthopedic surgeons who recently volunteered), there were 500-1000 patients awaiting care. There continues to be a steady stream of patients in the now free clinic. We have some of our regular Haitian doctors and some Haitian doctors who are not typically employed there working at reduced wages (the Haitian doctor's wages are normally \$400-700/month). Currently at the Saint Ard facility, there are Haitian doctors, a doctor originally from England, 5 doctors from Germany, 2 general volunteers from Canada, and an RN and dentist from the U.S. Helicopters come from time to time from the military to drop off supplies in our makeshift “helipad” – a large grassy area with a large “H” burn in the grass.

The orthopedic doctors are working long hours and cannot keep up. There are many crush-type fractures, some that are untouched by medical hands since the earthquake over 2 weeks ago. Many people are being seen who were hit by falling debris or from walls collapsing on them. Others have secondary infections due to hurried surgeries. Keeping a supply of food, medicine, and medical supplies is an ongoing problem. Patients with chronic illnesses such as diabetes are finding it impossible to find life-sustaining medication, which formerly was available in Port Au Prince. The road to recovery will be very long and painful.

All commercial flights have been postponed until February 19. The terminal building at the airport sustained major damage and there is talk of leveling it. Until there is a building there, there may not be commercial flights available. Without commercial flights, it is difficult to get our many medical volunteers into and out of the country. Two doctors are stranded at the clinic, as flights out of country are becoming harder to secure.

We get many questions relating to earthquake relief. We felt it appropriate to answer some of the most frequently occurring questions.

**1) When I called Mission Haiti, Inc. – Midwest, a person just answered “hello?” Did I have the right phone number?**

ANSWER: Mission Haiti, Inc. – Midwest is a small nonprofit organization that God is using to do big things. We are doctors, dentists, secretaries, stay-at-home-moms, all volunteering our free time so that all donations can go directly to help the Haitian people. So, yes, when you call, you are leaving a message on a home phone. Due to the earthquake, our number of phone calls, emails, and donations are up by 2000% - Praise the Lord! We are doing our best to keep up with the dissemination of information and replies to offers of help.

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**2) What is my donation used for?**

ANSWER: Your donation is used for medicine, medical supplies, relief supplies such as food, medical equipment, building supplies for the outpatient hospital, salaries for Haitian medical and support staff (we currently have provided jobs for 20 Haitians at our hospital), pay for Haitians who work construction for the hospital, shipping costs, and materials. We at Mission Haiti, Inc. – Midwest donate our time. Postage and printing costs are often donated. Our semis full of supplies are driven by a retired semi driver who volunteers his time to transport our supplies to the loading dock in Florida. We do all of this to keep our overhead as close to \$0 as possible.

**3) Why doesn't Mission Haiti, Inc. – Midwest accept stuffed animals or clothing (other than new or next-to-new)? Isn't something better than nothing?**

ANSWER: Even with a volunteer semi driver, it costs \$12,000-15,000 for the semi container and all other related shipping costs. With shipping so expensive, we want to be sure that the most needed supplies are shipped. We must be very careful about the size an item requires and the condition it is in.

**4) I want to go on a trip. What are the costs involved?**

ANSWER: The cost of a typical medical mission trip is \$500 plus the cost of the flight. Flights have usually been \$700-900 round trip from Indianapolis. All participants, including group leaders who sometimes travel to Haiti 4-6 times per year, pay for their own trip. Participants often do ask their church for support or send letters to ask friends and families to sponsor them. Again, this way we can maximize the amount of aid that goes directly to the Haitian people.

**5) I have medical training, why can't I go to Haiti now to help since it is so needed?**

ANSWER: Because commercial flights are currently suspended, we are limited to small groups on trips. We currently have enough medical volunteers who have been to our Saint Ard hospital in the past, and understand the manner in which our clinics are run. We do not have to spend any additional time instructing participants as to the "how" or "where things are" of our clinic. The need is so long-term; there will be many, many opportunities for first-time participants in the future. Please know we are very grateful for the many offers to help that we have received, but we can't utilize all those offers in these first few weeks post-earthquake.

**6) I am not a medical person (or I am medical but am not going to Haiti at this time). What can I do to help?**

ANSWER: On future trips, non-medical people can go and help in a variety of ways. We typically have about 1/3 of the people on any given trip who are non-medical. In the present, monetary donations can be made, and collections of food (rice, slow-cooking oatmeal, cooking oil, peanut butter, black beans) and medicine (adult and children Tylenol, adult and children vitamins – not gummy vitamins, saline eye drops) can be done to be shipped by semi once the ports are operational again.

**7) Is it true that my donation now is tax-deductible on my 2009 taxes?**

ANSWER: Donations to Mission Haiti, Inc. – Midwest made from January 12 – February 28 are tax deductible for either 2009 or 2010. Check with your tax professional for details.

Checks may be made out to - Mission Haiti, Inc. – Midwest, 3389 Alexandria Pike, Anderson, IN 46012. Donations by credit card can be made at [www.missionhaitimidwest.org](http://www.missionhaitimidwest.org).