

Dear Sir,

I will be at a mission in Haiti from 8-12 to 8-21 this year, and I am writing to you for two related reasons. First, I urge you to pray *diligently* for me (Romans 15:30). Second, I offer you lots of information, so that you can *pray with understanding* (1 Corinthians 14:15).

I am going there because *religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world* (James 1:27). I have not always supported short missions' trips. First, they can be too brief for un-practiced workers to be effective. I do have experience and training in the work I will be doing. My labor will be worth the expense. Second, they can be a vacation for spiritual thrill seekers. I met the real Haiti in 2008, and it still lives in my prayers and plans for the future. This is my first opportunity to act on a longstanding concern, not a passing fancy. Now I am excited to practice my religion wholeheartedly and have a purpose!

The situation in Haiti is one of pervasive poverty. Generations of bad governance have left the country in economic, moral, and educational poverty. Tropical storms and an earthquake have ruined most physical resources. There is no reserve to lean on, or seed to restart from. Fifty per cent illiteracy, 75% unemployment, and 90% destruction are the statistics of the situation, but an anecdote communicates the ethos better: A girl was given a dress, and she cried with joy, saying it was so beautiful that no one would ever know she was Haitian. Haitians are exhausted and ashamed, longing for escape from their identity of poverty.

Mission of Hope International was started in 2000, in Grand Goâve, Haiti. MOHI educates 600 children, houses 65 orphans, teaches farming best-practice, and mentors other charities in the area. It has started four churches, employed local workers to build roads, and coordinated all earthquake relief in Grand Goâve. I admire their long-term commitment to enriching the spiritual and physical lives of Haitians. The earthquake damaged MOHI's facility. Fifteen people from my church will spend every waking hour building a new school and easing the difficulties of teaching in temporary shelters.

If you enjoy giving money to this kind of trip, make a check out to Stow Alliance Fellowship with H004 on the memo line and send it in the included envelope.

When you pray for me, you might start by asking God for these things:

Endure I want to be resilient, energetic, and clear minded in long days of construction work.
Encourage I want to be perceptive of my team mate's needs, and especially able to edify them.

When you pray for my team, please ask Him for these things:

Be Unified The best results come from skills applied cooperatively and with a singular purpose.
Understand We need to communicate the Gospel and God's love in the Creole of the people there.
Be Healthy We are most effective with our minds, muscles, and hearts when our bodies are well.
Be Set Apart Alongside learning for minds and health for bodies, our spirits must also be prepared.

When you pray for Haiti, please ask Him for these things:

Be Stable Opportunities multiply and evil diminishes where earthly authorities are firm and fair.
Be Prepared The Body of Christ works such that as we get ready to work; the work is readied for us.
Have Revival The best way to enrich the character of men is to change their identity through Christ.

Thank you for reading this letter and bringing these things before our God,
Andrew Horsfall