



2011

Traveling to Haiti-Mission Trips with Faith in Action International



“We will reveal God’s Love
to the people by
facilitating sustainable
rural communities”

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FIAI Newsletter

FIAI Brochures

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Dear Friends in Christ,

We look forward to your visit.

As you see from our newsletters and brochures, we are involved in a variety of projects. The tree nursery project starts mid-January and runs through May. The literacy program begins in September and runs through March. Other projects, such as road repair and water projects, occur throughout the year.

The activities of short-term groups vary based on desires of the groups, the physical condition of members, the demands of the projects, and the season. Possibilities include:

- *building a rainwater reservoir at a church
- *construction projects
- *working in tree nurseries
- *helping with soil conservation projects
- *guest house updates
- *visiting schools and other locations of interest throughout the area
- *repairs to the FIAI office and/or our rented home

Everything we do, we do alongside the Haitians. Also, we never push work load as the reason for coming is not so much to “do” as it to “be” We certainly do appreciate the help though when needed.

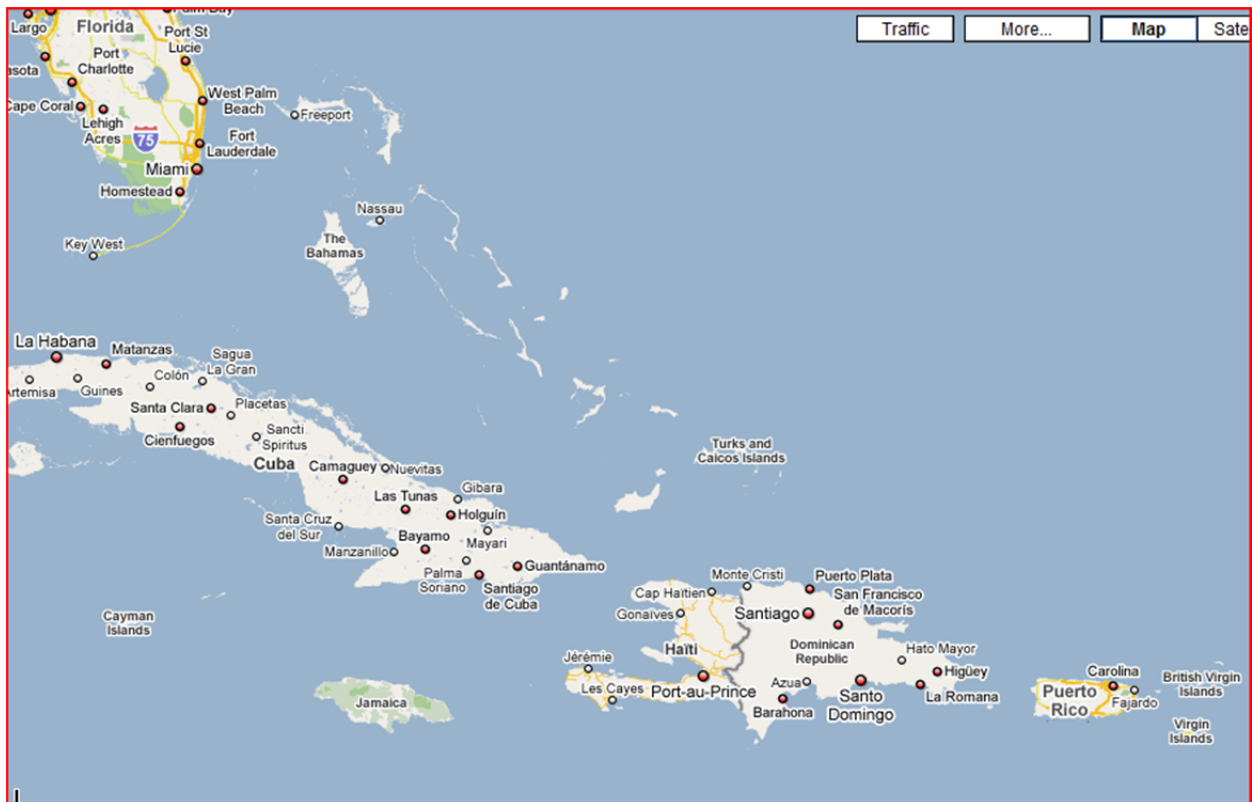
We usually finish work by 2:00 pm. We then rest, relax, socialize, journal, etc. A few nights may be spent in churches showing Christian films. I’m open to groups coming down that wish to work all day but have never had a group that wants to do that.

You will be staying at the guest house run by the Baptist School in Verrettes. There is running water and electricity. Rooms have fans. Evening meals are home cooked and bottled drinking water is provided. The guest house is in a gated complex and sleeps approximately 15 people in cot-like beds. The guest house is in a great location near downtown. It is somewhat “run-down” but very livable.

The day before the group flies home, we will visit a beach resort on return to Port Au Prince. We will have an opportunity to visit one of Haiti’s numerous beaches, eat a good meal, swim, and relax.

Thank you for decision to visit Haiti and the projects of FIAI.

In Christ,
Tom Braak



What is the Purpose of the Trip?

We hope to fulfill four objectives during our trip to Haiti. They are:

1. Learn about the work of Faith in Action international (FAI) and to discern if God might be calling you to become somehow involved in this mission.
2. Work alongside Haitian on FIAI projects.
3. Become briefly immersed in a culture of a developing country.
4. Spend time with people who have a great deal to teach us about faith, relationships, interdependence, and compassion. We will learn about the country culture, economics and faith practices of the Haitians. We will explore our responsibilities as fellow citizens of the planet, as Christian brothers and sisters and as neighbors of the Haitian people.

What will we do while in Haiti?

During the week in Haiti, we will be the guests of Tom Braak, the founder and director of FIAI and his wife, Ficilta. Each morning we will begin with breakfast and devotions. Then we will venture out from our guest house to work and play alongside Haitians. Following a simple lunch and an optional siesta, we may return to our work site or spend the afternoon exploring the village, visiting the mountain people and just 'being with' our new friends. We will also have opportunities to observe the many projects under FIAI's direction and attend a local worship service. Evenings will conclude with dinner and a time of reflection. In all of this, we will experience first-hand both the overwhelming beauty and the overwhelming poverty of Haiti and its people.

Through the above, as well as through Bible study, prayer, group processing and journaling, we anticipate that the Haiti experience will touch each of our hearts in unique and exciting ways. Come ready to be changed!

What is the Cost?

The approximate total cost of the trip will be \$1,450.

\$800 for airline ticket so if we are able to get tickets less than \$800, the trip will be less. (note: we have never paid over \$800).

\$650 includes all transportation, tips, three meals a day, beverages, and lodging while in Haiti.

Travelers are responsible for:

-The cost of immunizations, which can range between \$100-\$200.
(obtainable through your doctor of Public Health Department)

-Purchasing separate traveler's insurance which amounts to \$50-\$150.
This insurance policy should include an emergency air evacuation benefit.

-Obtaining and paying for your passport.

-Meals en route and any gifts and incidentals which you may wish to purchase.

What are the Expectations of the Travelers?

1. Attend all orientation sessions.
2. Participate fully in all aspects of the trip, including daily devotions, group processing, help with cooking and cleanup around the guesthouse.
3. Show respect for all people in your manner, dress, etc.

When Do I Have to Commit? Note: We will provide this information as each trip varies slightly. At times, we purchase airline tickets individually and the process may be slightly different than below.

Personal Data Form is due _____

When Do I Have to Pay?

First payment of \$800 is due _____

Second payment of \$350 is due _____

Final payment of \$300 is due _____

What Other Submittals Are Required?

Proof of Insurance is due _____

Signed Hold Harmless... is due _____

Copy of front page of passport is due _____

FYI:

Group booking of airline tickets is scheduled for _____

Airline tickets will be purchased on _____

Ticket cost thereafter is non-refundable. The traveler is responsible for the full cost of the airline ticket should he/she be unable to travel (your insurance policy may defray part of the cost for certain reasons).

Please make checks payable to Faith in Action International and send to:

Faith in Action International
Tammy Davison, Administrative Director
P.O. Box 171
Spring Lake, Mi 49456

Please write the name of the traveler and “Haiti trip (plus date of trip)” on the memo line of the check.

Faith in Action International

Mission Statement:

“We will reveal God’s Love to the people by facilitating sustainable rural communities.”

Status:

Faith in Action International (FAI) became a 501(c)(3) charitable organization in 1999. The Board of Trustees is based in Michigan. All donations to FAI are deductible as allowed by law.

History:

FAI began in 1997 when Tom Braak embarked on a journey to Haiti. He felt God calling him there. His desire was to help the Haitians improve their standard of living. He settled in the village of Verrettes which is located in the Artibonite Valley. Accompanied by an interpreter, Tom began talking with individuals and groups in the mountains in order to learn about their problems and discuss possible solutions.

It is the philosophy of FAI to help the people help themselves. In December of 2001, a 10-year vision statement was developed by local farmers, and is as follows:

1. Water
 - Quantity
 - Quality
2. Economic Stability
 - Small loans for business start up
3. Farming System
 - Animal husbandry
 - Agriculture and reforestation
4. Nutrition
 - Education
 - New crops introduced
5. Education
 - Adult literacy
 - Youth Education
6. Shelter
 - Improved methods
 - Adequate shelter for all

As of December, 2008, we have met many of these goals; however, our help is still needed and continues.

Summary of Health Information for Travelers to Haiti from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Important - Please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/travel/destinationHaiti.aspx#vaccines> for the most up-to-date health information regarding travel to Haiti.

Recommended (there are none that are required) Immunizations:

See your doctor or county health department 6 to 8 weeks before your trip to allow time for immunizations to take effect. Please keep your Certificate of Vaccination with your passport.

Hepatitis A – You have a choice between a series of two injections of Hepatitis A Vaccine (Havrix) or one injection of gamma globulin. Either of these is highly recommended. The vaccine seems to be more effective. If you choose the canine, it should be taken one month prior to departure and a booster had one year later. This will give you protection for at least 20 years. Transmission of hepatitis A can occur through direct person-to-person contact, through exposure to contaminated water, ice, shellfish, fruits, vegetables, or other foods that are eaten uncooked.

Malaria – Aralen (500 mg) – Take one pill one week prior to departure, weekly while in Haiti, and weekly for four weeks upon return. You will need a prescription from your doctor for Aralen (7 pills total). Take on the same day of week. Malaria is a serious disease and can be deadly. Humans get malaria from the bite of a mosquito infected with the parasite. Protect yourself against mosquito bites.

Typhoid – Can be contracted through contaminated drinking water or food, or by eating food or drinking beverages that have been handled by a person who is infected. OCHD recommends this for travelers to Haiti. One injection is good for two years. An oral vaccine if available. Total of four capsules, one taken every other day with the series to be completed one week before travel to Haiti. The oral vaccine provides immunity for five years and is thought to be more effective. Pharmacies usually have to order this.

Booster doses for tetanus-diphtheria (within 5 years) if needed. Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) if not vaccinated or have no history of disease, should be vaccinated.

Other Diseases

Food and Waterborne Diseases – Make sure your food and drinking water are safe. We will use bottled water without ice, and our cooks have been taught to use necessary precautions in food preparation. Food and waterborne diseases are the primary cause of illness in travelers. **Traveler's Diarrhea** can be caused by viruses, bacteria, or parasites which can contaminate food or water. Infections may cause diarrhea and vomiting, fever, or liver damage.

Dengue – is transmitted by mosquitoes. There is no prevention other than to avoid mosquito bites.

Hepatitis B – Most short-term workers to Haiti do not receive vaccine for Hepatitis B as the risk is very low. It is recommended for health-care workers who might be exposed to blood, or to those who stay longer than six months in Haiti. If you are concerned about the possibility of needed hospitalization while in Haiti, then you might consider this vaccine.

Summary of Health Information for Travelers, continued...

What you will need to take with you

A copy of your prescriptions, or better yet, a letter from your doctor on his/her letterhead explaining that the medication has been prescribed for you.

Carry medications in their original containers if possible. See 'what to bring' section for additional information.

Staying healthy during your trip

Wash your hands often with soap and water, or if your hands are not visibly soiled, use an alcohol-based liquid hand sanitizer to remove potentially infectious materials from your skin.

Drink only bottled water or carbonated drinks in cans or bottles. Avoid tap water, even to brush your teeth. Avoid ice cubes. Keep mouth closed during showers. Take your malaria prevention medication before, during, and after travel as directed. To prevent fungal and parasitic infections, keep feet clean and dry, and do not go barefoot, even on the beaches. Swim in ocean only where directed by Tom. Protect yourself from mosquito and insect bites with repellents (see previous pages). Avoid dairy products, unless you know they have been pasteurized.

Do not eat food purchased from street vendors (unless it can be peeled such as a banana) or food that is not well cooked to reduce risk of hepatitis A and typhoid fever. Do not drink beverages with ice. Do not swim in fresh water to avoid exposure to certain waterborne diseases. Do not handle animals, especially dogs and cats, to avoid bites and serious diseases.

After you return home

Continue taking your Aralen (500 mg) weekly for an additional three to four weeks. If you become ill with a fever or flu-like illness after you return home (for up to one year), seek immediate medical attention and tell your doctor your travel history.

Miscellaneous Information

Sanitary Precautions – Do not go barefoot. Inform leaders promptly if you have any symptoms of disease or illness. They can usually recommend simple remedies and/or seek medical care for you. Drink lots of pure water, even when you may not be thirsty. Dehydration is common, but can be prevented. Always carry your filled water bottle with you!

Passport/Insurance Cards – You will need to bring your insurance card (not a copy) and your passport. Please make a copy of your passport and insurance card and mail to FIAI for your file.

What to Bring? Pack Lightly

Clothing: (clothes can be washed or pay to have it done in Verrettes)	Health-Related Items:
3-4 shirts/blouses	20-day supply of prescribed medications (additional due to unexpected delays, loss; split meds between carry-on and checked luggage)
2 comfortable pairs of shoes (suggest tennis and/or sandals); you could be hiking up hot, rocky roads.	3 Aralen tablets (chloroquine) for malaria protection (if you decide to take them)
Socks, bathing suit, underwear, pajamas, and a wide brimmed hat	Spare eyeglasses or contact lenses
Men:	Benadryl or Ammonia stick for insect bites
2 pair of lightweight pants (jeans are too hot)	Anti-diarrheal medicine
2 pair of shorts	Vaccination certificate
Women:	Important Health/medical documents
2-3 skirts (definitely wear a skirt in Port au Prince. Most women in Haiti still wear dresses/skirts all the time. Pockets are good.	Mosquito repellent with 25% DEET or more. In addition to DEET and Aralen or as a substitute, some begin taking large doses of garlic pills several days before travel and spread garlic bulbs around their bedroom
1-2 pairs of capri-type slacks	Sunglasses
Longer shorts can be worn in Verrettes	Sunscreen lotion and lip protection
Leave jewelry at home (exception, a simple wedding band)	Antibacterial wipes or alcohol-based hand sanitizer
Personal Items:	Sleep aids and/or earplugs for light sleepers
Washcloth, towel	Small packet tissues
Soap and Shampoo	
Other toiletries as needed	Miscellaneous:
(110 volt electricity is sometimes available)	Airline tickets, passport, cash (\$100)
Other:	
Small bible, journal, pens	
Camera, film, and extra batteries	
Small gifts for children (coordinate with Tom Braak first)	
Small flashlight	
Day-pack (small)	
Small travel money pouch or document pouch	
Snack foods (chocolate will melt)	
Light weight clothes hangers	
Water bottle-one liter size (critical), you may want two	
Bandana	
Copy of important documents in case of loss (also good to leave a copy at home)	

Creole (Kreyòl) Language Basics

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Creole is written phonetically. Each letter is pronounced, and each word is spelled as it is pronounced. Creole has only been recognized as the official language of Haiti in the last few years. Therefore, there are many different ways in which the Haitians write and spell Creole words. There is an official standard that has been set, and this standard will be maintained in this publication. The following is a pronunciation guide using this standard; most of the sounds are French.

ch-share chache-to look for
o-claw fo-strong
e-aim ede-to aid, help
ou-you ou-you
e-leg mesi-thank you
r-(not rolled) respire-to breathe
g-go gen-to have
l-see is it-here
s-(always s) prese-in a hurry
j-(avoid the d sound) jou-day
y-yes pye-foot
o-toe zo-bone

There are nasal sounds in Creole just as there are nasal sounds in French, which are pronounced partially through the nose, but without the "n" itself pronounced (a rare exception to the general pronunciation rule of pronouncing every letter). Some English equivalents which come close to the nasal sounds are as follows:

an-alms dan-tooth
en-chopin pen-bread
on-don't bon-good

A. When a nasal sound is followed by another "n", or "m," the nasal sound is pronounced, then the "n" or "m" is pronounced separately.

B. If an accent is placed over the vowel, there is no nasal sound.

C. In never indicates a nasal sound.

The letter c is only used in the ch combination.

The letter k is used for the hard sound.

The letter s is used for the soft sound.

Creole (Kreyòl) Language Basics, continued...

CREOLE - ENGLISH

Bonjou! - Good morning!
Bonswa! - Good afternoon!/Evening! (used after 11 AM)
Komon ou ye? - How are you?
N'ap boule! (most common greeting and response) - Good!
Wi - Yes
yo - they, them
Non - No
Mesi - Thanks
Anmwe! - Help!
Non, mesi - No, thanks
La - There
Tout bagay anfom? - Is everything OK?
Pa kounye-a - Not now
Toupatou - Everywhere
Anyen - Nothing
Preske - Almost
Atansyon! - Attention!/Watch out!
Prese prese! - Hurry!
Dife! - Fire!
Rete! - Stop!
Kounye-a - Now
Nou ap chache... - We are looking for...
Souple, ban mwen... - Please give me...
Separe sa ant nou - Divide this among you
Ye - Yesterday
Jodia - Today
Demen - Tomorrow
Maten an - This morning
Apremidi a - This afternoon
Aswe a - This evening
Ou byen? - You OK?
Mwen pa two byen - I'm not too well
Mwen malad - I'm sick
Te gen yon aksidan - There was an accident
Nou bezwen yon dokte/yon mis touswit - We need a doctor/a nurse right now
Kote lopital la? - Where is the hospital?
Kote li ou fe mal? - Where does it hurt you?
Li ansent - She's pregnant
Mwen pa ka manje/domi - I cannot eat/sleep
Mwengendjare - I have diarrhea
Mwen anvi vonmi - I feel nauseated

Souple - Please
Merite - You're welcome
Pa gen pwoblem - No problem
Oke - OK
Eskize mwen - Excuse me
Mwen regret sa - I'm sorry
Gen... - There is/are...
Pa genyen! - There is/are not any!
Mwen pa genyen! - I don't have any!
Sekonsa! - That's right!
Piti piti - A little bit
Anpil - A lot
Gen anpil... - There are a lot of...
Isit - Here
Tout ko mwen cho - My whole body is hot
Mwen toudi - I'm dizzy
Nou bezwen pansman/koton - We need bandages/cotton
Mwen grangou - I'm hungry
Mwen swaf anpil - I'm very thirsty
Nou ta vle manje - We would like to eat
Konben - How much?/How many?
Poukisa? - Why?
Kote? - Where?
Kisa? - What?
Kile? - When?
Ki moun? - Who?
Kijan? - How?
Kiles? - Which?
Eske gen...? - Is/Are there...?
Eske ou gen...? - Do you have...?
Eske ou ka ede nou, souple? - Can you help us please?
Kote nou ka achte...? - Where can we buy...?
Eske ou ka di mwen...? - Can you tell me...?
montre - show
ban - give
Ki moun ki la? - Who is there?
Kisa ou vle? - What do you want?
Kisa ou ta vla? - What would you like?
Kisa ou ap fe la? - What are you doing there?
Kisa sa a ye? - What is that?
Sa k'genyen? - What's the matter?
Kisa pi nou fe? - What must we do?
Eske ou te we...? - Have you seen...?
Eske ou pale angle/franse? - Do you speak

Code of Ethics for Travelers

- Travel in a spirit of humility and with a genuine desire to meet and talk with the local people.
- Be aware of the feelings of other people, thus preventing what might be offensive behavior. Remember this especially with photography.
- Cultivate the habit of listening and observing, rather than merely hearing and seeing.
- Realize that people in the country you visit often have time concepts and thought patterns different from your own. Not inferior, just different.
- Discover the enrichment that comes from seeing another way of life, rather than looking for the 'beach paradise' of the tourist posters.
- Acquaint yourself with the local customs. Respect local customs; people will be happy to help you.
- Cultivate the habit of asking questions instead of knowing all the answers.
- Remember that you are one of thousands of visiting tourists. Do not expect special privileges.
- If you really want a home away from home, why travel?
- Spend wisely. Remember when shopping that the bargain you obtain is only possible because of the low wages paid to the maker.
- Make no promises to local people unless you are certain you can fulfill them.
- Reflect daily on your experiences; seek to deepen your understanding. "What enriches you may rob or violate others."
- Choose to be surprised, not disappointed, when places and people do not match your expectations.

How to cure culture shock and be a better traveler

Learn before you go and give everyone a little wiggle room, says travel guru Rick Steves



By Rick Steves

Tribune Media Services

Many Americans board a plane for an overseas destination without fully realizing that they are flying into a completely different culture. Some experience culture shock: a psychological disorientation caused by immersion in a place where people do things — and see things — differently.

Most cultural groups develop separately, with their own logical (as far as they're concerned) answers to life's basic needs. While every culture is ethnocentric, thinking "we do it right," it's important for travelers to understand that most solutions to life's problems are neither right nor wrong. They are different. That's what distinguishes cultures. And, for a traveler, that makes life interesting.

Americans, like all groups, have their own peculiar traits and ways of doing things. It's fun to look at our culture from a wider perspective and see how others question our sanity. For instance, we consider ourselves very clean, but when we take baths, we use the same water for soaking, cleaning, and rinsing. (We wouldn't wash our dishes that way.) The Japanese, who use clean water for every step of the bathing process, might find our ways strange or even disgusting. People in some cultures blow their nose right onto the street. They couldn't imagine doing that into a small cloth, called a hankie, and storing it in their pocket to be used again and again.

Once when I was having lunch at a cafeteria in Afghanistan, an older man joined me to make a point. He said, "I am a professor here in Afghanistan. In this world, one-third of the people use a spoon and fork like you, one-third use chopsticks, and one-third uses fingers — like me. And we are all civilized the same."

Toilet paper (like a spoon or a fork) is another Western "essential" that most people on our planet do not use. What they use varies. I won't get too graphic here, but remember that millions of civilized people on this planet never eat with their left hand. (Some countries such as Turkey have very frail plumbing, and toilet paper jams up the WCs. If wastebaskets are full of dirty paper, leave yours there, too.)

Too often we judge the world in terms of "civilized" and "primitive." I was raised thinking the world was a pyramid with the United States on top and everyone else was trying to get there. I was comparing people on their ability (or interest) in keeping up with us in material consumption, science, and technology.

My egocentrism took a big hit when my parents took me to Europe. I was a pimply teenager in an Oslo park filled with parents doting over their adorable children. I realized those moms and dads loved their kids as much as my parents loved me. And it hit me that this world is home to billions of equally precious children. From that day on, I was blessed ... and cursed ... with a broader perspective.

Culture Shock, continued...

Over the years, I've found that if we measure cultures differently (maybe according to stress, loneliness, heart attack rates, hours spent in traffic jams, or family togetherness), the results stack up differently. It's best not to fall into the "rating game." All societies are complex and highly developed in their own way.

Just as we have a stereotypical view of most of the world, most of the world sees us as a version of Uncle Sam. To the average Abdullah on the street — who's seen plenty of American movies, TV shows, and tourists, and has read countless news stories about those crazy Yankees — we are outgoing, hardworking, informal, rushed, overconfident, and unconcerned with class distinctions and authority.

Some of these traits are positive and others aren't. Remember, there is no absolute good and bad when it comes to comparing lifestyles. For instance, while we may proudly ignore class ranks and think of our friendliness as a virtue, someone from India might be shocked at our "class ignorance" and a Frenchman might see our "good ole boy" slap-on-the-back warmth as downright rude.

If a prescription could be written to cure culture shock, it would include instructions to:

- Learn as much as you can about your host culture.
- Assume "strange" habits in this "strange" land are logical. Think of these habits as clever solutions to life's problems.
- Be militantly positive. Avoid the temptation to commiserate with negative Americans. Don't joke disapprovingly about a culture you're trying to understand.
- Make a local friend, someone you can confide in and learn from.
- Most important, remember that different people find different truths to be "God-given" and "self-evident." Things work best if we give everybody a little wiggle room. And that goes for more than just travelers.

Rick Steves writes European travel guidebooks and hosts travel shows on public television and public radio. His syndicated column runs weekly at seattletimes.com/travel Contact him at rick@ricksteves.com

The Haitian Miracle? by Jeffrey D Sachs

Jeffrey D Sachs is the Professor of Economics and Director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University. His last Webdiary piece was Development Aid for Development's Sake



This spring's presidential election in Haiti sadly re-enforced the country's blighted reputation. The paradox is that today Haiti has a chance, perhaps the best in its modern history, to escape from its long history of extreme poverty and turmoil.

A mere one-hour flight from Miami, the country struggles with poverty levels akin to the poorest parts of sub-Saharan Africa. But, whereas many parts of the world are extremely poor because of their isolation, Haiti is extremely poor *despite* its proximity to the world's largest market. Now, Haiti can turn its geography into a competitive advantage, but only if the United States helps.

Haiti recalls a famous lament once heard about another US neighbor, Mexico: "So far from God and so close to the United States." As with Mexico, Haiti's proximity to the US has cut both ways in its history. Proximity to the US should, of course, be an advantage for exports and attracting investment.

However, proximity has also meant US meddling. Haiti was the second country, after the US, to win its independence from Europe, following a slave rebellion in 1804. But America regarded Haiti as a threat rather than as a colleague in freedom, refusing to extend diplomatic recognition until after the outbreak of the Civil War, which finally brought an end to slavery in the US.

Even after recognition by President Abraham Lincoln in 1862, relations remained sour. Haiti was exploited and occasionally occupied by US troops, rather than being regarded as a legitimate partner in trade and diplomacy.

Meanwhile, Haiti's ecological and demographic conditions posed huge development challenges that have never been overcome. The island is hit regularly by devastating hurricanes. It has been massively deforested, and its soils have been depleted of nutrients. Tropical diseases remain killers to this day.

A devastating economic blow occurred in the mid-nineteenth century, when Europe learned to produce sugar from a temperate zone crop, beets, rather than from tropical sugar cane. World sugar prices collapsed, and Haiti fell into deeper disarray. Extreme poverty bred illiteracy and miserable governance, which in turn intensified hunger, disease, and instability.

Haiti's recent economic history is marked by a remarkable and tragic downside since the mid-1980's, exacerbated by sometimes well-intentioned but typically disastrously executed US diplomacy. In an attempt to push Haiti toward democracy, the US imposed economic sanctions, which crippled Haiti's fragile and newly emerging export sector, especially apparel and other labor-intensive production. Unemployment soared. Urban violence spiraled.

The US then entered into a destructive 15-year relationship with Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who is massively popular among Haiti's poor, but distrusted by most of the business sector and many leading US politicians. When Aristide came to power in 2001, the Bush administration cut off most international aid, thereby helping

The Haitian Miracle?, continued...

to send the economy into a freefall. Aristide's government was ousted under highly contested circumstances in 2004.

The newly elected president, Rene Preval, is a highly talented and experienced agronomist, and thus has the perfect background to revive Haiti's degraded rural economy. With the US market close by, Haiti could achieve a remarkable recovery of exports of horticulture, fruits, and other agricultural products, as well as tourism and light manufactured goods.

The key will be for the new government to provide a sound framework which combines key public investments – roads, power, soil nutrients, improved seed varieties, public health, and safe water – with confidence-building outreach to the business community and fruitful relations with the US and other donor countries. This time, the US has a strong interest in cooperating fully to promote economic progress: another round of failure would only provoke chaos, including massive numbers of new refugees to the US.

The gap between Haiti's performance and its potential is now so large that great gains can be achieved in income levels, farming, health, education, and more. Crop yields are below one ton of cereal per hectare of farmland – far less than half of what is readily achievable if farmers are helped to gain access to fertilizers, improved seeds, and basic infrastructure.

Similarly, health conditions are horrendous, but could be improved dramatically just with immunization, deworming, safe water, antibiotics, and anti-malaria bed nets. Community health workers could be trained in a matter of months to extend basic health care throughout rural areas, which could then be better mobilized to fend off the debilitating results of future hurricanes.

On the economic front, Haiti can become a profitable exporter of tropical crops such as groundnuts, mangos, cut flowers, string beans, and bamboo – a source of progress among Haiti's Caribbean-basin neighbors. Preval's own hometown has successfully used a modest level of external donor support to create new rural cooperatives to market improved crops. And, with its beautiful beaches and remarkable arts and music, Haiti could once again become a major tourist destination.

Indeed, Haiti can become an inspiration for many other fragile and impoverished new democracies. The US, France, Canada, and other major donor countries must not miss this historic opportunity to give vital help to Preval's democratically elected new government.

Recommended Books to Read before Your Trip to Haiti

Collapse by Jared Diamond (Read section on Haiti and the Dominican Republic)

Restavec by Jean Robert Dared (An account of having been a restavec in Haiti during the author's childhood.)

The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time by Jeffrey D. Sachs

Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer by Tracy Kidder

Gracias by Henri Nouwen (A personal journal written by the author while he was living in a foreign country.)

Please explore our website at www.faithinactionint.org. Free internet access is available at public libraries if you do not have internet access at home.

Embassy Information/Registration Information

FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU VISIT THE WEBSITE PRIOR TO YOUR DEPARTURE

To register before travel:

http://haiti.usembassy.gov/information_for_travelers/travel-registration.html

AMERICAN CITIZEN SERVICES (ACS) HOURS OF OPERATION AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Open to the public for routine services from 8:30am to 11:30am.

In Case of Emergency:

After hours, weekends & holidays: Please call the Duty Officer at (509) 2229-8122 or you may call Post One (U.S. Marine Guard) at 2229-8000.

Fax Number:

(509) 2229-8028

E-Mail Address:

acspap@state.gov

Public Phone Inquiries and the American Citizen Services Section

Please call: (509) 2229-8000 or (509) 2229-8397 Monday through Friday from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Web Address:

<http://haiti.usembassy.gov/service.html>

Personal Data Form

Personal Information	
Full name (as on passport)	
Nickname	
Home address	
Home phone number	
Mobile phone number	
Home fax	
Home e-mail address	
Birthday (MM/DD/YYYY)	
Passport number & expiration date	<i>Note: Passport cannot be expiring within 6 months of travel date.</i>
Country of issue	
Citizenship	
Emergency and Medical Information	
In case of emergency, contact	
Relationship	
Emergency contact's address	
Emergency contact's phone	
Doctor's name	
Doctor's phone	
Doctor's address	
Medical insurance carrier and member number	
Has he/she or any other medical professional advised you not to participate in this mission trip or visit under-developed countries?	
Blood type	
Describe your general health condition	
Known medical conditions	
Known allergies	
Current medications	
Are you pregnant? If so, due date is	

Personal Data Form

Other Information	
Your occupation	
Previous mission trips	
Do you sing/play instruments	
Other language spoken	
Why do you want to participate in this mission trip?	
What are some of your concerns?	
Optional: Please write a brief biographical paragraph that can be shared with other trip participants. Tell about yourself, your work, interests, family, church involvement, and any other experiences that have influenced you or that you would like to share.	

Hold Harmless, Waiver of Liability, and Emergency Medical Care Authorization

Faith in Action International (hereafter referred to as the "Sponsor") is sponsoring the Haiti Mission Trip (hereafter referred to as the "Program" from _____ (date of trip).

I, _____ (participant name), of

_____ (address), in

consideration of the opportunity to participate in the Program, and in consideration of other obligations incurred, hereby agree as follows:

1. I fully understand that I may be traveling or staying in areas of the world that may have unstable political, economic, and security situations where acts of war, potential danger from lack of control over local population, terrorism, or violence could occur at any time.
2. I fully understand that I may encounter difficult climates and living conditions; that risks are present concerning means of travel, food, water, diseases, pests, and poor sanitation and other health-related situations. Medical or emergency medical treatment may be inadequate or not available.
3. I accept and assume all responsibility for my personal actions and any all risks of property damage or personal injury that occur during or result from my participation, including potential injury while working.
4. With the above in mind, I fully understand and agree that the Sponsor and all of its entities, volunteers and staff members, shall not be responsible or liable in any way for any accident, loss, death, injury, or damage to myself or my property in connection with the Program, or any portion of the Program, even if said injury or action is due to the alleged negligence of the Sponsor. Further, I do hereby agree to indemnify and hold costs and expenses (including, with limitation, reasonable attorney's fee) or whatsoever kind in connection with the Program or any portion of the Program. Further, I make this agreement on behalf of my heirs, agents, fiduciaries, successors, and assigns. I waive, knowingly and voluntarily, every claim or right of action I have now or may have in the future against the Sponsor related to the Program, even if any such claim or right of action is caused by the Sponsor's alleged negligence.
5. I hereby state that I am in good health and have all medication necessary to treat any allergic or chronic conditions, and I am able to administer such medications without assistance. If at any time during the Program, I need emergency medical care and am not able to give consent because of my physical or mental condition, I authorize emergency medical care decisions to be made on my behalf, and I specifically release the Sponsor in making those emergency medical care decisions, from any and all liability associated with said decisions, even in injury or death is the result of the Sponsor's alleged negligence.
6. This document does not release the Sponsor from gross negligence.
7. I HAVE READ CAREFULLY, AGREE TO, AND INTEND TO BE LEGALLY BOUND BY ALL TERMS OF THIS HOLD HARMLESS, WAIVER OF LIABILITY, AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE AUTHORIZATION.

Signature _____ Date _____

Witness _____ Date _____

Printed Name of Witness _____

Your name
Your Address
City, State, Zip
Your phone number

Date:

Name of potential donor
Address
City, State, MI

Dear :

I am writing to share some exciting news with you regarding an opportunity to share the message of the Gospel in Haiti. I am joining with a group from Faith in Action International to travel to Verrettes, Haiti for a short-term missionary trip. We will be leaving _____ for an eight-day trip focused on distributing water filters and helping in tree nurseries. Faith in Action International has been working in Haiti for over 10 years providing assistance and education. Their website is www.faithinactionint.org if you would like to find out more about their mission.

In preparation for departure, I am seeking support, both financially and in prayer. I need to raise \$1,450 to make my trip possible. Will you consider a gift of \$100, \$50 or \$25 or more to make my dream a reality? There are so many people who have not heard the Good News of Christ, and I will have the chance to share the privilege; the message of His love as we give out water filters and trees. What a responsibility, but also what a privilege.

I appreciate your consideration of support. Included is a return envelope for your use. I sincerely appreciate your prayerful consideration in helping make my mission trip possible.

Sincerely,

P.S. If you have any questions about the short-term mission trip, please feel free to contact me at <<number>>. Thank you so much for your faithful prayers and financial support. Please make checks out to Faith in Action International with my name and 2011 Fall FIAI trip on the note and send to Faith in Action International, PO Box 171, Spring Lake, MI, 49456