

FREEBORN CHURCH'S HAITI MISSION PROJECTS

As a small church, Freeborn focus on one of the toughest, if not the single toughest, country in the world in terms of poverty. The first slave nation to proclaim independence (1803), it harbors a language and governmental structure that acts like an anchor to economic growth. Freeborn's interest began when President Wilson sent Marines to restore order (1915); the US occupied Haiti until 1934. With a life expectancy of 51 and literacy of 53%, churches have been assisting to do what they can do ever since. As Christians we can't solve Haiti's problems, but we can help Haitians, one person at a time. Specifically, Haiti is pressed to provide the basic essentials of housing and education. This is where we focus our efforts: education and poverty, on both "sides of the border" shown below. The island of Hispanola shares two uniquely distinct countries: Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Haitians leave their homeland for what they believe will be a better life in the Dominican Republic.



They often find just as many challenges east of the border: men may find a construction job and women earn a little money washing clothes, but many turn to immoral means; it is that or die.

Haitian men and women often bring their children, but many of these children do not have birth certificates. Some children of Haitian parents are born in the Dominican Republic, but they do not have proper documentation. Even if a Haitian child is born in the Dominican Republic, they do not automatically become a citizen of the country like in the U.S. With many over-crowded public schools and blatant discrimination, undocumented Haitian children are denied access to an education and other services and the cycle of poverty continues. We support educational efforts, specifically the **teaching of English or Spanish, the secret we believe to a future for Haiti.**

FREEBORN RESERVE'S HISTORY PEDESTALS

Pedestals (14 in all) are found on both sides of 300th. With the Farm's 16 Heritage Trailers/Cabins and the Gardens' 16 Kiosks, they combine to provide educational venues, 2 hour outdoor labs (4' at each station, 2' for transit) covering topics rarely taught today in schools. The Reserve honors this area's pioneers, their beliefs and dreams, and the land they settled.

- 1 Preschool & Garden Dreams - 150' to your right/NE
- 2 Haiti Mission Projects ● You Are Here Now
- 3 History Among the Departed
- 4 Children Park & Salmon Drying Kiln - 120' to your left/West
- 240' to your left/West
- 5 A Jewish Pioneer Farm - 540' to your left/West
- 6 Bonhoeffer Botanical Gardens - 590' to your left/West
- 7 Why the Water Testing Pipes? - 720' to your left/NW
- 8 Why No Stream in the Gardens? - 720' to your left/SW



2017 Freeborn Church's Mission Team report:
"we cried when we saw that the dogs had found the new born baby left on the rural town's street in the early morn."

Education for Haitians in the Dominican Republic

In October of 2012, Pastor Yves Talleyrand of Ministry of Evangelization and Support Without Borders (M.I.E.S.S.I.F.) started a church in a community in Santiago with Freeborn's help. He saw a need for a school for the children in his church. Most of the children were not attending school due to the lack of proper documentation. Freeborn began helping with the needs of the school, including educational materials and financial development. (Michelle Brekhus was on Freeborn Church's payroll 2011 - 2016.)



Approximately 40 Haitian students now attend the school. Subjects taught are math, reading, writing, history and Bible. Recently, the school purchased Mwen Kapab, a French Haitian curriculum. Mwen Kapab means "I can." The Christ-centered curriculum meets Haitian government standards. Once a student completes the 6th grade, he or she can take a government exam in Haiti. Studying in French gives students the opportunity to continue their education in Haiti, although the clear solution in Haiti is to adopt English. In addition to continuing educational

opportunities, children are taught from a Christian world view, giving them an eternal perspective. Each school day children receive a warm, nutritious meal of rice, beans, or fish. It is likely the only meal they will eat that day.

Pastor Eddy Lindner (also on the Church's active payroll until 2016) developed a program utilizing domestic Haitian housing materials and designs. As Haiti is the poorest country in the Western hemisphere, with little to offer in terms of natural resources, the church quickly turned to the mounds of trash which are causing many health concerns. In the years to follow an international team developed several new materials from this waste stream. To process one such material, Pastor Eddy designed a specialized oven and press, made of clay and rice bran, and burning only small sticks for fuel. The prototype sits behind this kiosk. Several of these ovens are now in use at the Episcopal facility in Les Cayes, Haiti called "Saint PLASTIK" (PLASTIK Center).

In 2017 Freeborn changed its focus for Haiti. We will only send money for the teaching of Spanish or English to young Haitian children. The future of Haiti is not to be found in the use of the French language, law or custom. 600 miles from Miami, within walking distance of the Dominican Republic, its language must be changed or it will continue to be the basket case of the Americas.



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EXIT 215'S
FREEBORN RESERVE

Freeborn Reserve: Pidduck Learning Center, Living History Farm, Preschool, Freeborn Church and Cemetery, Bonhoeffer Hall, Sophie's Herbarium and Griggs and Bonhoeffer Botanical Gardens' visitors enter under Washington's Recreational Use Statute - RCW 42.2A.200 & 210 allowing public recreational use including nature study and viewing or enjoying historical archaeological, scenic, or scientific sites on private, B-5 land. No visitor or admission fees are required.