



SPREADING THE GOSPEL IN HAITI



BY NANCY GREENHAW
Country Coordinator for Haiti

Nancy and Lloyd Greenhaw minister in the United States, Haiti, Papua New Guinea, Ethiopia, and several other countries in Africa. They conduct missions, conferences, and retreats for adults and youth. They also are involved in prison ministry and work with the homeless.

Nancy and Lloyd live in Texas and have two daughters, fourteen grandchildren, and eleven great-grandchildren.

We recently led a team of twelve people to the Diocese of Jeremie, where amid other outreaches, we led what may have been the first evangelization school in all of Haiti!

About twenty people were chosen by their local parishes to participate in the school. The participants were excited and asked very insightful questions. Although many of the concepts were new, they eagerly embraced all we taught.

HAITI MISSIONS, INC.

We again partnered with Haiti Missions, Inc. (HMI), which continues to do amazing works of mercy. HMI funds St. Bridget School and feeds its 235 students and staff each day. HMI also employs seventy local Haitian men and builds four homes a month. Half the cost of each \$8000 home is provided by matching funds raised at an annual silent auction. So, a concrete, hurricane-resistant home that gets people off the ground and greatly improves health only costs donors \$4000. HMI also distributes food and solar lights to approximately six-hundred people each year and feeds the prisoners in Jeremie approximately six times a year.

HMI is now building four houses a month, so there was not much time to

dedicate all the houses that had been built since we were last there just six months earlier. These dedications were great for all the young people on our team. One young woman was so touched by the joy of the recipients that she spontaneously pledged funds for another house! Lloyd and I also were able to dedicate a house that had been sponsored by our grandson. The joy of the people receiving homes is incredible!

While Lloyd and I taught the evangelization school, the team dedicated houses and distributed clothing, food, and solar lights. We provided 146 families with desperately needed money and food. This help is essential because residents cannot access the supplies that they used to get before the last earthquake damaged the only road to Port-au-Prince. The government tried to fix the road, but instead, gangs took it over and now have complete control of that point in the highway. It is a very dangerous situation, resulting in people being cut off from food, supplies, and other necessities. Our team flew into Port-au-Prince and then to Jeremie, thereby bypassing the dangerous or impassable roads. Unfortunately, not everyone has this option.

PRISON MINISTRY AND MORE

On our first night, we held a program in the church at Our Lady of the Assumption with Father Willie, the assistant pastor. About one-hundred participants attended. After praise and worship, we spoke on the power of Pentecost, which the Church had celebrated the prior weekend. We led them in an empowerment service, asking God to release the gifts they had received at baptism. Afterward, Fr. Willie processed with Jesus in the monstrance as we prayed for healing and freedom.

The next day, we attended morning Mass with the Sisters of Charity. We had ample time to pray with sick women who are part of the ministry of Mother Teresa's group, and some members of our team prayed over the sick men in the dormitory. Then we spent time with the children. There were at least fifteen babies just starting various modes of walking. Most of us sat on the ground with the children so they could get used to us. Some of the girls sang with the older kids.

Next, we drove to the prison in Jeremie, which is always a shock to the system, no matter how many times you have been there. We think there were fifty to seventy-five men in each of the cells; the cells are dark and without windows, so it's hard to tell how large they are.

Lloyd preached and gave his testimony to the men. HMI paid a guard to translate. Lloyd then asked the men if they would like to pray and ask Jesus for the true freedom of knowing and loving Him. All the men crowded in and repeated the Miracle Prayer. They seemed appreciative.

I spoke with the women as a group for about ten minutes with Fr. Willie working as my translator. Then, some of the girls and I prayed over the women individually. At that point, we didn't have a translator, but the Holy Spirit can cut right through language barriers. The rest of the team distributed barbecue chicken and rice in small Styrofoam packages along with cold drinks. Most of the prisoners don't eat unless people bring them food.

EVANGELIZATION SCHOOL

For the evangelization school, we had an excellent interpreter named Monday, who has been our interpreter each time we've served in Haiti. He knows Catholic theology and reminds us of some of the great interpreters from Africa. The first session was on the basic understanding of evangelization. We gave an overview of Christ's mandate to make disciples and taught about how the Church exists to evangelize.

Our team helped dedicate many hurricane-resistant homes that were built by HMI (Haiti Missions, Inc.).



We distributed Bibles, and the participants were very happy to get them. Then, Lloyd spoke on the Universal Call to Holiness. He stressed that holiness and mission are an essential part of their lives. The next morning, Lloyd talked about the lordship of Jesus and the fact there is no other name by which mankind can be saved. Lloyd stressed the absolute need to know the Word of God and that there is life in the Bibles we gave them—if they make Scripture a daily part of their lives. He shared stories of healing and conversion, and you could see the participants get excited about their call to go forth.

Next, I spoke on the gifts of the Holy Spirit they received at baptism and the need to release these gifts for the salvation of themselves and others. I discussed how to give a testimony and had them write their own three-minute testimonies and share them in pairs. They really enjoyed it! Lloyd then talked about the basic Gospel message. Later, I taught the Five Keys from Unbound Ministry. They immediately saw the need and power of this model because of the many people hurting in their parishes.

We also prayed over the participants for the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. They asked God to clothe them with power and to release all the gifts they need for holiness and service. Then, they gave God permission to use them in any way He wanted. We went through the various gifts, beginning with tongues. I was a little surprised as most seemed to receive them—which showed us a real openness to the Holy Spirit and his gifts. We followed by asking for gifts of faith, healing, prophecy, preaching, and teaching. We always have them pray in tongues for each gift, and it really seemed to work, as they lost themselves in the Lord. It was a powerful time!

Finally, we commissioned all the participants, and some gave their testimonies. At the end of the Mass, the vicar general gave each student a certificate for participating. He now wants us to hold a school in his parish!