



Coastal Connection of Louisiana; 530 Slattery Blvd., Shreveport, LA 71104

## International Mission Work: Haiti



Overall, 2020 has been an incredibly tough year for the people of Haiti due to the continued political unrest, the pandemic, and most recently a significant rise in gang violence primarily in Port-au-Prince. The gang violence has brought about a number of unnecessary deaths to women, children, and the elderly. Additionally, kidnappings and carjackings have been a common event by the gangs to raise money and bring attention to their issues/cause.

The country continues to do little testing for COVID-19. Current test positivity rate is running at about 50%. Total number of reported cases is running at around 8,624 with 221 deaths as of late September. There has been an underreporting of deaths, a stigma continues to surround the disease and we continue to see a surge in fevers across the countryside.

Unfortunately, the government has stopped its testing of potential COVID-19 patients several weeks ago. The only testing is through a personal physician paid for by the patient. According to the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), Haiti is projected to have less than 2,000 deaths by the end of 2020. It does appear however that our fears of a ravaged country by the disease should be put to rest.

As if that were not enough, in early September Hurricane Laura hit the country with excess winds and torrential rains resulting in lots of flooding. Dr. Garry Thomas shared with us a story about his friend, Dr. Jessica and her baby son. During the storm, Dr. Jessica drove her husband, who is also a physician, to the local bus station to catch a bus back to the hospital to help any potential victims that were

injured. On her way back home, Dr. Jessica ran into very high waters and made the decision to abandon her car and carry her son to safety. Unfortunately, the water was moving so quickly that it washed her and her son to their deaths. Please remember them and their husband/father in your prayers.



# Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth



As the government becomes increasingly less effective and more powerless, gangs have filled in the void and are now ruling the streets committing the most heinous of crimes. As a result, the sisters have had to suspend programs in two different areas where it is unsafe for our staff to travel. One is right on the border of City of Soleil, the most dangerous slum in Port au Prince. The other is Leveque which is located 30 miles northeast of them.

Because you can no longer move freely in Haiti, the sisters are not going to renew their lease. So in October, when they return, they will spend most of their time packing up the house. Their plans are to return to Haiti 3 or 4 times a year and either stay with the Daughters of Charity or Fr. Hugo who is a Passionist priest and friend. They have stayed in the guest house of the Daughters of Charity on many occasions and Fr. Hugo, who is also one of their ministry partners, has offered them a house that is vacant in his compound. Both places are near where they

currently live and not far from the airport in PAP.

And now for the good news. There is much for us to be excited about as well! First, the new school is finished.

Currently, the school has 236 children. From August through this October, the children will be making up for the time period when the school was closed because of the virus. The new school year begins in November. We are very proud that we will be the only school in the area that has an Agronomy Program, Wellness Program, and a Computer Lab.

They are very grateful to all of their donors. Thanks to donors and supporters like you all, the sisters not only have the funds to start a Wellness Program in November when the new year officially begins but for also donating food to help the sisters provide a hot meal every day to the children. We were excited to link up our Ona Ville Community Health Center and its food supply with the Sisters' school. If all continues as planned, Pastor Jordany will be able to pick up 15-20 boxes of

food each month to help feed the children there.

They are also continuing with the WaterWomen and Microloan programs in Cuvier and TiMache, our Goat Project in both villages, and our Sewing School school in Cuvier. They are also helping to support a sewing business with the deaf community whose shop is near the airport.

They are also continuing with our housing project. By the end of this calendar year, they will have built a new house for 13 families who lost their homes due to hurricanes, floods, or violence. Three homes are in Cuvier and 10 are in TiMache. Pictures of the three new homes in Cuvier are attached.



Our partnership with the clinic continues to be successful in providing outpatient services to a community of over 200,000. We stand as the only private clinic providing charitable services. End of summer and early fall have brought clinic patients back to prior COVID-19 levels. Many days we see a 70+ patients. Currently the clinic is treating hypertension, diabetes, wound care, prenatal and family planning services, just to name a few of their work. Most recently, the clinic has made application to become a vaccination site in partnership with the government. A site visit to approve the clinic has already occurred. We are now working to get a refrigerator to the clinic to store their vaccinations.

We are excited to report that we have found a way to ship multiple boxes of medical supplies and equipment to the clinic every other month. Our first 2 shipments

have been successfully delivered to the clinic and we are planning for our third in October.

We want to introduce to you a couple of our patient clinics. The elderly women (shown below)'s name is Dovaziline Clereila. She is 98 years old and is our oldest patient in the hypertension program. This child's name (also below)'s name is Stelandie Jean. He is 2 years old and as you can see, significantly malnourished. The clinic was able to provide a special infant formula to the mother to help as much as possible. Gang violence and a corrupt government that is becoming less effective is helping to create significant food shortages across the country. To assist the clinic is providing several pounds of rice and beans to every patient where the need is identified...which in this case is almost everyone.



## Kobonal-Cross Catholic Outreach

The Kobonal Haiti Mission is continuing to provide life-saving meals to 200 of the most vulnerable families as well as to all 1,260 primary school students as food insecurity in the area worsens. The mission is continuing the housing outreach with a greater emphasis on repairing homes – over the next year our goal is to provide new homes to 25 families and repairs to an additional 60 families.

The agriculture training program continues



teaching families best practices and providing food for the ministries various outreaches. The primary school reopened August 17<sup>th</sup> in order for students to complete their previous school year which was disrupted by the pandemic.

This fall, we are excited to expand the primary school to provide education and spiritual formation to 330 more children in need! Thanks to a leadership donation, we were able to begin construction of the 6

classrooms with a goal of having them ready for the November school year. The mission is also sponsoring the education of 480 high school students and 20 university students this fall.

Thanks to your generous support earlier this year, the mission is working to provide clean, life-saving water to over 1,500 people throughout four different communities.

## United States Mission Work: Shipping Warehouse



Our warehouse is once again full thanks to several donations by CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System, Freedman Clinic in Alexandria, and Dr. Denzer Burke of Texarkana. We have been on the road making multiple pickups in Texarkana, Alexandria, and other locations in the area. Our U-Haul truck driving skills continue to improve.

about six boxes of medications to be sent to Haiti, and organized our next shipment of medical equipment to go to Haiti.

We have plans for one and possibly two 18-wheeler shipments to our medical equipment partner Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach in Springfield, IL. In partnership we are able to contribute to the needs of medical providers in our 45 countries around the world. Our small contributions, we hope, helps them meet the needs of their ministry partners.



We would also like to say thank you to all those who participated in our workday on September 19<sup>th</sup> at the warehouse. We had over 20 volunteers and we were able to separate and package about 20 boxes of new clothes to be sent to Haiti, work our way through over 100 boxes of medical supplies, unload a 26-foot truck load of medical equipment donated by Freedman Clinic in Alexandria, boxed



## School Food Pantry Programs

As the new school year has kicked off, more than ever there is a need for a food pantry at 8 inner-city schools in the Caddo Parish area. Mona has been in constant communications with the schools to deliver their initial supplies and to deliver over 200 snack packs donated by our partner the Food Bank of Northwest Louisiana. It is our plan to make monthly deliveries and re-stock where needed. Additionally, to help kickoff the new school year we donated 250 new

backpacks to all the students of one of our schools. Please see more about our Sci-Fi Trivia Night as well for how you can help.



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*Mission statement:*

*Coastal Connection was created as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization focused on addressing both domestic and international development goals of extreme poverty and hunger, primary and secondary education, promoting gender equality and empowering women, ensuring environmental sustainability, and striving for universal access to health services. These development goals will be achieved through global partnerships with like-minded organizations sharing similar philosophies and values.*

# Sci-Fi Trivia Night

Last quarter we announced our trivia fundraiser in partnership with the Food Bank of Northwest Louisiana. All proceeds from the event will support our inner-city school food pantry program and the food backpack program in our area. Special thanks to our sponsors: CHRISTUS Shreveport-Bossier Health System, Origin Bank,

CHRISTUS Coushatta Hospital, Smithwick Day Bickham Pratt and Pou Merrill Lynch Wealth Management, Makers Design, Ronpak, and Townsquare Media. We also thank YPI Shreveport and the American Advertising Federation of Shreveport-Bossier for their partnerships. Please visit the following website to register a team or be a sponsor:

<https://www.foodbanknla.org/>



## Thank You!

We want to say thank you to all of our donors who continue to support our ministry during these crazy times.

Your financial support and prayers are needed now more than ever.

As you can see, our ministry is alive and working to carry out its mission.

We will continue to pray for you and your families.

Yours in Christ,  
Stephen and Mona Wright



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