



395 N Cedar St

Imlay City, MI 48444

handsonhaitimi@gmail.com

**Short Term Mission Trip
Application and Mission Packet**

Application

• **Name** _____

Last, First, Middle, Preferred nickname

(Your name MUST match your name as it appears or will appear on your passport)

• **Address** _____

Street, City, State, Zip Code

• **Telephone** _____

Home, Cell, Work, Fax

• **Email address** _____ **Age**

_____ **Birthdate** _____

• **Gender** _____ **Marital Status: Married, Single, Widowed, Divorced/Separated**

(The ministry does not discriminate based on gender, race or marital status.)

• **Occupation** _____

• **Hobbies** _____

• **Home Church** _____

(Name of Congregation, Address)

• **Pastor's Name and phone** _____

• **Please describe your personal faith**

• **Have you had previous experience on the mission field or traveled in a foreign country?**

If yes, please describe your experience: _____

• **What languages do you speak?** _____

• **Describe any first aid or medical training**

• *Licensed medical personnel who will be practicing medicine on this mission trip please attach photocopies of credentials. (Please circle all that apply to your license and attach copies.)*
Medical license/Diploma/Dental Certification/Other

Because Christians in some cultures are offended by the use of tobacco or alcohol you may be asked to limit or restrict your use of these substances during your mission trip. Your team leader will discuss any restrictions with the team. If you feel that this would be a hardship please discuss this with the team leader privately. Also, please discuss any history of substance abuse or prescription drug addiction with the team leader.

• **What gifts of talents do you have that you feel will be useful on the mission field in Haiti?**

• **Professional teaching experience?** _____

Years taught _____ **Subjects or grade level**

• **Bible teacher/workshop leader/facilitator?**

Describe your experience

• **Describe any areas of special interest** _____

• **References: Please provide the name, phone number, and/or email address of one personal reference and one professional reference.**

Personal _____

Phone Number/E-mail

Address _____

Professional _____

Phone Number/E-mail

Address _____

• **Passport #** _____ **Exp. Date** _____

• **Country of issue** _____

(If you do not have a passport, you must apply for one. It takes 6-8 weeks by mail unless you request an expedited passport which takes 2-3 weeks. You may also get a passport in one day by making an appointment at a Regional Passport Office. You can find the one nearest you and other information about your passport at travel.state.gov. If you have a passport, send a copy of the picture page of the passport with this application. If you do not have a passport, please send your copy as soon as you receive your passport.)

• **Please describe your physical and mental health, including any physical limitations or health issues or allergies you may have. (Diabetes, heart condition, high blood pressure, arthritis, food allergies, fibromyalgia, depression, bipolar disorder or other)**

• **What medications (prescription or OTC) do you take on a regular basis?**

• **Physician's name** _____ **Phone**

• **Insurance Information (Company, ID#, Phone #)**

• **Any information that might be helpful in a medical emergency**

• **In case of emergency, please notify (Name, phone number, and e-mail address)**

• **If you are a minor, who will be your parent approved adult mentor on this team?**
(All youth under the age of 18, except in cases of a youth group trip, must be accompanied by a parent-approved mentor, age 25 or older, other than the team leader who will be on the team and will accept full responsibility for the youth. If the mentor is not a family member, they must be of the same sex.)

• I hereby release all leaders and organizations involved with this mission trip from any and all legal liability. I hereby waive all my rights to any legal liability, on the part of HANDS ON HAITI or any other individual(s) or organization involved, which may result from sickness, injury or death that may occur on or related to this trip. I fully realize that there are hazards, and I am fully assuming these risks, including but not limited to hazardous traffic, poorly constructed roads, dangers resulting from military or political issues, sickness and disease. I specifically release HANDS ON HAITI and its team leaders and partners from any claim of negligence in their duties as leaders or otherwise on this mission trip. I have been advised of my responsibility for any personal preventative health measures. In the event that I make any claim I understand that I will be responsible for any and all legal fees and costs associated with such claim incurred by Hands on Haiti and other individuals or organizations involved.

I further hereby authorize the leadership of HANDS ON HAITI to make essential decisions on my behalf with respect to medical treatment, emergency surgery or hospitalization, should such be necessary. However, HANDS ON HAITI shall in no way be responsible or liable for payment of any or all bills or fees related to such medical treatment.

I agree to whole-heartedly abide by all the rules, regulations and guidelines set forth in the team training materials and to abide by all decisions made by all leaders and those in authority. I will have an open heart and mind to accept guidance from my Team Leader, the HANDS ON HAITI representative. I recognize that I am a representative of Jesus Himself and will comport myself as such. I will strive to present myself in a way that will bring honor and glory to God and His Church.

Signature _____ Date _____

Parent or Legal Guardian – REQUIRED IF UNDER 18 years of age

Signature _____ Relationship _____

Print name _____ Date _____

(Any questions regarding this application or the mission trip should be directed to Jennifer Kubit at 313-615-8232)

You are applying for a mission trip with HANDS ON HAITI (Sponsored by Imlay City Christian Reformed Church) a 501(c)3 IRS recognized organization and all donations are tax deductible. Payments must be made to Imlay City Christian Reformed Church for the charitable receipt.

COST OF THE MISSION TRIP

Cost for your trip is \$2000.00 and includes: (This fee does not include the cost of whatever project your team determines to take, your team leaders will determine with HANDS ON HAITI project costs and separate fund raising for them). The first half is due 10 weeks prior to travel to purchase airfare. The remainder is due 2 weeks before the trip.

- Airfare
- All room accommodations in Haiti
- All ground transportation including gas
- Security
- Two meals and water in Haiti
- Translators
- All tips

What you will need personal/additional money for:

- Day/Night at the Beach (approx. \$150.00, will vary depending on room occupancy)
- Souvenirs (there will be opportunity to purchase local crafts)

Each individual will be responsible the costs determined by HANDS ON HAITI to be relevant to your particular mission trip. These costs are predetermined and you will not be asked for additional funds after the cost of the trip is set or in the field.

• Alcoholic beverages/cigarettes/cigars (HANDS ON HAITI does not restrict your personal choice to drink alcoholic beverages or smoke but does not pay for them. We ask that due to the local culture you be discreet in your partaking of both of these activities. Legal drinking age in Haiti is 18, however no one between the age of 18 and 21 will be allowed to have any alcoholic beverage without express parental permission and it will be the responsibility of the mentor of the minor to monitor the youth member in this regard)

If you are interested in being part of a mission trip but feel that you do not have the resources to do so, please feel free to discuss this with Jennifer Kubit, Mission Coordinator, either by phone, 313-615-8232 or email handsonhaitimi@gmail.com or speak with the leaders of your team

ABOUT HAITI A Little History...

Haiti is the western one third of the island of Hispaniola, located in the Caribbean, 50 miles east of Cuba, and 600 miles (about a 2 hour flight) from Miami, Florida. The Dominican Republic, separated by a mountain range, occupies the balance of the island.

Originally, Haiti was populated by a native culture that was enslaved and eventually completely exterminated by the French through either hardship or disease. Slaves imported from Africa became the workforce in Haiti on the extensive sugar plantations. A slave's life was harsh. They were forbidden from speaking their native languages, families were routinely broken up and sold separately, work was hard in the extreme heat and humidity of Haiti and the slaves were told that they were not human beings and they had no soul. The French told the African slaves that only if they were baptized into the Roman Catholic Church would they become human and receive a soul. Fearful and abused, few slaves rejected baptism into a religion they knew nothing about or received little, if any, instruction in. It is no wonder that many Roman Catholic symbols and rituals became part of the voodoo practices that the slaves brought with them.

In 1804, the slaves revolted. The revolution was short, lasting only a few months and the slaves were overwhelmingly victorious. While independence was sweet for the Haitian slaves, they were unprepared to form a nation. The leaders of the rebellion were uneducated and illiterate and they relied on a few trusted Frenchmen to guide their early decision making and government formation. Also unfortunate was that the slaves had literally made a deal with the devil for victory. The leaders of the revolution made a pact with Damballa, the snake god, to give them their freedom and in return they would give him the blood of human sacrifice and dedicate the country to him for 200 years. It is horrible and denied by practitioners of voodoo, but blood sacrifice of all kinds is still part of many voodoo rituals. Many Presidents, Prime Ministers, Emperors and Dictators in the history of Haiti have been active voodoo worshippers.

Since the 1804 dedication would have expired in 2004, the President of Haiti at that time, Jean Bertrand Aristide, a defrocked Roman Catholic priest, led voodoo ceremonies of rededication both inside and outside the National Palace in 2004. Voodoo is a religion of control and fear. While many Haitians are tired of the virtual enslavement of voodoo, they are afraid to leave it behind. Haiti is presently about 60 percent Roman Catholic, and of that number, it is believed that virtually all practice voodoo, even though many reports list that 60 percent as Christian. While Haiti has been heavily evangelized only about 20-25 percent of Haitians are actually Christians. There is no organized Jewish, Buddhist, Hindu or Islamic presence in Haiti.

Some voodoo beliefs:

- The voodoo priests are the intermediaries of the spirits
- Spirits can be coerced or convinced to curse or protect from curses if the right rituals and sacrifices/ offerings are performed.

- There is no heaven or hell, the spirits of the dead remain and may be benevolent or malevolent, depending on how their relatives reverence them or control by stronger spirits.
- There is a hierarchy in the spirit world and stronger spirits require greater offering, worship, and sacrifice.
- Any person, priest, or worshipper, can be “ridden” (possessed) by a spirit and then has a special relationship with that spirit. (This generally happens during a ritual when the spirit is invited)

DAILY LIFE

The economy of Haiti relies on imports, and financial undergirding from family members living in the US and sending money and goods home. Unemployment hovers around 70-80% and in many cases it is difficult to measure as there are no valid government measurements of employment. Many are minimally employed and the average Haitian who works earns less than \$3.00 a day. Most survive on \$1.00 a day. There are some estimates that 1% of the population of 8.1 million controls almost half of the country's wealth.

Some other hard facts:

- 50% of the population is undernourished
- One in five children are underweight and underheight for their age
- 12% of Haitian children die before their 1st birthday
- One third of Haitian children do not live to age 5
- Over 50% of the people lack access to clean water or proper sanitation
- Haiti ranks as one of the worst 3 nations of the world for worst caloric deficit per person with more than one quarter of the population unable to afford the minimum 2,240 daily calories recommended by the World Health Organization (most Haitians eat once a day or less and their diet consists mostly of beans, rice, and plantains.)
- Only one in every 10,000 Haitians has access to a physician and even fewer have access to professional dental care.

The beautiful Haitian people have a tremendous strength of spirit and are amazingly resourceful. They are wonderful storytellers and love to sing, dance, and laugh. The Haitian culture is rich and the people of Haiti are warm and welcoming. The children are especially loving and open, and love soccer and outdoor games. Haiti was the first Caribbean country to qualify for the World Cup Soccer Finals.

A mission trip to Haiti will bring you face to face with unexpected beauty and harrowing poverty. You will see sadness, suffering, and despair, but also share in survival with dignity,

perseverance with hope, joy in the face of great difficulty and gratefulness with thanksgiving.

We hope that as you work alongside our Haitian brethren you find your time in Haiti a life-changing experience and that you find the strength and love only God can give and a new brotherhood with God's people in Haiti.

TRAVEL INFO

Weather

- The climate is hot and humid. While the average temp is 85 degrees, coastal areas are usually 90+ degrees, even in January and February.
- For current info go to www.weather.com and type Port-au-Prince, Haiti in the local weather box.

Clothing

- Comfortable, summer clothing, with as much cotton or "wicking" fabric as possible.
- Ladies: wear a dress or skirt/blouse for church. Capris, slacks, long shorts okay for workdays. Bring a swimsuit for our decompression day. Medical teams, scrubs. Modest clothing please.
- Men: slacks, shirt and tie for church. Slacks, long shorts. Swimsuit for decompression day. Medical team, scrubs. Modest clothing please.
- Shower shoes (Rubber flip flops)
- Closed toe shoes for walking or working outside. No sandals for outside please.
- No jewelry except inexpensive wedding ring and watch or earrings.

Personal Care

- Unscented soap, deodorant and personal products (to cut down bug attraction)
- Body powder with zeamays (cornstarch, NOT TALC) it is more absorbent and is great for both women and men under clothing
- Wisps (toothbrushes for non-water environment), just in case.
- Ladies, we recommend that you do not wear makeup or perfume. Scents attract mosquitoes!

Food

- Meals will be provided, however, it is often very difficult to provide a noon meal so we ask each team member to bring what will sustain them from breakfast at about 8 am until supper at about 7pm. We recommend almonds, energy bars, beef jerky, trail mix, cheese or peanut butter and crackers.
- Bottled water will always be available.

Money

- You need only enough cash for day/night at the beach, personal expenses, souvenirs, etc. (Bring cash in ones, fives, and tens. Large bills are hard to break.)
- Credit cards are rarely accepted in Haiti.
- Travelers checks are not accepted in Haiti.

Luggage

- Please reserve your checked baggage for team needs. You will be allowed ONE checked bag, weighing less than 50 lbs. We will discuss your baggage individually based on team focus.
- Clothing and personal items should be in your carry-on.

Immunizations and Health

- Please go to www.cdc.gov/travel for the current recommended immunizations.
- Recommended immunizations are typically available at your County Health Department for a cost or at any Travel Clinic.
- We also highly recommend that your tetanus vaccination be current
- You will also need an RX for antimalarial medication.
- Bring your own prescription medicine
- We also recommend that you bring: Immodium, Tums, Tylenol, and hand sanitizer.

Passport

- You must have a valid passport with an expiration date of no less than 6 months after your departure date.
- To find information to obtain a passport, go to www.travel.state.gov/passport.
- Make a copy of the photograph page of your passport and return it with your application.

Customs

- You will fill out a customs form on the plane
- The team leader will give you the information you need regarding your form Airport
- **Do not let anyone handle your bags or help you with them without the express permission**

of the team leader...if asked or if anyone tries to take your bags... NO, MERCI, is all you need to say. Sometimes several times. Anyone who handles your bags will expect a tip. STAY WITH YOUR TEAM, DO NOT LEAVE THE TEAM EVEN TO GO TO THE BATHROOM WITHOUT SPEAKING TO THE TEAM LEADER. We will use the "BUDDY SYSTEM" throughout our time in Haiti. You will not go anywhere at anytime without your buddy knowing where you are and in the cases of being at our work environment, going with you. NO ONE IS TO LEAVE THE TEAM ALONE.

Airfare

Group flight arrangements to PAP from Detroit Metro Airport will be made in cooperation with HANDS ON HAITI and you will work out ticketing with your local team leader.

What to Pack

- Loose fitting, comfortable cotton clothing
- Skirt and blouse or dress for ladies for church. Dress shirt, slacks, and tie for men.
- Flashlight
- 30% Deet bug spray
- Personal sized Kleenex (several packets)
- Antibacterial hand sanitizer
- Antibacterial wipes
- Several washcloths
- Unscented soap, shampoo, lotion
- Closed toe walking shoes
- Flip flop-type rubber shower shoes
- Body powder with zea mays (cornstarch, NOT TALC)
- Cash in small bills
- Snacks that will sustain you through a day's work

What to send to HANDS ON HAITI

- Application and \$500 Deposit Due February 1, 2018
- Balance of trip due by March 1, 2018.
- Color copy of your passport