



**Providence High School Mission Trips**

- 2003 Atlanta, GA
- 2004 Dominican Republic
- 2005 Oak Ridge, TN
- 2006 Dixon, NM
- 2007 New Orleans, LA
- 2008 Chimbote, Peru
- 2009 Wadmalaw Island, SC
- 2010 Yakima, Washington
- 2011 Washington, DC
- 2012 Port-au-Prince, Haiti

**Providence Presbyterian Church High Schoolers,**

Will you join our church tradition?

Will you follow Jesus by serving your neighbors?

Will you grow in faith by opening yourself to God's wild grace?

Will you be renewed by the Holy Spirit, and return to Charlotte transformed?

Pray about this trip with your family.

Read the information, and ask Hansen any follow-up questions.

If you feel called, submit your *\$200 deposit by March 1.*

**HELP  
HEAL  
HAITI**



**Haiti Informational Packet**



- 1) **Where exactly are we going, and why there?**
- 2) **When is this mission trip, and how are we getting there?**
- 3) **Who will be going from Providence to Haiti?**
- 4) **With whom will we work in Haiti, and what will we do?**
- 5) **How much will it cost?**
- 6) **How can I help raise funds?**
- 7) **Other than mission, what will the week be like?**
- 8) **What should I know about the country and people of Haiti?**
- 9) **Won't this be dangerous, and how can we stay safe?**
- 10) **What else should I know about this trip?**
- 11) **How can I prepare and plan to go?**
- 12) **What if this is too much for me right now?**

### **Where exactly are we going, and why there?**

According to tradition, the Providence Youth Group travels to a foreign mission site every fourth year. In 2012 we are going to **Port-au-Prince, Haiti**.

Haiti is a small country on the eastern third of the island of Hispaniola, in the Caribbean.

(The Dominican Republic is on the eastern two-thirds.)

Port-au-Prince is the capital and largest city.

In 2009 Haiti was the world's poorest non-African country.

It was not uncommon for *very* poor parents to sell their children, hoping to save them from starving. So, there are *many* orphans.

On Jan 12 2010 a *huge* earthquake destroyed Port-au-Prince.

The country is still in *desperate* need of help.

Even more children have lost parents, homes, schools and hope.

You can't build a home or import rice, but you can play with kids, help them learn and share your hope.



### **When is this mission trip, and how are we getting there?**

The Haiti mission trip is **June 17-24**.

There has already been a problem with tickets (silly airline, causing Hansen so much stress), but our travel agent is rescheduling, most likely on US Air through Miami.

You will know the exact flight details when Hansen can finalize them.

Hansen will need your full legal name, birth date, passport number and passport expiration.

### **Passport Info**

In order to fly to a foreign country, you *must* have a valid US Passport.

(There are no visas or other special permission required for traveling to Haiti.)

If you have a passport, make sure it will not be expired this June.

If you need a passport, visit <http://travel.state.gov/> or call 1-877-487-2778 for all the details.

- For passport renewals, look {[here](#)}.
- For new passports, age 16+, look {[here](#)}. Expect it to cost \$135 plus the special photos.
- For new passports, under-16, look {[here](#)}. This is \$30 less, but parental consent can be tricky.
- Regular passports take around six weeks to process, so you should begin this process in March.



### **Who will be going from Providence to Haiti?**

Young people (rising 9<sup>th</sup> grade through graduated 12<sup>th</sup>) who *participate* at Providence, are invited.

'*participate*' – If you regularly attend Youth Group, Sunday School or worship, you are invited.

(Friends who've never been to Providence can attend any other activity; but this is just for you.)

Steve Hensley will be there, and Ellen Estes plans to come on her umpteenth Youth Group mission trip.

It is still to be determined whether Hansen comes to Haiti or the West Virginia mission trip.

We will need 1-3 more adult chaperones. Talk to Hansen, if you are interested in applying.

**With whom will we work in Haiti, and what will we do?**

We will work mainly with the *St Joseph Family*, which includes five mission organizations.

- The *St Joseph's Home for Boys* is an orphanage, started by a Catholic mission worker in 1985.
- The *Resurrection Dance Theater* gives those boys an activity; some came to Montreat last year.
- *Wings of Hope* is a home for physically & mentally challenged children, in the suburb Fermathe.
- *Trinity House* provides food and runs a school (*Lekol Sen Trinite*) for child slaves in Jacmel.
- *Hearts with Haiti* are the American fundraisers, based in Raleigh, led by many Presbyterians.

We may also work with *The Missionaries of Charity*, the Haitian branch of Mother Theresa's ministry.

The Missionaries offer health clinics, night shelters, and hospices for children and adults.

They also serve the Blanchard School in the suburb Cite Soliel, the poorest slum in the world.

Notice, we are not doing any construction; Haitians need those jobs more than they need our help.

**Weekly Schedule**

Our exact schedule is *not* determined, and won't be set until we arrive, but a likely situation is this:

- 1-2 days at St Joseph's Home, helping boys do chores, cook meals & move into their new home
- 1-2 days with the Missionaries, handing out water/food/supplies, maybe praying with patients
- 1 day with Trinity House, teaching/playing with the children (Jacmel is a 4 hour drive.)
- 1-2 days with Wings of Hope, helping the children with music/art/games/food

**Other than mission, what will the week be like?**

St Joe's and Wings' main buildings were demolished by the earthquake.

Some of us will have beds in temporary housing; others *may* sleep on the floor, roof or tent.

St Joe's has running water; Wings and Trinity have manual water; electricity is sporadic.

Breakfast and dinner will be shared with the children; lunch depends on where we work.

There are grocery stores nearby; but keep in mind how rarely the children get snacks.

We will have time on both ends of the trip, and probably one afternoon, for recreation.

**Daily Schedule**

Our exact schedule is *not* determined, and will likely differ each day, but a basic idea is this:

- 6:30 Breakfast – example: croissants, fresh eggs, fresh fruit; or spaghetti (seriously)
- 7:00 Morning worship with St Joe's
- 8:00 Start working at St Joe's, or travel to Wings, Missionaries or Blanchard
- 1:00 Lunch – example: rice with veg and chicken/goat; or guide-approved restaurant
- 2:00 Back to work; or an excursion
- 5:00 Afternoon worship with St Joe's
- 6:30 Dinner – example: creole rice and beans with fish and peppers; or veggie stew
- 7:00 Free Time at St Joes; or dance theater; or guest speakers
- 9:30 Devotions with Providence youth
- 10:30 Lights out

### How much will it cost?

This trip is expensive. It costs more than previous mission trips, and *everyone needs to fundraise.*

Seriously, teenagers, you absolutely must come through on the fundraisers this year!

- 1) Youth, your *initial cost* is \$600. Advisors, your initial cost is \$300.
- 2) Next, every participant, advisors included, is *required to raise* \$500. (See below.)
- 3) Then, for every dollar you raise between \$500-\$800, 33 cents is taken off your cost.
- 4) For every dollar you raise over \$800, 50 cents is taken off your cost.

So, if you want to be lazy, just pay the \$600, and ignore my call to fundraising, don't sign up...

If you want to work moderately, then do the minimum fundraising and pay \$600, done.

But if you're excited or your parents make you pay, then fundraise more and lower your cost.

For example, if you raise \$1300, then the trip will cost...

\$600 initial cost, raised \$500  
-\$100 1/3 of funds raised between \$500-\$800  
-\$250 1/2 of funds raised over \$800  
=\$250 final cost!

Seriously, if you aren't going to work to raise these funds, turn to pages 10-11.

### How can I help raise funds?

Every hour you work (setting up, running, cleaning) the Attic Sale or Youth Auction, will count \$10.

The Attic Sale is February 25<sup>th</sup>, 6:30am-2:00pm, with set up taking place Feb 19-24.

Any tickets you sell to the Youth Auction, will count the face value of the ticket, \$10 or \$25.

The Youth Auction is May 5<sup>th</sup>, 5-9pm, with set up taking place 10:00am-5:00pm that day.

Items you get donated for the Youth Auction, will count as much as they are sold for.

For example, if you procure a \$50 gift card, which is sold for \$60, you get credit for the \$60.

Service you donate for the Youth Auction, will count as much as it is sold for.

For example, if you offer 3 hours of babysitting, that sells for \$15/hour, you get credit for \$45.

Other fundraising ideas outside the church can also count; just coordinate with Hansen.

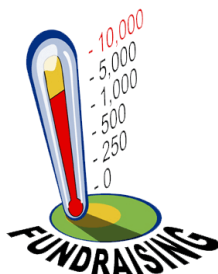
For example, maybe you send out donation request letters to non-church members,

Or, maybe you steal Anna's idea and crochet hats for \$10 apiece,

Or, maybe a few of you play a concert at school, or organize a carwash, or a bake sale!

Also—this doesn't actually raise money, but it does help you prepare for the trip spiritually—you can...

get various fundraising credit for writing reflections on Bible verses or faithful quotes, or doing research on Haiti or local outreach issues, or things like that; coordinate with Hansen.



**What should I know about the country and people of Haiti?**

Haiti is in the Eastern Time Zone, just like Charlotte.

June weather in Port-au-Prince is usually in the 90's, without rain or hurricanes.

Haitian culture is a mix of African, French, West Indian and American influences.

Haitian religion is 80% Catholic, 10% Baptist, 4% Pentecostal—about half also practice some Vodou.

‘Vodou’ – a mix of African traditions and Catholicism, with hardly any pins & dolls nonsense

Bondye – the vodou creator God, totally separate from his creation (*bon dieu* = Fr, good God)

Lwa – the spirits to which vodouisants pray or fear, often connected to Catholic priests

(Guardian Spirit, Love Spirit, Rain Spirit, Farming Spirit, Death Spirit, Birth Spirit, etc.)

Haitian government is based on America's system, but they have had many more challenges.

- From 1804-1915, Haiti had *over 100 revolutions*; 24 of 26 presidents were *killed or overthrown*.
- For a variety of reasons, the US invaded Haiti in 1915, and occupied it for 19 years.
- Most Haitians were upset with the US, but our military basically ran the country until 1957.
- ‘Papa Doc’ Duvalier took over in 1957, and became a tyrannical dictator.
- His son ‘Baby Doc’ took over in 1971, slightly less violent but just as oppressive.
- Supported by priests and nuns, young protestors revolted, and Baby Doc fled in 1986.
- Jean-Bertrand Aristade, a priest, became president, but the army forced him out in 1991.
- The US negotiated Aristade's return in 1994, but that actually accelerated a crisis of poverty.
- Rene Preval is elected president, then Aristade again, then Preval, than another guy, then Preval.
- Since the earthquake, the government under Michael Martelly has struggled to find stability.

Haitian children must attend school to age 13, but the government can't afford to run them.

Churches and communities run 85% of the basic schooling (like Trinity's *Lekol Sen Trinite*).

This is the St Joe's Home for Boys, rebuilt since the earthquake, with Haitian labor and US funding. It should open in June, and we may help that transition. (picture taken, 30 Jan 2012)



Haitian Money

Haitian money: 100 centimes = 1 gourde (rhymes with ‘food’),  
5 gourdes = 1 Haitian dollar



Nicer places may take credit cards; local shops only take gourds or HD.

*Always clarify* whether prices are being quoted in gourds or dollars!!!

The exchange rate is currently about \$1US = \$8HD, or \$1US = 40g.

\$ US	\$ HD	Gourdes	\$ HD	Gourdes	\$ US
\$1	\$8HD	40g	\$1HD	5g	\$0.13
\$2	\$16HD	80g	\$2HD	10g	\$0.25
\$3	\$24HD	120g	\$3HD	15g	\$0.38
\$4	\$32HD	160g	\$4HD	20g	\$0.50
\$5	\$40HD	200g	\$5HD	25g	\$0.63
\$10	\$80HD	400g	\$10HD	50g	\$1.25
\$20	\$160HD	800g	\$20HD	100g	\$2.50

Haitian Language

Haitians speak Kreyol, which is related to French. Only about 15% also speak French or English.

English	Kreyol	English	Kreyol
What is your name?	Ki jan ou rele?	OK, see you later.	Oke, n’a we pita.
My name is ____.	M’ rele ____.	You have a good day?	Ou pase bon jounen?
Hello, how are you?	Bonjou, ki jan ou ye?	Where is everybody?	Kote moun yo?
I’m fine.	M’ byen.	What do you want?	Ki sa ou vle?
Good morning.	Bonjou.	What do you mean?	Kouman?
What are you doing?	Ki sa ou ap fe?	Thanks a lot!	Mesi anpil!
What time is it?	Ki le li ye?	Where is the bathroom?	Ki kote toilette la?

**Won’t this be dangerous, and how can we stay safe?**

Haiti is dangerous, even more dangerous than riding in a car, probably less dangerous than McDonalds. Of course, we are going to be as safe as possible,

- Requiring certain medical precautions,
- Following the advice of people who regularly travel to Haiti,
- Relying on very experienced adult leaders, and
- Being very clear about safety issues and expectations with the teenagers.

But all outreach involves some risk, especially mission trips, especially foreign trips, *especially* here. You cannot be perfectly safe *and* help people who need the most help. Pick one.

### Basic Safety Issues

The media portrays Haiti as a wild place, full of disease and crime; and it is, to a degree. However...

- Know that we are not going to put our group in the most vulnerable situations.
- We will stay together in groups, especially when travelling.
- There are guards at St Joe's, who will not let us out alone, or let in strangers.
- We will register with the State Department so that the US Embassy is aware we are there.
- We will secure special group insurance, which covers medical issues and emergency evacuation.
- We will address emotional safety through journals, reflection, and time alone to process.

### Medical Precautions

Sun protection is important in the Caribbean; bring sunscreen (not suntan), sunglasses & hats.

Insect repellent is important; we will bring strong DEET spray to stave off Dengue fever.

We will constantly wash hands and use hand sanitizer.

We will only eat food through St Joe's Family organizations, or approved by our guides.

We will drink *lots* of water (only pre-bottled, outside of St Joe's, even to brush teeth).

We will stay clear of animals, including pets like dogs and cats, or farm animals like goats and pigs.

We will always have a first aid kit, and be very aware of local clinics and hospitals.

Everyone *must* prepare for the trip with these medications:

- Typhoid immunization (vivotif berna): one tablet every other day (for a week), asap
- Hepatitis A immunization
- Tetanus/Diphtheria booster, if out of date
- Malaria medication: Chloroquin (500mg), one tablet daily for the week before departure
- Bring Cipro (500mg, #14), one tablet twice daily, in case of diarrhea
- Bring all your personal medications in your carry-on bag

### Another issue

You may have heard rumors about a boy recently claiming a St Joe's staff member sexually abused him.

There are many ugly things on the Internet about this and past claims.

There are also many people (Hansen and Katelyn know dozens, who have served at St Joe's), who *fully support* the organization and individual in question. For instance...

Duke, UNC & NC St regularly send students to St Joe's.

Montreat Conference Center brings the Resurrection Dance Theatre to work with kids here.

Hansen knows several pastors who serve churches that give significant financial support.

We wish we had all the answers, but here is what we do know.

The recent claim has been investigated, and the staff member was *fully cleared*.

Past accusations have gone through court systems, and the staff member was *fully cleared*.

No concern has *ever* been raised about the sexual safety of volunteers.

Plenty of questions have been raised about the motives of the accusers.

For about two days, Hansen wondered if the rumors were too much, if maybe we should cancel.

After hearing very frank and personal stories from people who have dealt with this issue,

and after talking with Lisa Kunkleman about the best thing for our church and our teenagers,

I confidently believe that neither our group nor the kids of St Joe's are in danger.

### What else should I know about this trip?

#### Technology

As usual, we will collect your cell phones.

As usual, you will complain.

As usual, it will make your experience better, and some of you will thank me.

What is unusual is that every text, call or Facebook update in Haiti incurs *huge* roaming charges.

The group will have one phone for emergencies.

The group will also have one computer and occasional internet access, to send out reports, blogs, etc.

Since your cell phones will be locked in a safe all week, bring a camera.

Outside of St Joe's, ask people if you may take their pictures.

Many Haitians do not want their image captured.

#### Insurance

Hansen is negotiating a special insurance rider with our church provider.

We will have access to local clinics and hospitals, including the University hospital.

We will also have emergency medical evacuation coverage, in case someone gets very sick.

Please check with your family's provider, to see what coverage they might also provide for Haiti.

Anything you can copy or print out for us to bring would be helpful.

#### Contacts and Information

St Joseph Family, [www.sjfamilyhaiti.org](http://www.sjfamilyhaiti.org)

Delmas 91, #48 Rue Herne, Petionville, Haiti (this may change in June)

[questions@sjfamilyhaiti.org](mailto:questions@sjfamilyhaiti.org), 509-3-449-9942

Director, Michael Geilenfeld

Contact for work teams, Renee Dietrich

Facebook Group, "St. Joseph Family, Haiti"

Hearts with Haiti, [www.heartswithhaiti.org](http://www.heartswithhaiti.org)

Executive Director, Geoffrey Hamlyn, 919-758-8085

US Embassy in Haiti, <http://haiti.usembassy.gov>

Tabarre 41, Route de Tabarre, Port-au-Prince, Haiti

011-509-2229-8000 (after hours emergencies: 011-509-2229-8122)

Providence Presbyterian Church office, 704-846-1079

Providence Youth Group emergency phone, TBD



This is Walnes (in his Montreat shirt) and Bill (on the drum) leading a worship at the new home for boys, which will open in June! (picture taken, 27 Jan 2012)

## How can I prepare and plan to go?

### Spiritual Preparation

‘What is the meaning of life?’, someone asked at a conference. The speaker told this story:  
“As a young boy in a remote village during WWII, I found a broken mirror, and kept the largest piece.”  
He held up an old piece of glass. “This one.”  
“I was fascinated by its reflection. It became a game for me to get light into the darkest places.  
I kept the little mirror, and as I became a man, I realized that this mirror was a metaphor for my life.  
I am not the light. I am not the source of light. But light is there, and it will only shine if I reflect it.  
I am a fragment of a mirror whose whole design and shape I do not know.  
Nevertheless, with what I have I can reflect light into the dark places of this world.”

Before going to Haiti, pray about how you can be a mirror. Practice being a mirror in Charlotte.  
Read a few Scriptures, like Micah 6:8, Luke 4:16-21, Matthew 25:35-40, Colossians 3:15, Luke 17:21...  
Spend some time writing down answers to questions like these:

Why are you going? What do you want to happen? How will your life be changed?

Maybe think about Mother Theresa. (Remember, it was a priest from her order that started St Joe’s.)

“I do not pray for success; I ask for faithfulness.”

“Be faithful in small things, because it is in them that your strength lies.”

“I am a little pencil in the hand of a writing God, who is sending a love letter to the world.”

“We, the unwilling, led by the unknowing, are doing the impossible for the ungrateful.”

### Calendar

Feb 19	General Parents Meeting for questions about summer trips, before Youth Group
Feb 20-24	Prepare for the Attic Sale
Feb 25	<b>Attic Sale</b> – one of our two main fundraisers, for which we <i>need</i> your help
March 1	Deadline to register for Haiti, with your \$200 deposit
April 1	Give Hansen two copies of your passport, with your second \$200 payment due Meeting for all mission trip participants and any interested parents, before Youth Group
April	Prepare for the Youth Auction! Sell tickets & get donations!
May 5	<b>Youth Auction</b> and Dinner – our largest fundraiser, at which you <i>need</i> to help
May 20	Youth Sunday Final \$200 payment due
June 10	Mission participants commissioned during worship, with lunch afterwards
June 17	<b>Get on a plane</b> to Port-au-Prince!
June 24	Return to Charlotte
July 1	Share your Haiti faith experiences at worship

### Packing List

You will get a full packing list later.

Expect to check one bag for donations (clothes, medical, etc.) and

Carry on two *small* bags for all your gear.

You will have *very little stuff* to live on, but it will be enough...

**What if this is too much for me right now?**

The Haiti trip is not for everyone.

That is one reason we are offering an alternative for *you* to join college and middle school youth.

**Intergenerational Mission Trip**

**Where exactly are we going, and why there?**

Hurricane, West Virginia is a poor town in one of the poorest sections of this country.

The Presbyterian church there runs Camp Livingstone, a 10-year old summer mission program.

**When is this mission trip, and how are we getting there?**

June 16-23 (simultaneously with Haiti), probably with two 12-passenger vans

**Who will be going from Providence to West Virginia?**

Middle School, *High School* & College-aged young adults, from rising 6<sup>th</sup> grade to age ~24.

Dan Kunkleman will be there, maybe Lisa, maybe Hansen.

We will need 1-3 more adult chaperones. Talk to Hansen, if you are interested.

**With whom will we work in West Virginia, and what will we do?**

This trip is about sweating to fix and build homes/trailers, ramps, roofs, etc.

Camp Livingstone arranges to help people who are in the most need.

**How much will it cost?**

The trip costs \$275 for young people, \$175 for adult leaders.

**How can I help raise funds?**

We need endless help with the Attic Sale, and with preparing and running the Youth Auction.

**Other than mission, what will the week be like?**

We stay on the church grounds, on cots in large tents.

Meals are provided each work day.

There will likely be another church group working with us.

Worship is very important here; expect a praise band, Bible studies, reflection each evening.

There is recreation every evening, such as volleyball, putt putt, ice cream, movies...

On Wed we choose between whitewater rafting, guided rock climbing or a horse-riding tour!

**What else should I know about this trip?**

Presbyterian Church of the Covenant, <http://pcclife.com>

Camp Livingstone, 2438 US Route 60, Hurricane, WV 25526

Coordinator Wendy Laukoter, 304-539-1116

*Absolute deadline to register, April 1, with \$100 deposit.*



Montreat Youth Conference  
**July 8-14**  
**Montreat, NC**  
*“Perfectly Imperfect”*



We are attending the **Montreat Youth Conference**, Week 3,

<http://www.montreat.org/current/2012-youth-conferences-at-montreat>

- Montreat Youth Conferences are gatherings of 1200+ Presbyterian teenagers.
- We worship, dance, laugh, sing, pray, rest, play crazy games, hear amazing sermons, meet great - new friends, study the Bible passionately, share your heart and faith with each other, and find the time somehow for a mission project and maybe even a short hike!
- This is **NOT** the same thing as Montreat family conferences, not even close, not even ballpark...
- If you have questions about the teenage experience at Montreat, ask Meredith, Lindsey or Wills!

There is no one event that has a better potential to impact your faith than Montreat!

- The highlight of the Conference is Small Group—imagine meeting 25 teenagers from all across America, and within a few days, they are like a new family!
- Our Preachers for the week are Shelli (who is a grown-up Meg Sink; they even look alike), Casey (who can paint while he preaches), and Cleophus (who will make you say ‘Amen’)!
- Our Music Leader for the week is Eric Nanz, who helped out with music at Montreat a couple years ago, whereat Steve and Hansen just couldn’t believe how good he was at guitar.

We are staying at the **Ellington Inn**, at the corner of Louisiana & Harmony.

- The house sleeps 11 in 5 rooms.
- There are bathrooms and showers on both floors, and a kitchen to prepare our own meals.

The **cost is \$350**, which includes everything except travel meals, snacks & souvenirs.

- The registration form (attached) and a \$100 deposit is due April 1.
- We currently have room for 8 youth, although we might be able to bring more.

Other details...

- We will be going to Montreat with Matthews Presbyterian again!
- We are renting a van for the week.
- This conference is for youth rising into 9<sup>th</sup> grade through graduated seniors.



**Registration Form**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, am signing up for these summer trips!

- High School Mission in Haiti, June 17-24
- Intergenerational Mission In West Virginia, June 16-23
- Montreat High School Youth Conference, July 8-14
- Montreat Middle School Youth Conference, July 18-22

Please answer the questions below, and include your deposits, by March 1 (Haiti) or April 1 (others).

For the mission trips, why do you want to do this kind of service work in the summer?

For the mission trips, what is one good way for you specifically to help fundraise?

For the mission trips, what is most important to you about this trip, and why?

(For instance, bonding with your Youth Group; serving God by serving your neighbor; experiencing the Word of God in new and exciting ways; fun, fellowship, and getting away from normal routine; learning about global poverty; something else???)

For Montreat, what does the theme mean to you? (HS “Perfectly Imperfect” or MS “Rooted in Love”)

For Montreat, what is most important to you about this trip, and why?

(For instance, bonding with your Youth Group; serving God through praise; experiencing the Word of God in new and exciting ways; fun, fellowship, and getting away from normal routine; meeting cute boys/girls; something else???)