



## Visitor Information

Haiti Christian Development Fund (HCDF) is non-profit organization that was established under the leadership of Jean and Joy Thomas and is built upon the biblical principles of reconciliation, relocation, and restoration. Perhaps more than any other organization, they have worked along-side of their neighbors, involving and empowering them to live better lives, while witnessing Christ in words and actions. HCDF not only asks how to feed the hungry (an important first step!) but also how to make self-sufficiency a realistic possibility. The Gospel of Christ remains the underlying foundation behind all they do.

HCDF has been working in the Fond-des-Blanc community for over 30 years. They have worked side-by-side the people of the community to help establish foundational resources that has changed way of life for the people there. Starting with the most basic need of clean water to a farming coop that helps each farmer multiply their annual productivity through projects that are too big for a single farmer, HCDF has become the hands and feet of Jesus in tangible ways. For example, HCDF has been providing irrigation systems so that farmers can take advantage of Haiti's abundant water supply, has made a communal farm equipment (including a combine, which is one of only a few available in the entire country) available to speed up land preparation for seeding and harvesting, and has also offered a marketing arm for farmers to be guaranteed that they are getting the best price for their surplus crops. This all is in addition to guaranteeing the empowerment of the local community through land ownership and education in agricultural techniques.

In addition to the farming coop project, HCDF has worked with the Fond-des-Blancs community to build an elementary school that educates around 1500 students across 7 campuses, developed a reforestation project that has planted millions of trees, established a credit union for the poor to invest in and lend from to start up area businesses, and started a pig nursery to replace a population wiped out by disease. All of this Christian Community Development is tied to a mother church and seven satellite churches. Read the full story in Jean's book, [\*At Home with the Poor\*](#).

Visitors will get more than a 'drive-by' short-term mission experience...they will join in every-day life, living with the people in Haiti. Possible activities may include helping with whatever projects are under development at the time of the visit, beautiful walks through the mountains of Haiti, going to the local market, visiting the preschool and elementary school and playing with the children, going to the beach, sponsoring a student and getting to visit the child before you leave, watching beautiful sunsets and star gazing across the mountainous horizon and open, brilliantly bright sky.

While Haiti may be known as the poorest country in the Western hemisphere, it may also be the richest country in generosity and love of the people. This experience will involve your hands, hearts, and minds while you serve and take away much more than you could ever give.

## HAITI CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT FUND

The Haiti Christian Development Fund is a faith-based, tax exempt, organization that depends on your generosity for its ministry to the people of Haiti.

Post Office Box 934696  
Margate, FL 33093

Phone: 954-727-3681  
Email: [info@hcdf.org](mailto:info@hcdf.org)



**Total Cost Per Person for HCDF Visit (can host groups up to 16 people per visit):**

- \$15/day for one hot evening meal per day, and lodging
- \$150 for ground transportation from Port-au-Prince to Fond-des-Blanc (provided by HCDF) or fly into Fond-des-Blancs from PAP with Mission Aviation Flights; the current cost per plane (5 person) is \$375 one way (or 950 total pounds with luggage and people). You may contact MAF directly for reservations: [flyhaiti@maf.org](mailto:flyhaiti@maf.org) or +509-3791-9209 or +509-2941-9209. MAF websites: [www.mafhaiti.org](http://www.mafhaiti.org) | [www.maf.org](http://www.maf.org)

- \$100 Ministry Contribution
- Your airfare

*(send checks to HCDF for the respective amount – excluding airfare – to the following address):*

Haiti Christian Development Fund  
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Margate, FL 33093

**Helpful Websites:**

- Travel.State.Gov Website: [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis/cis\\_1134.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1134.html)
- Embassy of the United States Port-au-Prince Haiti Boulevard du 15 October, Tabarre 41, Tabarre, Haiti  
Telephone: (509) (2) 229-8000 Facsimile: (509) (2) 229-8027 U.S. number: 202-332-4090 Email: [acsmap@state.gov](mailto:acsmap@state.gov)
- To register your trip with the U.S. Department of State <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/>

**Vaccinations and Passports:** If you do not have a current passport, you should allow at least 6 weeks. For immunizations, you can speak with your local health professional; Jean Thomas says: *“The one vaccination that I highly recommend is Tetanus. Some people choose to do a complete malaria prevention program. I find it excessive since the strand of malaria here is not deadly and the treatment is only 3 days.”*

**Suggested Packing List:** *(check with your respective airline carrier for luggage and packing restrictions)*

- Only travel-size toiletries (3-ounce containers or smaller) may be brought through the security checkpoint/on board the aircraft (in carry-on luggage). These items must be in a clear, plastic, one-quart zip-top bag. See carry-on updates for more information. (Peanut butter is considered a liquid; put in checked luggage)
- No aerosol containers (i.e. pump spray mosquito repellent vs. aerosol mosquito repellent)
- Passport and flight itinerary (take an extra copy of your passport and itinerary and leave one with family)
- Cash for meals at airport, gift shop, and local market in Haiti (more info. below)
- Battery-operated fan
- Mosquito repellent (pump spray; 30% deet or more; found in camping/hunting section of store)
- Sun screen, lip balm with sunscreen, sunglasses/hats to shade your face
- Toiletries (toothbrush, shampoo, soap, deodorant, toothpaste, tampons, Q-tips, etc.)

**HAITI CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT FUND**



- For lens wearers, contact solution and extra pair of contacts; glasses
- Flashlight/reading light or lantern
- Bath towel/hand Towel/washcloth
- Dish clothes, dish soap, bleach tables for toilet, toilet paper, Kleenex, disinfectants, hand wipes, hand sanitizer, or other household 'conveniences' that you may want to use
- Trash bags for trash, dirty clothes
- Ear plugs (wax or swimmer ear plugs work great)
- Zip lock bags to keep open food sealed from insects
- Swimming suit and beach towel (if not using bath towel)
- Camera (can use cell phone camera/video, but unless you have an international calling plan, you will not be able to place or receive calls while in Haiti on your cell)
- Shoes: Hiking shoes or durable hiking sandals for hikes/walks; if bringing flip flops, you may want to bring a couple pairs since they may break on the rough/rocky roads
- Clothes suitable for temps that range from mid 80s to the 60s in the evenings in January and 100+ in summer months in Fond des Blanc; females should bring knee-length skirts or a dress and men a nice pair of pants for church and school visits; modest work clothes are fine for the for weekday which ideally should cover shoulders and shorts that hang about half way down the thigh
- Any medications you regularly take (allergy pills, etc.) or might want to have on hand (Tylenol, pepto bismal, diarrhea meds, laxatives, etc.) – or are taking for part of your immunizations (i.e. malaria pills); oral antibiotics are an option but not typically necessary; most all medications can be purchased locally
- Water bottle and possibly Gatorade power packets or other electrolyte-based supplement
- Bible/pen/journal/books
- Laundry soap (optional) if wanting to try hand-washing your clothes
- Food: granola bars, spaghetti and sauce, crackers, muffin mix, dried fruit, dry cereal, oatmeal, canned fruit or other foods, camping type food that requires only hot water, coffee/tea/crystal light/etc., jelly, peanut butter, canned chicken or tuna, mayo, bread/pita bread, etc.; any food – including peanut butter – that exceeds three ounces must be in your checked luggage; HCDF has an oven you can use for heating water, warming things on the stove top, and baking items in the oven.
- HCDF provides sheets, a pillow, and towels
- Deck of cards or board games for enjoying with adults and Caleb students in the evenings
- Games/activities for children in area (those walking by and the school children during recess (11:15-11:30 am and before school around 7:30 am each weekday) - like sidewalk chalk, jump ropes, puzzles, etc.

#### **Past Questions From Visitors:**

#### **Preferred form for donations? (cash brought with us vs. via website?)**

Only money for personal use should be brought to Haiti. All other contributions or fees related to HCDF's services should be sent to HCDF's office in Florida and a tax-deductible receipt will be issued.

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## **HAITI CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT FUND**



### **How much extra \$ should I have on hand?**

The local market and airport are primarily the main places that you may spend money, and the average amount spent ranges from US \$50-\$200. The airport also has a small gift shop that sells rum, coffee, wood carvings, tin art, paintings, T-shirts, and a few other things. There may also be people selling you paintings, jewelry, or other items outside the airport.

### **Sleeping, bathing conditions?**

The guest house has indoor facilities (flushing toilets and showers)

### **Should I bring a sleeping bag, pillow, etc.?**

The guesthouse will have beds, sheets, towels, and pillows for everyone, but you may want to bring your own pillow and a hand towel, wash cloth, and extra bath towel.

### **What about certain deodorants, bug sprays, towels, soaps, etc.**

Mosquitoes are the most common insect and any of the standard repellents are fine.

### **What clothing should I bring?**

You may bring any clothes to wear during the week, although modest clothes that cover the shoulders and shorts that hang at least half way down the thigh are preferred. A skirt or dress is requested for the ladies and long pants for the guys for Sunday church service and visits in the schools.

### **Can I bring a suitcase of any extras?**

Please email us (info@hcdf.org) to find out what the current needs are. There is plenty of room in the vehicles for transporting you and your bags to Fond-des-Blancs. If the airlines can bring it to Haiti, we can get it to Fond-des-Blancs.

### **How safe is this area, will we be off on our own, or always have someone there with us?**

Fond-des-Blancs might be the safest place in Haiti. There are no insecurity wearies of any kind. The worse would be some petty theft; and that is rare.

### **What is the best food to pack in addition to the meals provided for us?**

Anything that does not require cooking with more than hot water. Please refer to suggested packing items.

### **How can we contact loved ones back home to communicate?**

There is internet available, but the speed is slow (not fast enough for photo upload) and there is a download limit. While basic emails would be okay to send, contacting your cell phone provider to get international cell plan during your stay may be the best option (*most carriers offer a global calling plan for a month at a time*)

### **Contact Info:**

Jean Thomas: info@hcdf.org

Haitian number: 011-509-3644-7799 or U.S. number: 954-727-3681, ext.1088

### **The immigration form you will fill on the plane, the address should be:**

Private Home Address Name: Jean L Thomas

Street: Fond-des-Blancs (even though it is the town) City: Aquin

### **HCDF shipping agent in Miami (for shipping items that you would like to get to Fond-des-Blanc):**

Donald R Liautaud JMB International, Inc.

7829 NW 72nd Ave

Medley, FL. 33166

Tel: (305) 992-0384 | Fax: (305) 885-9015

## **HAITI CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT FUND**



While there are many programs that the HCDF has developed and administers, the following three are expanded on below:

#### **CALEB LEADERSHIP PROGRAM:**

These young leaders have graduated from a three-year training program taught by Jean Thomas which includes theological, community development, English, and management training. They have all relocated to communities that are on the perimeter of the Fond-des-Blancs area and have many needs. While Fond-des-Blancs gives visitors a perspective of what 30+ years of community development looks like in a rural Haitian community, the communities that the Caleb leaders are working within gives visitors a different perspective of the challenges that communities who have not benefited from development and aid face on a daily basis. Visits to these communities can be coordinated with the respective leaders below and communicated with your Fond-des-Blancs visit coordinator.

##### **Smith Fauvelt**

Email: [fasmith08@yahoo.fr](mailto:fasmith08@yahoo.fr) | Tel: (509) 3123-5267 / 4309-2372 | Website: <http://hcdf.biz/smithfauvelt>

Geographical area of work: Lexi – Haiti

##### **Kemsom Lundi**

Email: [kemsonhaiti@yahoo.fr](mailto:kemsonhaiti@yahoo.fr) | Tel: (509) 3852-0478 | Website: <http://hcdf.biz/kemsonlundi>

Geographical area of work: Grigri

##### **Evetuel Theicien**

Email: [evetueltheicien@yahoo.com](mailto:evetueltheicien@yahoo.com) | Tel: 509 3682-8743

Geographical area of work: Mache Kabrit – Haiti

##### **Sheslaire Georges**

Email: [papishes@yahoo.fr](mailto:papishes@yahoo.fr) | Tel: 509-3776-7361 / 509 4378-3001 | Website: <http://hcdf.biz/sheslaire>

##### **Jean Joab St Louis**

Email: [sjeanjoab22@gmail.com](mailto:sjeanjoab22@gmail.com) | Tel: 509-3801-5397 / 509-4295-5887 | Website: <http://hcdf.biz/jeanjoab>

Geographical area of work: Dufour – Haiti

##### **Eddy Edouard**

Email: [eddyedouard2013@gmail.com](mailto:eddyedouard2013@gmail.com) | Tel: 509-3727-1808 / 509-3272-7693

Geographical area of work: Saint-Jules – Haiti

#### **STUDENT SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM:**

- Sponsors can select their student via the hcdf.org website, where the photo, gender, birthdate, grade, residence, and personal information is available for each student in need of sponsorship.
- Sponsors can visit the child anytime and as often as they can come to Haiti; correspondence with students can be sent through the hcdf.org website.
- \$25/month pays for fabric for uniform, daily hot lunch, school books, salary of teacher, and first aid: send

### **HAITI CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT FUND**