



November 2024

# International Faith Mission

5553 County RD, 79A, Saint Joe, IN 46785  
(330) 439 - 6468 ifm.hdr@gmail.com  
www.lfmbHaiti.org

Please pray  
for Haiti!

**T**hank You—The first thought that comes to mind as I reflect on 2024.

Thank you to you our supporters. We wouldn't function without you, your prayers, and your generous donations. I believe your prayers have caused God to provide ways for us to keep serving the country of Haiti in these difficult times. In seemingly impossible situations, we have been able to find the supplies and logistics that we needed to keep the school and clinic open.

Thank you to our North American staff: Keith, Delphine, and Barb. Your willingness to live in multiple places as the security situation forced moving back and forth across the border has been a blessing to the mission and God's work in Haiti. Keith and Delphine, thank you for helping with the administration of the clinic and also the broader work of IFM. Barb, thank you for working in the office to see that the data entry was completed and payroll was counted out.

Thank you to our clinic staff and administration. Your dedication to serving your patients is amazing. Many of you have lived away from your families to see that the clinic was able to operate even when the road was too dangerous to commute from home. The high quality of patient care we provide to the community is due to your tireless effort and teamwork.

Thank you to our school staff and administration. Choosing to open school as normal when almost nothing is normal now shows your dedication to providing good education. The annual testing results indicate that your effort is indeed providing an environment where the students learn well.

Thank you to our Dominican Republic staff. We have called on you to help with the logistics of operating from the "other" side of the border. You've been very willing to help by making trips to the capital to facilitate the moving of supplies and people where needed. You also show Christ's love to so many who are on the DR side of the border because they've fled violence in their home communities.

Thank you to our board of directors and advisory board. You willingly give time and energy to determine the vision and direction of the mission in unprecedented times. Without your wisdom and insight we would surely make more mistakes and flounder along the way.

Thank you to our heavenly Father. He has made it possible for IFM to keep working in Haiti. This year has been one of continuous change. He has shown us an open door as soon as one slammed shut. We will continue to do what we can to accomplish the work He has given us as long as we are able.

~Durwin Miller

## Farewell!

**B**arb Stoltzfus has served with IFM since 2015. She first came to fill the position of nanny at the children's home. When we closed the children's home, Barb's role transitioned to working in the clinic office and central supply. She has given many hours working with data entry and counting medical inventory in and out of central supply.

Due to the crumbling security in our area, we no longer can provide a safe place for Barb to live and work.

She continues to search all avenues in hopes of being able to get paperwork that would allow Nathalie to travel to the US. Please continue to pray for Barb and Nathalie that the adoption would advance and that God would provide a way for them to be together in the US.

Barb, thanks so much for all you've contributed to IFM over the last nine years! We will miss your willing attitude and helpful spirit.



## SALT program stories

This is María Mendez from Jimaní, Dominican Republic. She is a Christian and involved in her church. She has been a member of a SALT savings and loans group for about 2 years.

She has had a vegetable stand in the municipal market for over 30 years and her specialty is taking heads of cabbage and shredding it with a knife in preparation to make coleslaw, saving the customer that prep time at home. It's fascinating watching her at work.

When asked why customers come to her stand to buy instead of the others, she said that she gives small amounts of credit if a client is short on money. She has taken out a loan to help her pay for inventory and likes that it's cheaper interest than from a bank.



Dalymen Gistal is a member of a SALT savings and loans group in Jimaní, Dominican Republic.

She buys vegetables from the vendors at the municipal market, puts it in her big plastic tub on her head, and walks through town selling garlic, onions, and peppers. The original mobile market!

She's saving to buy some land and then build a house, but it will take her years of saving. After every cycle, she rolls the savings over to the next term. She clearly trusts the group with her money.

What a blessing to be able to help provide that for her. By her smile, you can see the love of Jesus in her life.



## *SALT program stories*



**J**osmani Jean Batiste pays for a spot at the local municipal market in Jimaní, Dominican Republic, and is a member in a SALT savings group.

She borrowed money to help finance the used shoe and clothes retail business she owns. She goes to the capital, Santo Domingo, 5 hours away to buy her supplies. When asked how she repays her loan, she

said she saves a little every day, that way she doesn't have to worry about being short for her repayment schedule.

She likes the SALT meetings because she's learning things that help her business. The business helps her provide for her family and she's also saving money to improve her home.

## *We need you!*

**A**re you interested in learning/using Spanish? Would you enjoy being involved in community outreach and personal work in a Dominican town? If you are, we would like to talk to you.

We are looking for a couple, family, or single to work in the Dominican Republic. The need is primarily for someone who likes building relationships with people. Those relationships can then be used as a means to reach people for Christ.

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## School Sponsorship Changes

Since 2016, IFM has partnered with the Every Child School in Soliette. During that time, we enjoyed working with the teachers and administration of the school.

It has been exciting to see the students there receive a good education over the years. We also provided hot meals for a time.

Several years ago we discontinued the food program because we had no one to give oversight to it due to the situation in Haiti. We continued supporting the school until this past summer when we were forced to discontinue.

We pray that God will provide a way for the students there to continue their schooling.

We still have the Siloe school on our main compound. Pastor Voltaire has been the administrator there for many years and continues in that role.

We are no longer sponsoring specific students due to the difficulty in getting photos and info from Haiti. With our greatly reduced staffing, the administrative burden is too much.

Our sponsorship model has transitioned to an "Education Sponsorship". Your donations will still be going to provide an excellent education and hot meals to students in Haiti.

Please contact us if you are interested in helping with a monthly Education Sponsorship for \$25/month.

## Mission prayer needs

- ◆ Wisdom on navigating the current security situation
- ◆ Ability to find medical supplies for the clinic
- ◆ Safety for our team: Haitian, North American, and Dominican
- ◆ Thankfulness for God's provisions and protection
- ◆ **New personnel for the Dominican Republic (couple or family)**

*Any specified donations received over the present need will be used for a similar cause. All donations are tax deductible.*