

# TLC Barefoot School



## Support & Sponsorship Information Packet

On behalf of the TLC Barefoot School, we thank you for your interest and welcome you to our Information Packet. This packet is designed to help you understand the mission of the TLC Barefoot School. It is also designed to give you background information about the country of Haiti, the TLC School, the students who attend and some details about sponsoring or supporting a teacher, a student or the school. Be forewarned: Your American mind may have trouble grasping the cultural situations that the school and its personnel have to deal with in this third world country.

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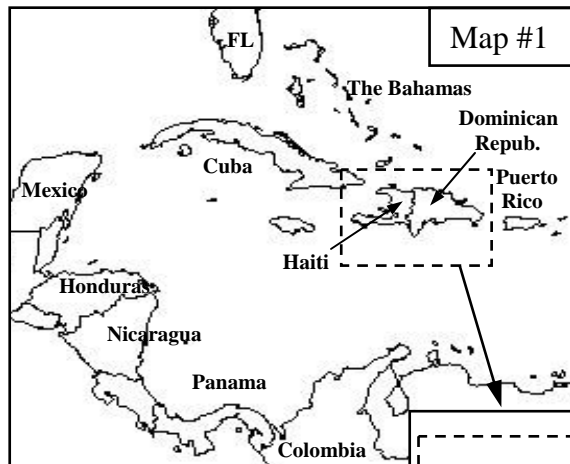
“The island nation of Haiti ... is one of the poorest countries in the world<sup>1</sup>,” the average life expectancy is under 60 years and “suffers from the highest HIV burden in the western hemisphere<sup>1</sup>.” Because of the poverty, the educational opportunities are somewhat limited for most of the nation’s children.

This packet is designed to give you a kind of “behind the scenes” look at the Haitian people and some of the children. It is assumed that if you are reading this, you are interested in being informed about and/or supporting the TLC Barefoot School (TLCBS). TLCBS is an educational ministry to some of Haiti’s poorest children and, by default, to their parents. So join us for a tour of the history of the Haitian people, the work of the TLC Barefoot School and ways you can help. Thank you for your interest.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.pih.org/wherewework/haiti/index.html>

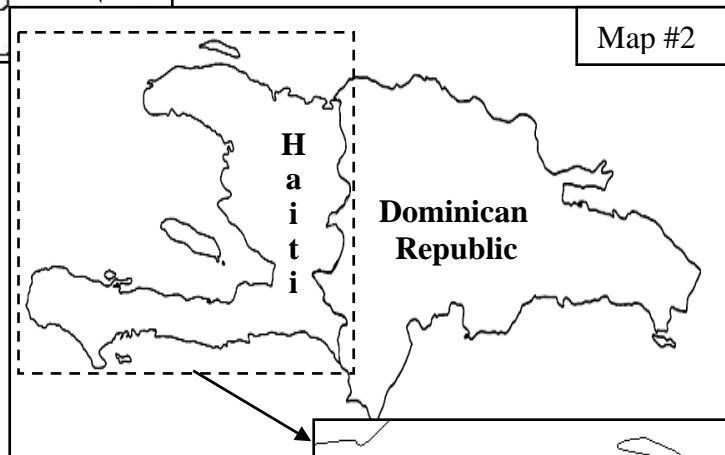
## A Geography Lesson

FYI: These maps on this page are low resolution – to minimize file size for possible emailing.

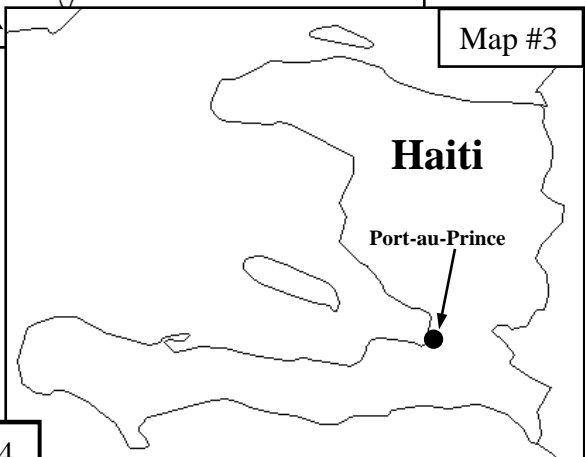


You probably know that the Island of Haiti is somewhere in the Caribbean Sea. Map #1 will help you see that it is southeast of Florida, east of Cuba and between Cuba and Puerto Rico.

There are two countries that share one island. The Republic of Haiti occupies the western third of the island and the Dominican Republic comprises the eastern two-thirds of the island. See Map #2.



The capital of the Republic of Haiti is Port-au-Prince. See arrow on Map #3. FYI: The distance from Miami to Port-au-Prince is approximately 700 miles. The population of Port-au-Prince is approximately 5 to 6 million. Port-au-Prince is about 19 degrees north of the equator and has a tropical climate.



The TLC Barefoot School is located on the outskirts of Port-au-Prince in the Delmas area approximately where the arrow is pointing, see Map #4.

## A Brief History of Haiti

You may recall from your childhood that “In 1492, Columbus sailed the ocean blue” and “discovered” America. That’s not all. He also “discovered” the island we now know as Haiti. Columbus thought he was in India and called the local people Indians. [The proper name for the local people was Tainos.] The Spanish named the island Hispaniola meaning “Little Spain”.

The Spanish were searching for gold. In their ruthless quest, they exploited the Tainos and enslaved them. Within 50 years of the arrival of the Spanish, most of the Tainos were gone due to massacres, harsh treatment as slaves and European diseases. Starting in about 1503, black slaves were imported from Spain and then from Africa.

In 1625, the French arrived and settled in northwestern Haiti. They spread south establishing plantations and French control. Via a treaty in 1697, Spain ceded the western third of the island to France. This became the French colony of St. Dominique. The French imported huge numbers of black African slaves and used them to work the plantations. Some estimates suggest that there were 500,000 to 700,000 slaves in Haiti toward the end of the 1700s. As you can imagine, this drastically changed the demographics or population make-up of Haiti. St. Dominique became the most lucrative colony in the New World and sent slave-produced sugar, rum, cotton, mahogany and indigo back to France. This domination by France accounts for the French names and spellings used in Haiti.

In 1791, a slave rebellion was launched. There was a long and bloody 13 year war against the colony’s white leaders and plantation owners. In 1802, Napoleon sent more than 80,000 troops to quell the rebellion but the French were not able to win a decisive victory. There is evidence to suggest that over “half of the people of Haiti died before the resistance had run its course<sup>2</sup>.”

On Jan. 1, 1804, Haiti was declared to be independent and became the first independent black-slave republic. The name of the area was returned to Haiti, the original name used by the Indians. Haiti means “high ground” or “mountainous land”.

Haiti continued to have a turbulent history, political instability and civil wars. Various leaders have battled for control. This included the infamous Papa Doc and his son Baby Doc in the 1960s and 70s.

FYI: The US recognized Haiti in 1862. The US sent in Marines in 1915 and withdrew them in 1934. The US sent in more troops in 1994 and has had many other involvements in Haiti’s politics.

In recent years there has been more instability. Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide has been in and out of power several times and finally was forced into exile in 2004. Haiti had general elections in Feb. of 2006 and a democratically elected government took office in June, 2006.

With the instability and poverty, many Haitians have fled the country. You may have heard about the “boat people”. Many Haitians have come to the US and some went to other places. In addition, hurricanes have brought much destruction – 700 people were killed in Hurricane Jeanne in 2004.

Haiti uses three languages. The local people speak Creole, those living in the outer provinces speak Mountain Creole. Both of these languages are based on French. Business, government, financial and legal affairs are done in French. All testing for schools and Universities must be completed in French.

## Schooling at TLC Barefoot School

There are some US run institutions in Haiti that try to get Haitian children adopted into US families. While this may be a good thing for some children such as orphans, TLCBS has adopted a different philosophy. TLCBS aims to educate students so they can stay in Haiti and become upstanding contributing citizens of the country and to the Christian community.

Many if not most of the poor Haitian families have several children. It is our policy to accept no more than two children from one family. The idea was to spread the limited resources and schooling over a broader base. When one or two of the children in a family receive education, they usually teach other family members including the parents.

TLCBS serves about 90 to 100 children. TLCBS follows general US standards and has about 175 to 180 days of school per year. As noted previously, the children are taught in English and French. This allows the use of English language texts and most of the curriculum is based on US materials.

Parents come to school every grading period for teacher conferences. Teachers discuss each child's education, progress and report card. Parents are required to sign the report card. [FYI: Most parents of TLC students have either no schooling or maybe up to about 3<sup>rd</sup> grade level. [Many have trouble signing the card]. The children teach their parents how to sign their name and usually teach other family members some of the things they have learned. Last year [with the help of her teachers] Dottie began an English and French class for the parents of TLCBS students who desired to learn to read, write and speak English and/or French.

The TLCBS teachers do not have the credentials that one would expect of American teachers such as a BA, MA, etc. Personnel with these qualifications are simply not available. All teachers are Haitians and all speak fairly good English [excellent English by Haitian standards]. Most of the teachers are men and most have completed high school. Some teachers have taken or are taking college night courses in Port-au-Prince. All of the teachers live in the neighborhood and almost all walk to school.

Some Notes:

- TLC has one of the better school libraries in the country according to the teachers.
- TLC has 6 computers for student and teacher use.
- The school's electrical power comes from a diesel fueled generator most of the time since electricity tends to be unreliable.

It might help you to realize that most if not all of the TLCBS children do not have electricity, running water or much furniture in their dirt floor hovel homes. It is amazing to see the bright shining faces of the children as they come to school each morning – clean, well dressed and eager to learn.

## Financial Support for TLC School and Students:

Support for the TLC School breaks into three major areas:

### I. Support for the School:

As with any school, the TLC School requires school supplies. The following gives you partial lists of the type of supplies used. We purchase the items in Haiti so that we can help the Haitian economy and so that we do not have to pay the high custom tax.

#### Classroom Supplies:

Pencils	Rulers	White chalk	Beginners Lined paper
Spiral Notebooks	Dictionaries	Library books	Loose-Leaf Notebook Paper
Pencils large Pre-k	Double Stick Tape	Crayons	3 Prong Pocket Folders
Protractors	Sm. back packs	Black Board Erasers	

#### Healthcare Kits:

A kit may include Dial soap bars, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs, lotion, band-aids, cough medicine (expectorant), and triple anti-biotic cream.

#### Uniform/Clothing:

[1] Denim shorts; [2] skorts; jeans; skirts; [3] dresses; jumpers; [4] overalls; [5] sneakers/tennis shoes or sandals; [6] socks; [7] underwear; [8] Brightly colored T-shirts;

#### Office Supplies:

Cartridges for printers; business envelopes; 9 x 6 manila envelopes; copy paper; pencil sharpeners; mechanical pencils. All of these items are purchased in Port-au-Prince at almost the same price as in the US. Again it is to help the Haitian economy and so that we don't have to spend extra funds on the customs tax.

### II. Support for the Teachers

The school also has to pay its teachers. The number of teachers varies but is usually in the area of 10 to 12. You can help support or sponsor a teacher. The school can give you more information about this. Email Dottie for details at [dottiediehl@hotmail.com](mailto:dottiediehl@hotmail.com).

### III. Sponsor a Child

You can sponsor one of the children attending the school. A sponsorship provides a child with two uniforms, one pair of shoes, underwear, socks, hygiene items and two meals each school day. A full sponsorship costs \$565 per school year and can be paid in one sum, two payments or monthly payments. You may complete the Commitment Form and email Dottie at [dottiediehl@hotmail.com](mailto:dottiediehl@hotmail.com) or mail it to:

Dottie Diehl  
Unit 2036 TLC  
3170 Airmans Drive  
Ft. Pierce, FL 34946

## **Donations & Tax Status**

The TLC Barefoot School has 501 (c) (3) tax status and donations to the school are tax deductible.

If you send funds to support the school or a child, please send it to the TLCBS Treasurer at:

TLC Barefoot School  
c/o Mrs. Ginny Underhill  
616 E. 8th Street  
Beloit, KS 67420

You may also be able to donate through your church and have the church send your donation to the school's treasurer.

## **The TLC School as a Christian Ministry**

TLCBS is a Christian school. The children salute the Haitian flag, sing the Haitian national anthem and have prayer to begin each school day. The children have Bible classes by age level. The students have a memory verse in all subjects and it is included through out the curriculum. The children are presented with the plan of salvation. Most of the songs used in the school are Christian songs and hymns. The children are disciplined based on Christian principles. [i.e. Do you think God would approve of what you did?, etc.] The children say or sing grace before meals. Many of the students attend Haitian churches and some have been baptized. The school usually has family activities and invites families to attend a program at Christmas

Each year groups from the US come to do Bible schools [like VBS but during school time]. Others come to help on work projects, building, tiling, plumbing, the library, teacher seminars, etc.

## **Contacting & Mailing to the TLCBS**

TLCBS email address: [dottiediehl@hotmail.com](mailto:dottiediehl@hotmail.com)

It might help you to understand the "mail" delivery system. In Haiti, there is no mail delivery that you can trust that will deliver to your door. TLCBS has arrangements with a missionary aviation service. The service flies mail to its office in Port-au-Prince and the school picks up their mail from this office once a week.

All correspondence for Dottie or the TLC School is to be sent to this address:

TLC Barefoot School  
Dottie Diehl  
Unit 2036 – TLC  
3170 Airmans Dr.  
Ft. Pierce, FL 34946

You may send a card to your sponsored child at any time but do not add other things to this address such as the name of a sponsored child, etc. Put a note inside the card stating whom the mail is for.

# TLC BAREFOOT SCHOOL

## Support & Sponsor Commitment Form

By completing this sheet you are committing to sponsor a child; to help support the teachers or the ministry. You may fill out this form electronically and email Dottie at [dottiediehl@hotmail.com](mailto:dottiediehl@hotmail.com) or mail it to the Treasurer in Beloit Kansas. [See address below]

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

I/we wish to do the following:

1. Start a sponsorship of a TLC child. I/we understand that the child will be chosen by TLC. I/we would prefer: a \_\_\_ Boy OR \_\_\_ Girl; \_\_\_ Younger child OR \_\_\_ Older child.

\_\_\_ I/we wish to have a ***full sponsorship*** of this child and pay the fee of \$525 as follows:

A. \_\_\_ One payment

B. \_\_\_ Two payments: \_\_\_\_\_ month (1<sup>st</sup> payment); \_\_\_\_\_ month (2<sup>nd</sup> payment)

C. \_\_\_ Monthly payments of \$58.33 (for 9 months)

\_\_\_ I/we wish to have a ***co-sponsorship*** of this child and pay the fee of \$262.50 as follows:

A. \_\_\_ One payment

B. \_\_\_ Two payments: \_\_\_\_\_ month (1<sup>st</sup> payment); \_\_\_\_\_ month (2<sup>nd</sup> payment)

C. \_\_\_ Monthly payments of \$29.16 (for 9 months)

- \_\_\_ 2. Make a contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help pay the salaries of the teachers. I will pay this in  
A. \_\_\_ one, B. \_\_\_ two or C. \_\_\_ nine payments [see choices above]

3. Make a contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the expenses of the school. I/we would prefer that the money be used for:

\_\_\_ The general needs of the school      \_\_\_ Medical needs of the children

- \_\_\_ 4. Make a future contribution(s). Please specify approximate time, amount and any notes:

Please make checks payable to:

**TLC Barefoot School**

Mail all checks to this address:

TLC Barefoot School  
Ginny Underhill, Treasurer  
616 E. 8th  
Beloit, KS 67420