

Situated in the Caribbean Sea, Haiti shares the island of Hispaniola with the Dominican Republic. Despite its natural beauty and rich cultural heritage, the country has been plagued by political turmoil, economic stagnation, spiritual darkness, and despair. Founded in 1993 as a nonprofit (501c3) organization, the purpose of **LIVING HOPE MISSION MINISTRIES** is to touch the suffering people of Haiti with the love and healing power of Jesus Christ by providing spiritual, educational, and physical help for the whole person. At present the work is focused in the north and northeast of Haiti with an office based at Hope Center, just outside Cap Haitien. Living Hope works interdenominationally, joining people from various backgrounds to build and encourage the body of Christ.



Wilbert and Meg Merzilus are the founders and Executive Directors of Living Hope Mission. Wilbert, one of nine children, grew up in rural Haiti. At 12 he was given the opportunity to attend school through the generous support of a friend in Florida. After finishing school in Haiti, he was employed in Haiti as a lab technician and then as manager for Mission Aviation Fellowship in Cap Haitien. Later, Wilbert studied and worked in the U.S. Feeling a great call to minister to those in need and to share the love of Christ with his people, he returned to Haiti in 1993 to found Living Hope Mission.

Meg Merzilus, a native of Ohio, graduated from Eastern University in Pennsylvania and then went to Haiti where she worked in an orphanage, an economic development project, taught school, and coordinated visiting volunteer teams. She also oversaw the programs of a nonprofit organization working in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Meg feels a deep desire to share the love of Christ in Haiti.

Wilbert and Meg were married in 1987 and have two children, Katia and Christian.



Living Hope

MISSION MINISTRIES INC.

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Offering
HAITI
living hope in
CHRIST,
the hope of
the world



MINISTRIES of LIVING HOPE MISSION

Based upon the desire to share the gospel of Jesus Christ in both word and deed, and our belief that an integrated approach works best, Living Hope Mission has established a multifaceted ministry which includes the following aspects.

Undergirding the Local Church Hope Center serves as the hub from which Living Hope Mission works to undergird local churches. Here LHM hosts short-term



missions teams who work with local volunteers on construction of church and school buildings. Pastoral and leadership

training conferences are held regularly as well as training seminars in agricultural development. The goal of LHM is to make the work of the local church leaders, who labor in very hard conditions, easier and more effective. The mission provides support to partnering pastors and lay leaders in the form of help with transportation, Bibles, Bible study materials, and school supplies for children.

Agricultural Development Since its inception, Living Hope Mission has focused its work in rural, underserved areas where subsistence farmers eke out a living from small parcels of land. LHM's Agricultural Development Project



came into being in 1999 as a response to requests for help to grow more and better food. The project has trained rural farmers in better

methods for vegetable gardening, provided new sources of high-yielding seeds, and aided farmers with small animal health by providing information and veterinary drugs through a veterinary pharmacy located on the grounds of Hope Center. In 2007, a local landowner with a tract of property gave LHM access to 147 acres for food production. Corn, beans, and bananas are produced on this farm to be used in our school lunch program. The project is overseen by Jacques Saintelus, who also shares his expertise twice weekly on the local Christian radio station (4VEH) through his program "Agricultural Corner."

Education Education is a vital component to LHM's ministry. Though there are some government schools, the majority of



children have no access to schooling.

Especially in rural areas, the church often steps in to meet this need. LHM undergirds these rural church schools through the Scholarship and

Youth Opportunity Fund. Donations made to this fund are used to help pay teachers' salaries, and to improve and maintain schools. The fund also provides scholarships to individuals.

Many caring supporters of LHM have given funds and volunteer teams have helped construct school buildings in many communities. LHM also provides a hot lunch in most of the schools.

Income Generation Haiti's poor struggle to survive in a stagnant economy where jobs are scarce.

Often an investment of just \$250 U.S. will enable a family to start a small business. In the spring of 2002, LHM began a loan program working through local churches. The loan coordinator meets with small groups formed within the church and helps members with business plans. Loans are made to the entire group with each member repaying his loan over 20 months. The members of the group encourage one another to be accountable. After the loans are repaid, the process is duplicated with new individuals so that more people can benefit.

Health Health problems in both children and adults are a constant concern among the poor. Since many of these problems are related to hygiene and nutrition, LHM began a



program in 2005 to send health educators to schools on a regular basis to teach classes in health, hygiene, and community sanitation.

The Mission also welcomes visiting medical teams each year to hold mobile clinics that provide care for thousands of needy people.

Water Living Hope Mission's Community Development Fund has put an emphasis on providing access to clean drinking water. Generous donors have provided funds to drill deep wells and install hand pumps in many villages. LHM has a local team that responds to requests for pump and well



repairs. We are thankful to several organizations who share their resources and expertise with us, helping us provide clean drinking water to many.

Benevolence Living Hope Mission puts a strong emphasis on empowering people and helping them take care of themselves. We also believe in the biblical imperative to help the widows, orphans, and destitute among us. The Benevolence Fund meets needs in times of crisis. Over the years, donations to this fund have been used to provide emergency food to hurricane and flood victims, food to the elderly, surgery, and hospital stays. LHM is grateful that generous donors provide for LHM to be able to carry out its mandate.

What Can You Do?

Without the prayer and financial support of friends like you, the work of Living Hope Mission would not be possible. Prayer needs are published regularly in periodic newsletters which you may receive upon request. Your contributions to support the work of Living Hope Mission can be sent to LHM's U.S. office and are tax deductible.

LHM hosts groups of volunteers who desire to work alongside the local church on volunteer projects. A stateside coordinator will assist you in planning your trip. For trip information, please contact our office at lhminfo@aol.com. Helpful information is also available on our website.

LHM is a nonprofit (501c3) organization whose purpose is to touch the suffering people of Haiti with the love and healing power of Jesus Christ, by providing spiritual, educational, and physical help for the whole person. If you would like to make a contribution to the work of LHM, please complete this form and mail it with your gift to the address below.

To ensure that your gift is credited properly, please indicate if your gift is intended as support of LHM's ministry wherever needed or one of the special projects or activities approved by the LHM Board. LHM uses funds as designated by the donor. However, should the project, for which the gift was designated, be currently fully funded, LHM may use the funds for other LHM Board-approved projects.

I would like to support Living Hope Mission's work in Haiti. My gift is enclosed.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

If you are interested in receiving our quarterly newsletter and prayer communiqué, please indicate how you would like to receive it:

Regular mail Email: _____

Use as needed for Wilbert & Meg's Ministry

Special Ministry project or activity

Make checks payable to Living Hope Mission



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