

Introduction

About the program and Haiti

Adult curriculum

Health Care for Haiti's Children: Through School Nursing



About the program:

“Health Care for Haiti’s Children: Through School Nursing” is Middleham and St. Peter’s Lenten project for 2019. Churches throughout our area are encouraged to adopt the project in order to learn:

- ❖ About the need for health care for children in Haiti,
- ❖ How this program addresses that need, and
- ❖ How churches can support it.

This Lenten project is presented through a five-week curriculum with versions for younger children, middle school and teens, and for adults. Each week has a lesson, scripture reading, and prayer, and some have crafts. We encourage churches to make this a Lenten commitment for the whole church family, including the three age groups. All funds raised go to the project for nurses’ compensation, supplies, and equipment.

The project is being undertaken through a partnership between Middleham and St. Peter’s Parish in Lusby, Calvert County and the Episcopal University School of Nursing in Haiti (FSIL). The objective is to bring health care to children where there is very little health care. Through school nursing, improved health can be brought to nearly 1,000 students in three schools in Leogane, Haiti. This is the second phase of a project begun by Middleham and St. Peter’s in 2011 in response to the 2010 earthquake. The concept was successfully modeled in a school in the north for 3 ½ years and replicated in two other sites. This second phase is bringing care to three more schools, with the intent to sustain the project in Leogane and replicate the project across Haiti with the support of FSIL.

You may find that information and resources in one curriculum are helpful in the other two, so we encourage you to review all three. If you have questions or would like further assistance, you may contact Hugh Davies at 410-326-0370 or daviesh@comcast.net.

Funds raised by your church for this project are to be sent to:

Middleham and St. Peter's Parish
P.O. Box 277, Lusby, MD 20657

Make check payable to Middleham and St. Peter’s Parish
Please note on the memo line: 2019 Lenten Project

Week 1 March 10

About Haiti

Adult curriculum

Health Care for Haiti's Children: Through School Nursing



Where is Haiti?

Haiti is a country southeast of Cuba in the Caribbean Sea. It is on the western side of the island of Hispaniola. The Dominican Republic occupies the eastern half.

Where is Leogane?

The project is located in Leogane, which is 18 miles west of Port-au-Prince, the capital.



Important facts about Haiti

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere.

Of Caribbean nations, it has:

- ❖ the least access to electricity, clean water, and sanitation
- ❖ the lowest rate of literacy
- ❖ the greatest decline in natural environment
- ❖ the highest population density

It was Columbus's first settlement and is the only slave nation to free itself.

The Episcopal Diocese of Haiti, established in 1861, is the largest diocese in the Episcopal Church USA with over 83,700 members and over 100 congregations.

On Jan. 12, 2010, a massive 7.0 **earthquake** struck **Haiti** killing 300,000 people and leaving 2.3 million homeless without clean water or food. The epicenter of the earthquake was Leogane.



In the Leogane region of 150,000 people, 20,000 were killed in the earthquake. Now nine years after the earthquake, the center of Leogane has recovered, but the neighborhoods away from the center still have temporary shelter and have not been rebuilt. These areas remain extremely poor.



Electrical service, sanitation systems, and clean water are very limited. However, cell phones and cell towers can be seen across the country.



In spite of the desperate poverty, the people of Haiti are resilient, and the country has beautiful mountains and the Caribbean Sea.





Craft - Make a mite box or container to collect funds for the “Health Care for Haiti’s Children” project. A good instruction for making a box can be found at <https://www.instructables.com/id/paper-box/>. Or just use a can, using the wrapper provided along with the curriculum.

- ❖ *What is it? A simple paper box.*
- ❖ *What is it intended to hold? Offerings from grateful hearts.*
- ❖ *Why are the contents always of value? They are offered willingly unto the Lord.*
- ❖ *How shall we use the mite box? Keep one for your own use and fill it...let it be a constant reminder of the children in Haiti who need health care. Turn it in at the end of the five-week program.*
- ❖ *Call the mite box “Health Care for Haiti’s Children”*

Scripture:

1 John 3:17-18 *“How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses to help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.”*

How do these verses speak to you and your experience?

What does “loving in truth and action” mean to you?

Prayer:

Dear Lord,

As we learn about Haiti and their needs, let us be mindful of our baptismal covenant, that we will strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being, especially our brothers and sisters in Haiti. As the scripture says, let us move forward with actions and in truth, as Christ would have us do. Grant this, Father, for the love of your Son, who for our sake became poor, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Remember that \$20 provides a nurse for a day and \$100 a nurse for a week at a school.

Week 2 March 17

Health Conditions in Haiti

Adult curriculum

**Health Care for
Haiti's Children:
Through School
Nursing**



According to our Episcopal University School of Nursing in Haiti (FSIL) partner:

“Haiti, with its very limited resources, is in desperate need of health care, as well as models that address the preventative and acute needs of the population. This project addresses the health of approximately 1,000 students, their families, and their community, and serves as a model for school health in Haiti.”



In Haiti:

- ❖ 15% of children never reach the age of five.
- ❖ Less than 60% of children are vaccinated.
- ❖ Preventable diseases (malnutrition, diarrhea and pneumonia) are the major causes of child death.
- ❖ 90% of Haiti's children suffer from waterborne diseases and intestinal parasites
- ❖ Unsafe drinking water, along with inadequate housing and unsanitary living conditions contribute to children's poor health.



A major factor for poor health for children is the lack of doctors and nurses. The World Health Organization recommends 250 doctors and nurses per 100,000 people. In Haiti, there are just 35 per 100,000.

Port-au-Prince, the capital of Haiti, has 30% of the population, but 90% of the physicians, making access to care even more difficult in areas outside of the capital.

In summary, what prevents the improvement of access to healthcare in Haiti?

According to the book Haiti Now, poverty is the underlying cause of poor health, exacerbated by poor water quality, difficult transportation, and understaffed and underequipped facilities.

This project is designed to address the underlying causes of poor health, in addition to providing health care directly to approximately 1,000 children. The people of Haiti cannot escape poverty without improved education. Students will learn better if their health is improved – as evidenced by reduced absenteeism and improved academic performance. This project includes evaluation supported by thorough documentation. We intend to be able to show the results, and in doing so convince the schools to include school nursing in their programs. This will be the basis of our sustaining and growing the project.

Furthermore, the partnership with FSIL provides the dual benefit of including student nurses in the delivery of health care, and the training of those students in school nursing.

Scripture: Mark 5:21-43

Jesus wished to bless the people and lead them to faith in God. Because he was the Son of God and God's power came upon him, he was able to bless the people with miracles of healing. He caused many who were blind to

see, restored hearing to the deaf, made the lame to walk, and healed many of their sicknesses. He even brought some back to life.

²¹ When Jesus had crossed again in the boat^[a] to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him; and he was by the sea. ²² Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet ²³ and begged him repeatedly, “My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live.” ²⁴ So he went with him.

And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. ²⁵ Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. ²⁶ She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. ²⁷ She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, ²⁸ for she said, “If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.” ²⁹ Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. ³⁰ Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, “Who touched my clothes?” ³¹ And his disciples said to him, “You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, ‘Who touched me?’” ³² He looked all around to see who had done it. ³³ But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. ³⁴ He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace and be healed of your disease.”

³⁵ While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader’s house to say, “Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?” ³⁶ But overhearing^[b] what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, “Do not fear, only believe.” ³⁷ He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. ³⁸ When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. ³⁹ When he had entered, he said to them, “Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping.” ⁴⁰ And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside and took the child’s father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. ⁴¹ He took her by the hand and said to her, “Talitha cum,” which means, “Little girl, get up!” ⁴² And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. ⁴³ He strictly ordered them that no one should know this and told them to give her something to eat.

Why do you think Jesus spent so much of his ministry focusing on peoples’ physical well-being?

Different levels of restoration seem to be going on in these stories, especially that of the hemorrhaging woman—restoration to physical health as well as restoration to participating in the wider community. What connections do you draw between being well and being whole?

Prayer:

Almighty and most merciful God,

We remember before you all poor and neglected persons whom it would be easy for us to forget - especially children in Haiti who so desperately need health care. Guide us as we plan to reach out to the children of Haiti through this school nurse program in Leogane. Grant this, Father, for the love of your Son, who for our sake healed the sick, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Remember that \$20 provides a nurse for a day and \$100 a nurse for a week at a school.

Week 3 March 24

About the Nursing School and Nurses

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This project is a collaboration among Middleham and St. Peter's Parish of Maryland, the Episcopal School of Nursing in Haiti (Faculté des Sciences Infirmières de l'Université Episcopale d'Haïti or FSIL) and the three schools in Leogane. FSIL is the first four-year baccalaureate school of nursing in Haiti. In 2015, FSIL was ranked as the top nursing school in the country by the Ministry of Public Health.

FSIL is on a secure 10-acre campus in the middle of Leogane. The school has 130 students in the baccalaureate program, plus graduate programs for nurse practitioners. It also has a physical therapy and occupational therapy undergraduate program.



The school has excellent leadership through Dean Hilda Alcindor and president and board chair Dr. Jessie Colin. Both leaders are committed to the project. We have a shared vision of reaching out to the community through school nursing and sustaining and replicating the model. Dr. Colin will lead the evaluation of the project. With FSIL as the foundation of the project, we have a good

start toward our objective of institutionalizing the model. FSIL has been in operation for 15 years, and already seeks to reach into the community through mission trips every other month to bring medical aid to underserved neighborhoods, summer camp for Leogane children, and a Christmas party for the community. When the earthquake struck, the school was spared due to strong construction. For two years the campus served as a central location for medical aid and the campus served as a “tent city” for temporary housing for hundreds.



The school nurse project nurses are excellent - Yola Clervil is on the left and Fabiola Rejouis on the right. Fabiola is the lead. She is a nurse practitioner and a graduate of FSIL. She lives in Leogane and attended Abellard School from Kindergarten through high school graduation. Abellard is one of the three schools in the project. The nurses are being assisted by three third year nursing students from FSIL.



A team from Middleham and St. Peter's visited the program in December 2018. They brought equipment and supplies for the project and trained the nurses on the use of the equipment.



A key feature of the project is the availability of three nursing students who will assist the nurses at the schools. A rotation of students will provide clinical experience in community and pediatric health. Most importantly, the students will have preparation and experience in school nursing. Thus, the

project is not only providing the immediate care to children, but also preparing student nurses to be school nurses across Haiti.



Scripture

Exodus 18:13-14, 17-18, 24-25

“The next day Moses sat as judge for the people, while the people stood around him from morning until evening. When Moses’ father-in-law saw all that he was doing for the people, he said, ‘Why do you sit alone, while all the people stand around you from morning until evening?’....Moses’ father-in-law said to him, ‘What you are doing is not good. You will surely wear yourself out, both you and these people with you. For the task is too heavy for you; you cannot do it alone.’ So Moses listened to his father-in-law and did all that he had said. Moses chose able men from all Israel and appointed them as heads over the people, as officers over hundreds, fifties, and tens.”

Who do you identify with in this passage?

Reflect on the words “you cannot do it alone.” How do they resonate with your experience?

Building relationships and sharing leadership is important in many areas of our lives and is central to our partnership with the nurses at FSIL and partner schools.

Prayer

Dear Lord,

Thank you for guiding Middleham to FSIL and the devoted leadership and nurses that are the key part of this project. Be with us as they implement the services and provide health care to the children who so desperately need it. In Christ’s healing name we ask this.

Amen

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Week 4 March 31

About the Schools

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The **Haitian Educational System** rates the worst in the Western Hemisphere. Haiti's literacy rate of about 61% is below the 90% average literacy rate for Latin American and Caribbean countries. The country faces shortages in educational supplies and qualified teachers. The 2010 Haiti earthquake severely weakened Haiti's educational system by destroying infrastructure and displacing 50–90% of the students.

International private schools and church-run schools educate 90% of students in Haiti. Only 22% of children continue past the ninth grade and only 5% complete secondary school. Only 1% attend college.

There are three schools in the project:

- ❖ Abellard – a private school
- ❖ Ste. Croix – an Episcopal school
- ❖ Ste. Rose of Lima – a Catholic school

For all three schools the initial focus of this project is on the primary grades – approximately 1,000 students. The earthquake severely damaged all three schools, and they have been rebuilt. The schools and their leadership are fully committed to the project and realize the importance of bringing health care to the students and their families. In all three schools, space has been set aside for the project and infirmary. Healthier students should be better learners – with key objectives being reduced absenteeism and improved academic performance. These anticipated positive outcomes will be measured and evaluated.



The project will bring the following to the students:

1. Provide immediate and episodic health care to the students at the school
2. Periodic assessment and recordkeeping of the health of all students in order to improve their long-term health status and document outcomes
3. Providing health education to all students
4. Extending health resources to students' families and improving access to other health resources in the community and beyond

Health care in this project is being provided by the nurse and a team of three nursing students from FSIL.

During the Middleham team's visit, Abellard school director Rose Presume greeted the team and students sang a welcome:



Nurse Fabiola Rejouis is a graduate of Abellard.

At Ste. Croix, the Episcopal school, we were greeted by priest and school director Pere Sonley Joseph. Also shown are student nurses with Middleham team members.



Nurses Rejouis and Clervil treat students.



At Ste. Rose, we are greeted by Director Sister Marie Lourdes Joseph (shown with FSIL board chair Dr. Jessie Colin) and meet the students.



We appreciate that this project is directed to both improving health care and education.

Scripture

2 Esdras 14:47

For in books is the spring of understanding, the fountain of wisdom, and the river of knowledge.

Reflect together on what you've learned about Haiti so far. How is your river of knowledge widening as you learn more about the people of Haiti and this ministry partnership with FSIL?

Prayer

O Eternal God, bless all schools, especially Abellard, Ste. Croix, and Ste. Rose in Leogane Haiti, that they may be lively centers for sound learning, new discovery, and the pursuit of wisdom; Bless the nurses as they provide health care and knowledge in the schools, and grant that those who teach and those who learn may find you to be the source of all truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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Week 5 April 7

What Can We Do?

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Let's review what a school nurse and her team will bring to the three schools:

- Students would have someone to go for help when they are sick
- Someone to give them medicines when they are needed
- Someone to identify illnesses that are communicable and prevent them from spreading to others in the school
- Someone to write referrals to the hospital to get them help
- A health record for them
- Making sure they get all their shots to prevent illnesses
- Checking their hearing and having vision tested regularly and a way to get glasses or hearing aids if needed
- Teaching them about nutrition
- Teaching them about their bodies and good health habits
- Having someone talk to about their health needs and problems
- A trained health professional to work with the teachers
- Guidance for children's families to live healthier lives



And what we can do to support them:

- ❖ Pray for all of the children in Haiti, especially in Leogane, that they may receive God's grace, become healthier, grow in knowledge, and continue into successful lives. We also need to pray for their brothers and sisters, and mothers and fathers.



- ❖ Learn about what life is like for young people in a part of the world that is in many ways different from ours, yet their daily lives are not so different from ours. They go to school, play sports, enjoy music, help their families, and worship in the in their community. For those who worship at Ste. Croix, they are acolytes, go to Sunday School, and follow the services in the Book of Common Prayer - just in French.



- ❖ Support this project with your nickels, dimes, and dollars so that better health does come to their community. Here are some ideas:
 - o Discuss how you can raise money and raise awareness of the need
 - o Talk to your family about what you can do to help as a family
 - o Write an article for your church newsletter or bulletin asking for parish support
 - o Create a bulletin board or a display to raise awareness in your church
 - o Ask your local health care workers (doctors and nurses) to support your fund raising

- o Have a birthday party and ask for donations for Health Care for Haiti's Children instead of presents.
- o Give up something for Lent and give the money saved to Health Care for Haiti's Children
- o Put it on your Facebook page
- o You have good ideas, what do you think you can do to support Health Care for Haiti's Children?
- ❖ Become "Friends of the Haiti School Nurse Project". By supporting "Health Care for Haiti's Children", you and your church will receive a newsletter about the program every other month. You will get to know the good people in Leogane and learn about the progress of the project. We will share with our partners at FSIL information about all of the support we are receiving for them here in Maryland. You will be "Friends".

Scripture

Sirach 30:15-16

*Health and fitness are better than any gold,
and a robust body than countless riches.
There is no wealth better than health of body,
and no gladness above joy of heart.*

Prayer

Almighty God, we entrust all who are so committed to improving the health and education of children in Haiti to *your* never-failing care and love. Be with and support the nurses in their work in the weeks and months ahead. Guide us as we seek ways that we can support this good work in Haiti; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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