

# Introduction Haiti

The Wesleyan church's work in Haiti started many years ago, in the late 1940's. From the start, the work focused on teaching the Haitian people about the Lord's love and how to improve their lives. Today the teaching continues in many different ways: spiritual training through the 95 churches and preaching points as well as leadership training, Christian schools [preschool up through college level] health [two medical hospitals, clinics, village health classes] as well as agricultural training.

The Haitian leadership focus on continued outreach into their own communities as well as their country. The large earthquake on January 12, 2010, provided many opportunities for Haitian Christians and missionaries to reach out to unsaved people with

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the Lord's love by helping them find medical care, housing, food, and spiritual comfort. The earthquake and other dangers of life in Haiti remind the people of the fragility of life and that people need to hear about God's love and the road to salvation today. The Lord continues to work in Haiti.



Flag Motto : Union makes strength  
 Currency—1 Gourde = 2.5 cents US

"Haitian Maroon" is the escaped slave statue, a symbol of slavery and freedom

Can you find the pictures of Haiti's four main exports: Coffee, Mangos, Sugar Cane and Rice?



National bird  
 Hispaniola Tragon



Religions:  
 Catholicism  
 Voodoo

# Haiti



95% of people are of African descent from slaves brought to work in the sugar cane

Haiti was a haven for pirates in the 1600's. It was the first black led republic, and gained independence January 1, 1804. It has the largest citadel in the Americas, built to protect the country from an inva-



Languages:  
 French  
 Creole—mix of Indian, French, Spanish and English



# Children's Story

## *Altedor's Story*

The sun shines off the swaying coconut leaves while the wind skips over the mountains and sea waves. Children's laughter and adult chatter fill the air around open air markets and small shops. Haiti can be a beautiful place but a dark side exists. Many people live in fear. Fear that the gods they worship will get mad. That the gods may cause earthquakes, hurricanes, illness or death. Do you like to be afraid?

Altedor spent most of his life serving these gods. In his mountain community many people followed him as a powerful witchdoctor. What is a witchdoctor? In Haiti a witchdoctor is a man or woman who acts like both a doctor and a preacher. They try to help people with illnesses and problems by interacting with their false gods or demons. They can also assist people to get revenge on their enemies.

People feared Altedor. But one day he became very sick. His family brought him to the only hospital on the island where he lived, a mission hospital. The hospital staff prayed for him and not just that his body would get well but that he would learn about the love of the one true God.

A few days into his hospital stay a missionary from Altedor's area came to visit him. Pastor T showed him how he could be free of his sins and fears and join the family of God. Altedor asked Jesus to come into his life and forgive his sins. He changed.

Altedor's body got a little better with the medicines and care at the hospital but, before he left, the medical staff told him that without a miracle his illness would likely kill him in less than 6 months. Still, Altedor left rejoicing in the Lord and trusting Him.

Altedor needed to find a new job. Many of the people who had worshiped the gods with him told him that he would have a hard life. What job do you think he chose? Altedor would load up his small donkey and walk the rough roads of the island telling people how the Lord freed him from fears and sin. When he had an appointment to see the nurses and doctors, he would talk to the other patients waiting to see the doctor and share his story.

The Lord extended Altedor's life almost two years. For two years he shared the Good News and the freedom that comes from following the Lord. He died peacefully with his family by his side in the hospital where his new life had begun.

# Memory Activity

## Hebrews 13:6

**So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper;  
I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?"**

Talk about how body language and our voices can show confidence.

Ask for volunteers to say the verse both with and without confidence. What works best? Any ideas of motions that can help?

Pair up the children in groups of 2 for practice. Have them work together on this verse to practice saying it with confidence!

Then let each team have a chance to say the verse in front of the class. After each one finishes encourage the rest of the class to applaud and respond enthusiastically.

# Bible Lesson

Replacing Fear with Confidence.

**Hebrews 13: 5b-8**

**“.. be content with what you have because God has said, “Never will I leave you” never will I forsake you.” So we say with confidence. “ the Lord is my helper: I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?” Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. “**

“Never will I leave you” never will I forsake you.” So we say with confidence. “ the Lord is my helper: I will not be afraid. Altedor’s life changed a lot from being afraid to learning that he did not need to be afraid because the Lord could now help him.

Discuss: What scares you? What can you do to not be afraid? Can you say with confidence that the Lord is your helper?

“Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you.”

Discuss: Who are your leaders who talk to you about God? Do you try to be like them?

Perhaps many of Altedor’s followers were amazed when he returned home and told them he now believed in the one true God. I know they watched his life carefully to see if he had really changed.

Discuss: Have you ever seen your parents or leaders do something they told you not to do? Do you think maybe Altedor’s followers thought maybe he would change his mind again and go back to praying to the false gods?

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever” Jesus does not change. So we can say with confidence that ‘the Lord is my helper: I will not be afraid’ Jesus will always be there to help. ALWAYS-all the time, and he will never fail so we do not need to be afraid.

It is wonderful to be free from fear and it is great to always have a helper close by. Share with someone today how Jesus is your helper and why you do not need to be afraid.



## Ponpon Rouj

Place a object like a small rock on a chair or low table. (A piece of paper or any small item will work).

Divide the children into 2 lines. One line on each side of the chair, each a similar distance from the chair.

Number off the children in each line so that each line has a 1, 2, 3, 4....

The leader is the caller and calls out a number.

When a number is called out both children with that number try to get the object. Then the child with the object needs to return to their place without being tagged by the other child. If tagged, the other team gets a point. If they return safely back in line, that team gets a point.

Repeat this cycle until at least every child has a chance to capture the object. The team with the most points wins.

Game  
Time

# Time for Prayer

- Pray that the Haitian children and adults will hear about Jesus and let Him carry their fears and sins when they accept Him as their Lord and helper.
- Pray for wisdom that the Haitian government, leaders and other groups can help Haitians: find jobs, improve their gardens, send their children to school, get good medical care and safe roads.
- Pray for the missionaries: to know how to help, to learn the language, to be healthy and safe. Pray also that people will join missionary support teams.
- Pray that Christians will grow stronger in their faith, resist the temptations and traps of the devil, and can reach others for the Lord.

Do not underestimate the power of your prayers. When you pray for Haiti and other areas of the world the Lord uses your prayer as a tool to help more people hear about Him. Only with the **Lord's help can peace win over fears.** Your prayers can help win the battle for **people's souls .**

# Activity



## Carrying Burdens

Need: a 5 gallon bucket, a couple of weights [heavy books, bag of rice]

Paper and writing utensils.

In Haiti one household chore that many children need to do daily is walk to a local pump to get water, and return it back home without spilling any. The smaller children may use a smaller jug but often by the time the children are in early grade school they carry full 5 gallon buckets of water back home. Sometimes they carry the bucket on their head! A 5 gallon bucket full of water weighs about 40 pounds.

Put in the different weights [depending on the size and strength of the child] to make it heavy and let the children guess how far they can carry the bucket. Have them walk around the room with it.

Carrying fears around in our lives is also a hard job. Let the children write some common fears or fears they have had on papers and put them in the buckets along with the weights.

Talk about how much harder life is if you have to do everything while carrying the weight of fear around with you.

Now have them cross out the fear and on the other side of the paper write Jesus. Now walk around just carrying the piece of paper leaving the heavy bucket behind. It is much easier to let Jesus carry our burden of fear.