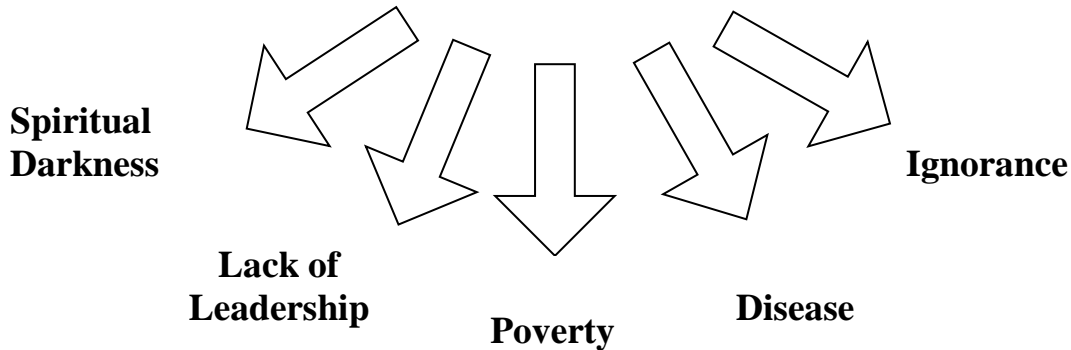


*\*Unedited first draft written by Tim Brand on April 12, 2007*

## **Mission Haiti**

Haiti is full of problems, with some being significant and others not. In considering the problems facing Haiti, we believe five giants exist that grip the country. These are the ones we want to tackle, believing God gets the most glory when we attack the biggest giants. These problems are so huge that they can only be addressed with total dependence on God and with everyone working together to confront them.

### **Five Giants Facing Haiti**



#### **1. Spiritual Darkness**

Voodoo is the dominant religion of Haiti. Upon Haiti's liberation in 1804, the leaders of the country dedicated the country to Voodoo. At this time, Voodoo priests became prevalent throughout the country. When Catholicism again entered the country, many mixed Voodoo and Catholicism. In fact, many followers practice both and are very devout to each of them. In the 1970s, Protestantism came to Haiti and has been bitter enemies of Voodoo and Catholic Voodoo. It is believed that 15% of Christians in Haiti are Protestant evangelicals. Many might know the name of Jesus Christ, but few know the truth about Jesus Christ. The bible says in Romans 10:14 (NCV) *"Before people can ask the Lord for help, they must believe in Him; and before they can believe in Him, they must hear about Him; and for them to hear about the Lord, someone must tell them."*

#### **2. Lack of Leadership**

Haiti has a long history of leaders who have abused their power. This has led to political strife, economic hardships, and poverty on unprecedented levels. In order for Haiti to combat the other giants, leaders need to be developed from within the country. This country can not rely on outside influences to sustain long-term change, but needs its own people to be developed to

lead the charge. Proverbs 11:14 (NLT) says, *“Without wise leadership, a nation falls.”* And Zechariah 10:2 (TEV) says, *“People wander around like lost sheep. They are in trouble because they have no leader.”*

### **3. Poverty**

As much as 80 percent of Haiti’s population lives in poverty. With annual per capita income of less than \$400 (little over \$1 a day), they are the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. These are heart-breaking statistics. Proverbs 28:7 (NIV) says, *“The righteous care about justice for the poor, but the wicked have no such concern.”* Living in the US, it is easy for us to think the world lives just like we do. We go about our lives forgetting how most of the world lives. Job 12:5 (GW) says, *“A person who has an easy life has no appreciation for misfortune. He thinks it is fate of those who slip up.”* Tell that to the children dying because they have no food. Tell that to the mothers and fathers who slave all day in the small, rocky field, trying to grow a little food to get their family through the day. We have a responsibility as followers of Christ to look after and take care of those who can not do it on their own.

### **4. Disease**

Millions suffer the effects of disease within Haiti. They are homeless, hungry, helpless and ill. Many people die every year from curable diseases because they do not have access to a hospital or to the medicine. The average life expectancy in Haiti is 53 years, the lowest in the Western Hemisphere. Eighty out of 1,000 Haitian children never see their first birthday. One out of ten babies will not live to the age of five. There are already some 163,000 AIDS orphans in Haiti. This is something we can not turn our eyes away from. Ezekiel 34:4 (TEV) says, *“You have not taken care of the weak ones, healed the ones that are sick, bandaged the ones that are hurt, brought back the ones that wandered off, or looked for the ones that were lost. Instead, you treated them cruelly.”*

### **5. Ignorance**

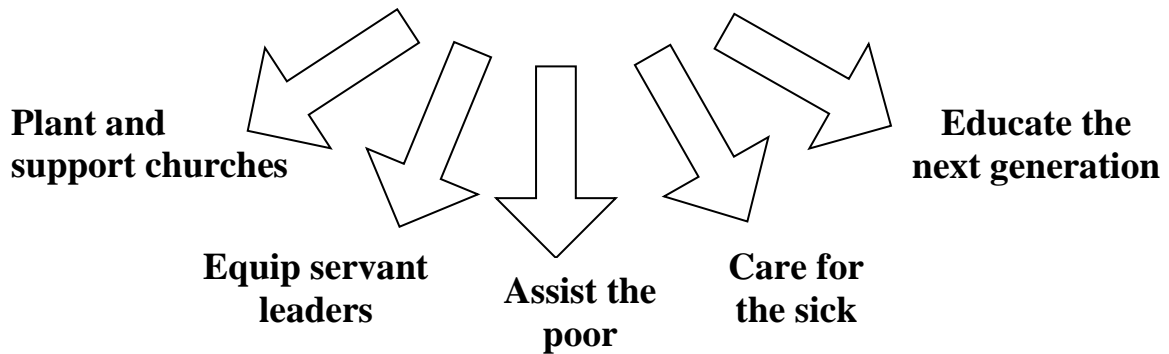
Over 47% of the adult population in Haiti is illiterate. How can a country grow and be strong economically when its citizens can’t read, can’t write, and don’t know the fundamentals of math and science that we take for granted? Hosea 4:6 (NIV) says, *“My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge.”* There’s a desperate need for teachers, schools, and materials to help Haitians grow.

### **God’s Solution: The P.E.A.C.E. Plan**

God has a history of calling into His service incredibly average men and women to fulfill His plans. This is demonstrated over and over again throughout the Bible. *“Remember, dear brothers and sisters, that few of you were wise in the world’s eyes, or powerful, or wealthy when God called you. Instead, God deliberately chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose those who are powerless to shame*

*those who are powerful.” (1 Corinthians 1:26-27, NLT) God has called us, ordinary men and women of faith, to follow His will and help Haiti tackle the giants that face Haiti.*

## **P.E.A.C.E. in Haiti**



### **Plant and support churches in Haiti – Jesus was the antidote for spiritual blindness**

*“Jesus said to the people, ‘I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won’t be stumbling through the darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.’” (John 8:12, NLT)*

*“...I will put together my church, a church so expansive with energy that not even the gates of hell will be able to keep it out.” (Matthew 16:18, Msg)*

### **Equipping servant leaders – Jesus called out and mentored leaderless people**

*“Jesus called out to them, ‘Come, be my disciples, and I will show you how to fish for people!’” (Mark 1:17, NLT)*

*“When he went ashore, he saw a large multitude, and he felt compassion for them because they were like sheep without a shepherd.” (Mark 6:34, NAS)*

### **Assisting the poor – Jesus identified with people of poverty**

*“You know how full of love and kindness our Lord Jesus Christ was. Though he was very rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make you rich.” (2 Corinthians 8:9, NLT)*

Jesus said, *“Happy are those who know they are spiritually poor; the Kingdom of heaven belongs to them!” (Matthew 5:3, GNB)*

*“Then [Jesus] turned to his host. ‘When you put on a luncheon or a dinner, don’t invite your friends, brothers, relatives, and rich neighbors. For they will repay you by inviting you back. Instead, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. Then at the resurrection of the*

*godly, God will reward you for inviting those who could not repay you.’” (Luke 14:12-14, NLT)*

### **Care for the sick – Jesus restored health to people with sickness or disease**

*“He healed people who had every kind of sickness and disease. News about him spread far beyond the borders of Galilee so that the sick were soon coming to be healed from as far away as Syria. And whatever their illness and pain, or if they were possessed by demons, or were epileptics, or were paralyzed – he healed them all.” (Matthew 4:23-24, NLT)*

### **Educating the next generation – Jesus taught people who lacked understanding**

*“After Jesus finished speaking, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, for he taught as one who had real authority – quite unlike the teachers of religious law.” (Matthew 7:28-29, NLT)*

*“When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were utterly amazed. They said, ‘Where did this man get all these things? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What great miracles are being done by his hand!’” (Mark 6:2, ISV)*

### **The P.E.A.C.E. Plan for Haiti**

#### **Planting and supporting churches in Haiti. *What can we do?***

- Building new churches (physical buildings)
- Help renovate existing churches (physical buildings)
- Work and train pastors (spiritual)
- Supply needed equipment (instruments, music, sound systems)
- Supply bibles written in Creole
- Develop Sunday School curriculum
- Specific prayers

#### **Equipping servant leaders. *What can we do?***

- Translate leadership material to Creole
- Provide leadership material
- Facilitate a mentoring program
- Provide financial support to send leaders to higher education or training
- Help them have access to leadership training

#### **Assisting the poor. *What can we do?***

- Developing and implementing self-sustaining food programs – Goat, Farming
- Deliver food to the poorest of the poor
- Infrastructure projects – houses, roads, wells, sewer, electricity
- Team with them on successful projects and roll-out in other places
- Provide needed supplies to proper channels
- New skills training courses/seminars/apprenticeships

**Caring for the sick. *What can we do?***

- Support CMP financially and spiritually
- Send medical missionary teams
- Team with them on training more local doctors
- Provide needed medicine and supplies
- Create a mobile unit that can go to people who can't come to the hospital
- Healing prayer teams

**Educating the next generation. *What can we do?***

- Create curriculum for the teachers
- Sponsorship programs to assist children financially to attend schools
- Develop adult learning classes
- Build schools in area that have no schools
- Upgrade existing schools
- Provide educational material and supplies
- Create ongoing teacher training

*\*Inspired by Rick and Kay Warren, Facing the world's five evil giants!*