

H.I.S. HOME FOR CHILDREN

VISIT ORIENTATION



WHAT TO EXPECT...

Congratulations on your decision to invest in a trip to Port au Prince, Haiti and to visit H.I.S. Home For Children during your stay.

This could be one of the most significant events of your life. And because it impacts people in different ways – we want to prepare you with a few topics that come up regularly.

There are several good books available that detail the history of Haiti, life in Haiti, and how everything changed with the 2010 earthquake. See the end of this orientation for a list of some we have read. What you should understand is that you are entering a country that does not have the infrastructure support you would

expect at your home. In fact, even at the HIS Home houses we do not try to replicate living conditions as they might exist in a U.S. home. It is simply impossible. Our mission is to save children and help children find permanent families. We do not try to give them US or Canadian life inside the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. To read about the history of H.I.S. Home you can visit our website at hishomeforchildren.org.

When you arrive - you will be landing into the new Port au Prince airport. Once you leave Customs with your bags you should have already made arrangements for someone to meet you at the airport. We

recommend you do not leave the airport building until you know that your contact person / driver is waiting outside. There are porters and taxi drivers outside who can be aggressive in “helping” with your bags and getting you to a taxi. Don’t release your bags to anyone you don’t want to handle them. H.I.S. Home has a driver we use and he in turn has a porter that he allows to carry your luggage. Take along \$1 bills and expect to tip anyone that assists you, it doesn’t need to be extravagant. Make sure you have called your driver from inside the airport.



Your arrival will probably be to the housing of your choice. We can make recommendations. If your first stop is H.I.S. House then the driver will bring you to the main house – the home of the infants, toddlers, girls, the administrative office, and the family quarters. There are three houses used for H.I.S. Home – and they are far enough apart that you will require transportation if your visit involves the other homes. Here is a link that will give you an overview of the Delmas homes: <http://goo.gl/maps/UtMHN>

You may wish to contract with the H.I.S. Home driver to tour Port au Prince. That is completely between you and the taxi driver but can be a rewarding time. You will find that no matter where you are staying – you typically do not travel outside the walls of the property without a Haitian companion and you do not travel outside the property after dark.

If you are coming for a short-term mission to provide meaningful service to the grounds, the children, or the staff – please come prepared. Resources are tight. It takes a staff of over 40 Haitians to run the ministry of H.I.S. Home. While the staff is always accommodating – they are there primarily to serve the children.

You are going to meet Haitians that



are truly gifted in the care and administration of caring for the children of all ages every day. They are thankful and love their work. Some employees have been with H.I.S. Home for over 9 years. Please treat them as fellow servants of Christ.

Whatever house you visit, you will be given access wherever the children are. Please note that this is an orphanage with intense poverty only a few blocks away where children may live under 3 year old tarps in monsoon rains and pitch black nights. H.I.S. Home will probably not have fresh paint, high water pressure, and perhaps not even electricity at times when you are there. However, the nursery does get a bacterial cleaning every day; the clothes are washed daily; and all of the children get three hearty meals and regular interaction with the nannies and staff day and night. And all of our children have

shoes. (They just don't like wearing them!)

Christians come with various ideas of what life for these children should be like. For example, there has been criticism of the girls watching Disney in the family quarters some nights. This is said however without understanding that these girls do not leave this house except to go to school – ever. Many are teens and have waited 2-3 years for an adoption to complete. H.I.S. Home is their refuge from a life of malnutrition, no education, and predatory behavior on the streets. An hour or so of Disney some nights should not be an issue.

If you are at the house for a meal – you will be eating the same foods that the children and the staff eat. The menu is set on a weekly basis and you are free to provide an offering when you get ready to leave.

WHAT WE EXPECT...

If you choose to read some of the recent books published about Haitian society you will see that Non-Government Organizations (NGO's) wield more authority in some cases than the Haitian government itself. This has caused much confusion, drama, misunderstandings, and in some cases that has gone to gossip and slander – even among those claiming to be followers of Christ.

We would ask that you come to Port au Prince and enjoy our hospitality, our stories, our staff, and our children. And if you are here on a mission – we truly hope that you are successful in what you came to accomplish. But invariably there will be something that you notice that we “could do better”. We are certainly open to your suggestions and will put them in context for you if that is needed. But we do ask that you first share any suggestions with the staff on-site – and then if you'd like to discuss anything outside the context of Haiti – please contact our Board of Directors, which can be found on our website

HISHomeForChildren.org. You must agree to this courtesy before coming to visit H.I.S. Home.

Our staff of Haitians are here for serving the children. You may engage them however you feel comfortable. Just know that they live in an economy that is much different than anywhere you come from. The senior staff is accustomed to this. Our staff earns enough each week to thrive in the Haitian economy. However, if you feel led to help anyone further, we would ask that you consider working that through the administration – to bless all of the Haitian workers. Otherwise, it ends up that the staff at the other houses never sees the blessing, and the less knowledgeable staff will be tempted to expect the assistance. Some staff have private jewelry for sale, etc. Please feel free to avail yourself of these items!

Please feel free to play with the children and engage them at any house you visit. Our children either already know or are learning English. Depending on their age

and background they also know Creole and French.

Our homes live under the loving lordship of Jesus Christ – we ask that our visitors be examples of this relationship as you interact with our staff and children.

May God bless you and speak to you during your time in Haiti and specifically with us at H.I.S. Home for Children. We look forward to meeting you!

You may call Mike Spindler to discuss your plans, answer questions, etc.

ask4mike@gmail.com 505-205-7584

SUGGESTED READINGS

Some of these books are from a believer's viewpoint and others are from other humanitarian authors. Collectively they give a general perspective. We obviously would not agree with all assumptions, causes, or results the authors argue. Amazon.com link included.

[Haiti: The Tumultuous History - From Pearl of the Caribbean to Broken Nation](#)

http://www.amazon.com/Big-Truck-That-Went-Disaster/dp/023034187X/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1375797357&sr=1-1&keywords=haiti

[Haiti: The Aftershocks of History](#)

http://www.amazon.com/Haiti-Aftershocks-History-Laurent-Dubois/dp/1250002362/ref=sr_1_2?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1375797357&sr=1-2&keywords=haiti

[Haiti After the Earthquake](#)

http://www.amazon.com/Haiti-After-Earthquake-Paul-Farmer/dp/B00BRA0UAC/ref=sr_1_6?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1375798126&sr=1-6&keywords=haiti

Note: Paul Farmer gives a comprehensive viewpoint as a doctor who was key in the initial U.S. response to the earthquake.

[Travesty in Haiti: A true account of Christian missions, orphanages, fraud, food aid and drug trafficking](#)

http://www.amazon.com/Travesty-Haiti-Christian-orphanages-trafficking/dp/1419698036/ref=sr_1_8?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1375798126&sr=1-8&keywords=haiti

[Haiti: The God of Tough Places, the Lord of Burnt Men](#)

http://www.amazon.com/Haiti-Tough-Places-Lord-Burnt/dp/141284763X/ref=sr_1_11?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1375798126&sr=1-11&keywords=haiti

Note: Father (Dr.) Frechette's book is the closest to seeing the Gospel at work in Haiti and he is personally known by Hal & Chris Nungester.

[The Big Truck That Went By: How the World Came to Save Haiti and Left Behind a Disaster](#)

http://www.amazon.com/Big-Truck-That-Went-Disaster/dp/023034187X/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1375798126&sr=1-1&keywords=haiti