

Why does Grace send mission teams to Haiti?

Haiti is a country in the Caribbean composed of beautiful, sweet and resilient people. During the past 15 years, Haitians have lived through 9 massive hurricanes, 2 major earthquakes and numerous aftershocks, and multiple tropical storms. These disasters have decimated the country's infrastructure and crippled the country. Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere and one of the poorest in the world. They struggle with unemployment and massive income inequality. Haiti has a population of 10.3 million people. 52% of the rural population does not use improved water sources. 84% of the rural population does not use improved sanitation facilities. 80% of the population lives survives on only \$2 a day. The Haitians hope for holistic development. Grace believes this is the work of the Church.

Why does Grace partner with LWI?

Living Water has been working in Haiti since 2004, and after the 2010 earthquake, Living Water saw the increased need for safe drinking water and community-based programs. Teams work in the Cap-Haitien area of the country and use a LS300 drill rig with the in-country drillers and work alongside the Living Water hygiene team to share vital health education and the gospel message with the community.

Every year, Living Water partners with local churches from North America to make generational change through the gift of safe water and the grace of the living water that is Jesus.

In January 2017, Grace Presbyterian partnered with Living Water International in Haiti for the first time. And a year later in 2018, another time traveled to Cap- Haitiien to help rebuild, provide clean water, and make Jesus visible in Haiti.

In the Spring 2018, Grace Presbyterian's Bless Strategy Team made a recommended to the Session. The recommendations was for Grace to include in the Ready capital campaign an external mission component both local and global. The global component was to designate \$1.15 million as the lead gift for a 5 year commitment to drill wells in a designated geographic area of northern Haiti. This initiative is called W.A.S.H. It means: Water, and Sanitation, Hygiene. LWI staff have identified the locations of each well and work with the local communities to create a community development committee to have buy-in and ownership fo the well from the very beginning.

For more information: water.cc/strategy and https://www.water.cc/sites/default/files/Living_Water_International_LWT_Philosophy_0.pdf

Will I be safe?

LWI has an extreme high value of safety. There are always risks when you travel outside of the U.S. which include what we eat and drink, vehicular safety, natural disasters, crime, and conflict. LWI has an excellent record and is evidence of how seriously they take safety and security. Although the inherent nature of travel to a foreign country makes it impossible to guarantee anyone's safety, know that mitigating risk is LWI's top priority. They monitor trusted websites that track security threats related to travel and they have found that direct contact with on-the-ground, first-hand experiences provides the best local interpretations of this safety information. The in-country LWI staff keep LWI apprised of any concerns related to the specific areas of operation. If the risks become to high, LWI cancel or postpone a trip to protect the safety of volunteers and the in-country staff. Finally, there are a number of protocols that LWI has put in place to enhance your security.

For more safety information: https://www.water.cc/sites/default/files/LWT_SecurityStatement_0.pdf

Where will we stay?

Teams stay just outside of Cap Haitian in the LWI house. The house also serves as the Northern Haiti headquarters with an office, housing, and a workshop. There are many rooms to accommodate team members and take into consideration separate rooms and bathrooms for males and females. Sheet and pillows are provided. There is air condition.

Who is in charge in Haiti?

Before the trip, Grace works directly with a trip coordinator who has an office in Stafford, TX. Once we arrive in Haiti, the in-country LWI staff meets the team at the airport and leads every aspect of the trip. There is always a main driller, assistant driller, a hygiene and sanitation leader, and guest house staff.

Why should I go?

Wouldn't be more efficient to just send money and let the local experts do the work? In the short-term, yes, but, we think God has a bigger plan for our lives and the global Church.

Ministry with LWI isn't just about giving to the thirsty; it's about loving people. And it's harder to love someone you've never met. Scripture says we're all one body in Christ, so when one part of the body is thirsty, it's our thirst too. While on a LWI trip, you will cross the borders of economics and culture, just like Jesus did and asked us to. When we push ourselves out of our comfort zone, we're awakened to life as a functioning, integral part of the Body Christ.

Ultimately, it's is participation that demonstrates the love of Christ, reflected in clean, safe drinking water. It's then we see our own hearts and lives transformed. True transformation always results in action, so we pray you come home inspired to be a voice for the thirsty.

How do I find out more about Living Water International?

For more answers to commonly asked questions go to: <https://www.water.cc/trips/going#sectionFAQs>