



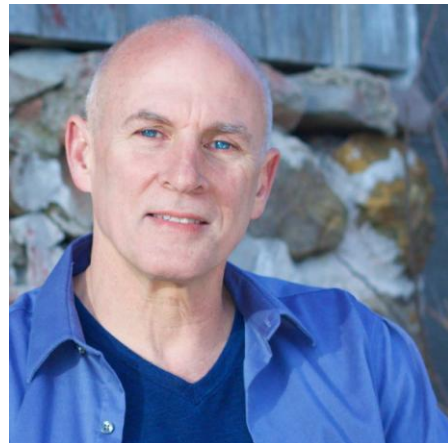
## Thanks for your interest in being a Haiti Allies Partner Church!

Please feel free to call or Kathy Johnson (608) 238-1785, Avis Elson (608) 203-5611, or Bryan Sirchio at (608) 577-8716 if you would like to discuss all of this in greater detail!

### A few words from our Haiti Allies' co-founder and UCC minister, Bryan Sirchio...

Greetings and thanks so much for connecting with us! As you may already know, I've been traveling to Haiti to work with grass roots organizations among the poorest of the poor for the past 27 years. While I am an ordained UCC minister and Haiti Allies is a part of a joint UCC/ELCA Lutheran outreach program, please know that we are wide open to partnering with congregations from any and all denominations and traditions.

You can read all about our overall work and focus on our website, but in a nutshell our work focuses primarily on helping Haitians get an education and on feeding people because these two issues are inter-related. Feeding hungry students is a response to an urgent, immediate need. Educating students is a long-term investment in helping Haitians to shape, secure, and participate in the building of their own reality as Haitian people.



*The wisdom of the Haitian people is often expressed through proverbs. There is a Haitian proverb that says, "An empty bag can not stand straight." This is their way of saying that students can't focus on school when they are hungry...*



## The "Silver Bowl Church Partnership"

Simple to understand; Easy to implement; Inspiring & Faith Based

### 1. The Silver Bowl Challenge

The Silver Bowl Challenge is a 2-week Sunday School unit that can be used to encourage Christian service values by understanding the lives of their peers in Haiti, and empowering them to take action to help.

The program is simple:

- \* Show our short video about Cite Soleil Community School in Port au Prince which portrays the reality of these children's lives and their wonderfully positive spirit.

- \* Help the children discuss the differences in their daily lives from those of the Haitian students.

- \* As teams or individuals, students perform chores for people in their congregation, neighborhoods, or homes to earn money to feed and provide supplies for the students they see on the video. It's fun to have a friendly competition between classrooms which can be tracked by using symbols of silver bowls to mark the course of the fund raising. Why silver bowls? Because they are the bowls used for lunch in the school as students will see on the video.



- \* Teachers can use real statistics such as \$5 buys one meal for a student for 5 days.

- \* Mark the end of the challenge with a celebration including a brief presentation to the whole congregation during which a 2- minute video of thanks from the students at Cite Soleil can be shown.



## 2. For teenagers, youth groups, middle schoolers, and confirmation classes

Haiti Allies believes strongly in the power of relationships with our Haitian colleagues and friends. All of our projects are responses to needs that have been expressed by our partners in Haiti.

Haitians of all ages have taught us many things about the meaning of life, faith, and what matters most.

We will supply you with access to a brief video in which some of the Haitian teenagers in our network will answer one or all of the following questions:

1. For what are you most grateful?
2. What is the greatest challenge you face in your life?
3. What would you like teenagers in the U.S. to know about your life in Haiti that they might not know?
4. Is your spiritual life important to you?
5. If you have one, what is one of your favorite stories or verses from the Bible and why?

Your group will then be encouraged to have a discussion in which you will talk about what our Haitian friends said, and perhaps answer these same questions yourselves. If you like your group could make a simple video using a smart phone right there on the spot and post a portion of your group's response on the Haiti Allies Facebook Page. If you desire, you could communicate directly with the Haitians you saw on the video through the Haiti Allies Facebook page.





## **Come to Haiti With Us and Meet Our Friends!**

We lead 2 group trips to Haiti each year which we call "*Journeys of Mutual Exchange.*"

Send some members from your church with us to see first hand what your contributions are doing and to meet the beautiful people you are helping to feed and get an education.

In an age when many people question whether or not charitable donations--including denominational mission efforts--are being used with integrity, this opportunity to travel with us and see for yourselves is the ultimate guarantee of transparency and accountability.

***Intrigued by the possibilities?***

*We hope so!!!*

Please write or call with any questions you might have!

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## **Why this would appeal to UCC, ELCA, and other mainline churches:**

- The work is an outreach program under the nonprofit umbrella of a local UCC & ELCA congregation.
- Haiti Allies brings 27 years of experience working in Haiti.
- Haiti Allies can guarantee that the money goes directly to our partners in Haiti.
- Donors have an opportunity to meet the people they are helping support.
- Underscores biblical priorities of doing justice (Micah 6:8) and showing compassion for the poor (Matthew 25:31ff)
- Example of “new mission” with methodology that respects indigenous culture and religion.



### **What Your Congregation would gain from participation:**

- A mission program that incorporates community service.
- Education regarding causes of so-called “third world” poverty.
- A mission program that is for all ages and potentially intergenerational.
- Age-appropriate activities for outreach to the poor that have spiritual depth and integrity.
- The opportunity to be in a long-distance but direct relationship with people you are supporting.
- The opportunity to travel to Haiti and meet the people you are supporting.
- Participation in a low overhead mission program with biblical grounding and methodological integrity.
- Connection to mission based in a local UCC/ELCA congregation.
- A meaningful and inspiring connection to some of the poorest and most vulnerable communities on earth.
- A way to live out a profound response to Jesus’ challenge in Matthew 25: “I was hungry and you fed me.”