Meeting Physical and Spiritual Needs of Haitian Children

Haiti is about 700 miles southeast of the southern tip of Florida with a population of over 11 million people. An estimated 4.4 million people are suffering from acute hunger. There is a common phrase in Haiti that says, "An empty stomach has no ears!" The phrase simply means that because they are hungry, they cannot retain or understand what they have been taught. This includes not only academics but also the Gospel. They hear the Gospel, but comprehending it is impossible when they are acutely malnourished. Add to this, the national government sanctions voodoo as the official religion, and over half of the population summons demons through voodoo rituals to ease their burdens and pains.

Trinity HOPE is a ministry that feeds thousands of hungry children, teachers, and cooks each day in Christian schools spread throughout Haiti. This grant will provide 200,280 meals to 538 pupils at Paul et Isabel Lutheran School in Hinche, Haiti, over a two-year period. With each meal prayer, children are reminded that their food is provided through the love of Jesus Christ. A Lutheran pastor visits the school twice a month, talking with the children and staff and teaching lessons that share the Gospel. The children, in turn, become missionaries and go home and teach their families what they learned about Jesus Christ in school. A survey shows that approximately 95% of the children fed at Lutheran schools through the ministry of Trinity HOPE, profess their faith in Jesus Christ.

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, … and the King will answer them, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me" (Matthew 25:35, 40).