Meeting Physical and Spiritual Needs of Haitian Children

Reading 1:  Let your work be shown to your servants, and your glorious power to their children (Psalm 90:16).

Reading 2:  But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to him where he was and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying “Take care of him and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back” (Luke 10:33–35).

Leader:  Thankfully, the food on our tables is more than adequate to satisfy our hunger and nourish our bodies. Not so in other parts of the world. In Haiti, 4.4 million people suffer from acute hunger. Voodoo, summoning demons, is the official religion, so people also suffer from spiritual hunger.

In their need of body and soul, one is reminded of Jesus' story of the Good Samaritan. Some passers-by saw a man lying by the road who had been attacked by robbers and was wounded and dying. Seeing his need, two of them paid no attention and went on their way. The other man stopped, had compassion on the dying man, and got ready to give a hand.
In a way, this is a picture of our human condition. Satan successfully lured humans to disobey God’s will, and we humans were dying. *The wages of sin is death* (Romans 6:23a). Instead of ignoring and abandoning us, God saw our condition and in compassion planned for our salvation.

**Hymn:** “Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice” *LSB* 556 (verse 4)

**Leader:** God’s action reminds us of our opportunity to pay attention to human need. We consider the plight of children and adults in Haiti. Through our mite offerings, we have chosen not to pass them by in their need, but to give them a hand.

In the parable of the Good Samaritan, the man who gave a hand, did so, not with empty words, but by taking action and “pouring in oil and wine,” the medical care of the wounded in those days. Then he picked up the wounded man, put him on his animal, and went to the next inn down the road for further assistance. That wasn’t all. Before leaving, he paid the innkeeper the bill for lodging and care of the needy man. Finally, he said if the bill is higher, he would take care of it the next time he was around.

We see in this, the generous and loving service of Jesus to all people and to us. Seeing the fallen and dying condition of humankind, He did not “pass by on the other side.” Instead, out of great compassion, Jesus, the Messiah came among us, cared for us, poured out...
His lifeblood on a cross, died, and rose again for our forgiveness, and a place in His eternal home. In Holy Communion, He gives us Himself, the Bread of Life. Our spiritual hunger is relieved.

**Hymn**: “Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice” *LSB* 556 (verse 5)

**Leader**: Jesus concluded the story of the Good Samaritan: “*You go, and do likewise*” *(Luke 10:37b)*. Motivated by God’s saving love for us, we also respond to His directive with our prayers and monetary support for Trinity HOPE, a Christian agency, through which our offerings make possible the physical and spiritual nourishment of Haiti’s children. The ministry is providing food and sharing the Gospel with about 61,000 children, teachers, and cooks in 270 Christian schools throughout the country.