

## **G.A.P. Ministry Outreach**

Go And Produce

### **Orientation Notes for Friends visiting Canaan Christian Community**

Montrouis, Haiti

Canaan Christian Community was established in 1991 as a community of Christians that welcome people who need a place to belong. Most of the 110 residents are children who either do not have parents or whose parents are unable to provide for them for various reasons. The leaders of the community strive to provide a safe haven for all who live or visit here. God has blessed us with land and facilities to provide a comfortable home for both those who live at Canaan as well as those who come to visit and work with us. Two of the co-founders Pastors Gladys Arbouet Mecklembourg and Henry Robert Gaetjens are still directors and reside at the community.

G.A.P. Ministry outreach was founded in 2002 by Steve and Shirley Mossburg as a way of providing and arranging mission opportunities for individuals to discover and embrace God's will for their lives. The main focus of the outreach is centered on construction projects and evangelistic ministries. In 2005 the two organizations agreed that becoming partners in the journey would better achieve the work that God had given each of them, and G.A.P. Ministries relocated to Canaan Christian Community.

The community is located near the town of Montrouis, which is about 80 km. North of the capital city of Port au Prince. Arriving guests usually fly into the international airport in Port au Prince where they are met by G.A.P./ Canaan staff. The trip to Canaan usually takes a 1 ½ hour drive back to Canaan.

Canaan Christian Community is located near National Highway 1 and overlooks the beautiful Caribbean Ocean. The hillsides surrounding the community is a rocky dry desert landscape much like Canaan was in 1991 when we started. Since then God has blessed our tree planting and we have become the only tree shaded community in the immediate area. The buildings consist of boys and girls dorms, the chapel, schools, kitchens, the dining hall, administrative building, staff homes and apartments the guesthouse, a clinic and a large shop building. As the government provides sporadic electric service we have to generate our own with a large diesel generator from about 6:00 pm to 11:30 pm. Water comes from a deep well on the property and the drinking water is run through a purification system for added safety.

Meals are served to the children, staff and guests in a screened in dining area. Meals prepared by the kitchen staff, consist of simple but delicious food that the Lord provides through the donations of friends of Canaan. Rice and beans are the staple food along with local fresh vegetables and meat that are served when funds are available. Because meat is very expensive and not as available we raise rabbits and pigs to provide a steady source of meat for our kids. Because we charge a food and lodging fee to visiting short term mission teams and North Americans often have differing tastes and health issues we have a separate guest and staff kitchen that prepares a different daily menu. The meals that visitors eat reflect Haitian Creole foods but are more varied than what the kids are eating. You can expect eggs, pancakes, oatmeal, fresh fruit, melons, vegetables, prepared

luncheon meats, casseroles, mashed potatoes, chicken, beef as well as rice and beans. Plus your always welcome to sample whatever the kids are having as well.

## **GUIDE LINES FOR SHORT TERM MISSIONS WITH G.A.P. MINISTRY**

Canaan puts great emphasis on being a Christian Community and loving family for not only those who live there but those who come to visit. Everyone should at all times represent God, themselves, their community , church and country in a Christ like manner. We expect this of all Canaanites, so we certainly expect visitors to set as good of example as we do. The following are a set of guidelines for visitors:

\* **HAITIAN CULTURE** is built on respect and hospitality. **Please show the utmost respect** to the culture, those you are staying and working with and the people and places we may visit. Rude behavior, words and actions that can hurt feelings and embarrass those around you are not acceptable.

\* **PERSONAL SAFETY** is always a concern. Never go away from Canaan alone. Always take someone with you and let your team leader and Steve or some other Canaan staff leader know where you are going and what you are doing. Don't drink water away from Canaan, take your own with you or purchase bottled when away from the compound. Food away from Canaan will usually be safe to consume if cooked properly, but ask Steve first, avoid uncooked foods. Most visitors get sick ( stomach problems) from not cleaning their hands frequently with antibacterial soap before putting something in their mouths. If you start to feel ill notify Steve or your team leader so we can get you treated quickly. Before you come you should have a tetanus shot or booster, hepatitis A&B, typhoid and decide if you want to take Malaria medicine.

\* **PROPER DRESS** etiquette is one of the issues we are most asked about. When you come to visit with us we ask you **be respectful of our policies**. We do have **a dress code for our students and boys and girls who live there**. Like most young people our kids have a desire to follow the latest styles (or lack of) coming from the more affluent nations. **When team members are wearing clothing not representative of the Canaan dress code it can often call into question in the minds of our kids why they have to follow our rules but visitors don't**. We do have good reasons for these rules that aren't necessarily in place because of cultural differences. The following **dress code is for short term G.A.P. mission teams** :

1. When **arriving and leaving the country it is proper to be in shorts and jeans** . It is also proper **to wear shorts when we travel , hike, go to the beach, athletic events and work projects** .
2. **Never wear** :
  - \* cutoffs, torn or ragged clothes,
  - \* sleeveless shirts or t-shirts with crude words or pictures.
  - \* **short** shorts or **mini** skirts
  - \*
3. Girls and women **can wear hiking shorts or athletic shorts ( knee length), capris and slacks or khakis** on work projects and sport activities.

4. **All ministry (evangelistic and church) functions men should wear** pants and nice shirts . **Women should wear** modest dresses or skirts and nothing sleeveless

5. If involved in a **school function or at the clinic** please dress in a professional manner.

Through out the day if you are not teaching, at the clinic or involved in ministry, women on visiting mission teams can wear appropriate shorts at Canaan. We do appreciate if you would wear a dress, skirt or capris to the evening meal, especially if you have had time to shower and change out of your work clothes, we understand this may not always be possible. In the guesthouse you may wear whatever your team decides. We want your stay to be pleasant and meaningful to you and respectful and productive to the culture you are visiting.

### **THINGS TO DO AND TO BRING WITH YOU** **YOU NEED TO :**

\* **Have a valid passport** if you don't have a passport you need to apply for one at least 12 weeks prior to your intended departure date. If you have one make sure it is valid and doesn't expire while you are traveling. Also make 3 photo copies of your passport one for G.A.P. Ministry, one to keep in a safe place as you travel ( not with your passport) and one to leave at home. Also request your team leader register all passports with the U.S. Embassy .

\* **Get all necessary travel shots** such as a tetanus shot or booster, hepatitis A&B, typhoid and inquire with your doctor about taking malaria shots.

\* **Schedule your trip with G.A.P.** after forming a team set several possible dates that work for your group then check with the G.A.P. calendar and office to get a date that works . If you visit on a regular basis we hold that date for your group or church until requested by someone else at which time you must confirm you actually want to schedule that date. In all other cases it is a first come first serve basis. We are working to improve and enlarge our guest facilities and in some situations can host multiple teams the same weeks.

\* **Purchase team tickets** It is the team or church's responsibility to purchase its tickets, you can do this on line or through a travel agent. We are glad to advise you and help in this process from our years of personal and team experiences.

\* **Check into and discuss travel insurance** This an option that can be made on an individual basis or required as a team but should be discussed and made available. If you can't find this insurance in your area we can send you a list of national companies offering it.

\* **Fill out and send in your team roster and liability forms** Please submit a team member info form and a signed liability waiver for each person on the team. Knowing the names ,mailing addresses, ages , sex, gifts, talents, goals, mission experience, foreign language skills and health issues is a big help in planning for your group. We know how to

best arrange for your housing arrangements, transportation, projects, ministry and sight seeing excursions while visiting Haiti to give you a rewarding mission experience.

\* **Send in team fees** Team fees should be sent into G.A.P Ministry at least 3- 4 weeks before scheduled arrival in Haiti (see team fees below).

### **THINGS TO BRING :**

\* **Personal medicines** Bring all necessary medicines and at least a 5 day extra supply, aspirin, vitamins and etc.

\* **Hygiene** Shampoo, soap, tooth brush & paste, deodorant, handi wipes, anti bacterial wash , lotion and etc.

\* **Also** mosquito spray, small flash light, swim suit, hat or cap, sun glasses, work gloves, sandals, sneakers or hiking shoes, water bottle

\* **Optional** Mosquito net, candy & snacks, playing cards, cheap vinyl poncho (rainy season only) camera, Bible, reading book, cell phone

\* **As a group** Laptop for e-mails (we have wireless) , usually 1 per team is sufficient. Supplies for G.A.P./Canaan such as construction, medical, school, evangelistic, athletic, books, hygiene and special projects.

### **TEAM FEES**

As with most mission organizations G.A.P. Ministry charges a fee for each individual on the team. This \$300.00 fees goes to cover the expenses we incur for food and lodging, transportation costs (fuel, tires, maintenance, etc.) project/ministry costs and to help cover some of our administrative costs. They never go for salaries or wages. We have consistently kept our fees low compared to many other missions operating in Haiti and have only had a \$25.00 increase in the last eight years. One of the reasons we have kept our fees low is because we want everyone who feels the call to go on a mission trip to do so and not be held back because of finances. If you, your team, your church have a rewarding experience the benefits to all of us are much more significant than any fee amount we could charge. We at G.A.P. Ministry are much more interested in building up sustained relationships that help us both fulfill God's plans for our lives. We know this philosophy is serving us well as more and more of our teams return and their churches partner with us in this awesome journey.