

# Haiti Trip Report

## *Preparation for February 2019 Trip to Haiti*

By: Herb Nordmeyer

### ***Introduction***

Normally trip reports follow a trip. This one precedes the trip. After the trip is over, a report detailing what was accomplished on the trip will be filed.

### ***Teaching***

With the October 2018 trip to Haiti, we certified 4 student instructors. The final step will be for them to teach the Disaster-Resistant Home Building Course. They will be doing this during my February trip to Haiti. Two student instructors will be assigned to each of the classes as a team. The schedule includes the course being taught 3 times. Two of those times will be in Port-au-Prince and once in Colminy. Currently there are 70 students who are signed up. What started out as a challenge for me to come up with a low-cost, disaster-resistant housing system has developed into a Haitian project which will reach more than I would ever be able to reach. If God had told me when this started what was in store, I would have changed my name to Jonah and run and hid.

### ***Books***

**Kalite Beton Kaka** (Haitian Creole translation of **Quality Concrete from Crap**) was published in late December 2018. Currently a suitcase is backed with 100 of the books for transport to Haiti as checked baggage when I make my February trip. These will be distributed free to those who do not have computer access.

As of January 30, Hearts of Concrete.org converted it into two eBooks. One is the EPUB format and the other is the PDF format. These will be distributed for free in Haiti.

Recently, copies of **Homes for Jubilee**, **The Stucco Book – The Basic**, and **Quality Concrete from Crap** were sent to a pastor in Uganda.

### ***Presentations***

A few days before heading to Haiti in October, I made a presentation to the Bible Class at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, San Antonio, Texas. There were an estimated 200 to 300 people in attendance.



On December 9 Herb made a presentation at the Holy Cross Lutheran Church Bible Class in San Antonio. Since the pastor was out of town, he also delivered the sermon which was about carrying each other's burdens.

If anyone is interested in Herb making a presentation to their group, please contact Herb.

## ***Hearts of Concrete***

We do not have our tax-exempt status yet. The IRS has all the paperwork and I'm sure that sooner or later they will act on it.



# Hearts of Concrete



Mission

About

Who

Photos

News

Give

A mission trip in 2013 turned into a modern day story of Nineveh. Herb Nordmeyer was given an impossible challenge which sparked the formation of Heart of Concrete.

Arriving in Haiti, Herb found a country full of collapsing buildings, stick tents, and mud huts that many people claimed as their homes. Often, several generations of a family shared a 70 – 120 sq. foot, single-room dwelling.

Herb was challenged to find a way to build disaster-resistant homes for a material cost of \$1,000 US, all the while training local crews how to build them.

The website is being developed and currently includes a Mission page, an About page, and a Who page.

Jessica and Leonard are selecting photos to add to the website.

As the website is developed, my reports will be

posted on the website, and then an archive will be developed to post the old reports on.

## ***The Donkey***

One of my favorite books is a book of Haitian prayers. They were prayed by a Haitian Pastor who lived in the mountains of Haiti, and were copied down by Eleanor Turnbull. Wally Turnbull added photographs to illustrate the prayers. This resulted in the book, **God Is No Stranger**.

One of my favorite prayers is about a donkey. The following is from a document we produced and distributed. It tells a story about how that prayer was used.

### ***“Meet Your Donkey”***

“There is a Haitian proverb and prayer which says,

*“Problem is like a donkey.  
We will mount it or  
it will mount us.”*

“We learned of the prayer while reading **God Is No Stranger**, a book written by the Turnbells, a Baptist Missionary couple who went to the mountains of Haiti shortly after WW II and raised their family there. They collected Haitian prayers and proverbs as they spread the Gospel. In the process they started over 350 schools.

“Herb, who should have retired a decade ago, spends time in Haiti involved in disaster-resistant construction and writes books, some in English.

“Deborah, a retired schoolteacher, uses her artistic ability to develop cards for a hospice group. She also develops the covers and illustrations for Herb's books.

“Recently, Deborah lost her father. One day, while discussing a book cover that Herb needed, she mentioned that grieving for her father, a normal healing process, was impacting the rest of her life. It was, to a great extent, stifling her creativity.

“Herb mentioned the donkey prayer, which was one of her favorites. Herb suggested that she draw an illustration of a donkey and put his face on it. When grief interfered with her life, she should take a package or two of grief and temporarily place it on the donkey. When she could handle those packages of grief, she could, with the Lord’s help, take them back and deal with them. We laughed so hard at the ludicrous concept that tears ran down our faces.

“A few days later Herb received an email. Instead of the draft cover he was expecting, attached was an illustration of a man carrying a donkey. The man looked strangely like Herb. Herb was carrying Deborah’s donkey. Another email explained that their conversation had inspired an illustration. It had helped her regain her creativity.

“Both Herb and Deborah have shared the illustration with others who have problems. Herb added Galatians 6:2 to the illustration and used it in a sermon he was asked to preach for a pastor who had to be out of town. Several people have stated that the ludicrous illustration allows them to temporarily set their problems aside until they can handle them.

“After looking at the covers Deborah has since developed for **Kalite Beton Kaka (Quality Concrete from Crap)** and for **Failing My Way to Success**, it appears that her creativity is again in high gear.

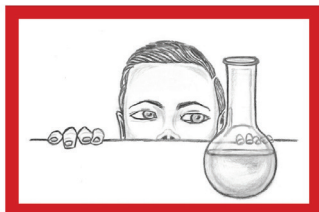
“We invite you to share God’s Word and the donkey with all who need help handling their problems.”



## FAILING

My Way to  
the Laboratory  
**SUCCESS**

Volume 1



How a Young Man Who Was Written Off  
by His Teachers Surprised Even Himself

**HERB NORDMEYER**

So, whenever you know someone who is being overwhelmed with problems or grief, feel free to loan them Deborah’s donkey.

### *On a lighter Note*

**Failing My Way to Success – Volume I** was recently published. This is a project I work on when I need a break. It also chronicles my life as God prepared me to work in Haiti.

Disclaimer: My hair was never combed that well.