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To the people of Haiti:

For too many years, Haiti has been cited as the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere. Haiti's time to become a formidable power in the Caribbean has now arrived.

Haiti has numerous charities and NGO's which are doing a superb job in alleviating the effects of Haiti's problems.

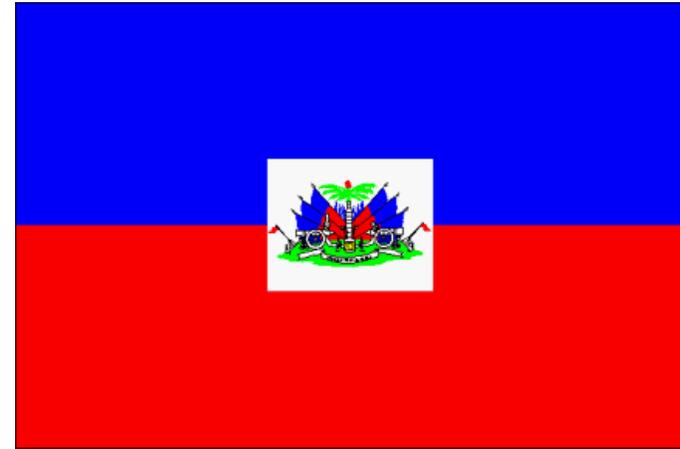
Correcting the causes of Haiti's problems is long over due. Recently I took part in an effort to alleviate the cause of one of Haiti's problems instead of just effects. I am currently involved with an orphanage that I support in Pétionville. The orphanage's function was to house abandoned street children. Soon, however, we realized that when they reached the age to leave the orphanage, the children would simply return to Haiti's streets. Therefore, in 2004, we decided to build a technical school. The technical school's goal is to return the matured children back to their community with a skill and a trade! The school is now operational and the children are being taught the skills they need to attain employment.

If Haitian's are thirsty, it is best to give them a well rather than a bottle of water. If Haitian's are hungry, it is best to give them an oven rather than a loaf of bread. If Haitians need electricity, it is best to provide them windmill power than to give them a candle.

This booklet lays out a method to correct the causes of Haiti's problems. Ultimately Haiti will rise as the number one nation in the Caribbean as she was in the not so distant past!

Every Haitian will benefit, from the very poor to the very rich!

*Mike Spinelli*  
Mike Spinelli  
Friend of Haiti



*L'union fait la force*

## **AN ACTION PLAN FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF HAITI**

*“Pa Senp” – “Not an easy job!”*

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# FORWARD

Mike Spinelli is a retired businessman. His résumé can be found at [www.mikespinelli.com](http://www.mikespinelli.com). He has a passion to help Haiti lead an industrial revolution in the Caribbean.

Mr. Spinelli believes that:

- a) The outsourcing of manufacturing to Asia from the United States and their agricultural imports from South America could be provided, in part, from Haiti.
- b) Haiti can capture some of this outsourcing, and develop a business and agricultural economy to solve virtually all of the country's problems. She can develop an economic strategy and rebuild her infrastructure.

Mike Spinelli has nothing to sell and desires nothing from Haiti. His references include:

Rev. Joseph Simon, Timkatec Orphanage,  
Pétionville, Haiti [www.timkatec.org](http://www.timkatec.org)

Dr. Bernier Lauredan, The Haitian League,  
[www.thehaitianleague.org](http://www.thehaitianleague.org)

Max Antoine II, Comm'n de Développement  
Frontalier, Haiti [fdf\\_haiti@yahoo.com](mailto:fdf_haiti@yahoo.com)

Patrick J. O'Shea [pjposhea@aol.com](mailto:pjposhea@aol.com) and  
[www.timkatec.org](http://www.timkatec.org)

# WHY IS THIS PLAN DIFFERENT THAN OTHERS?

Many development plans for Haiti depend heavily on foreign aid and charity. While these plans address the symptoms of Haiti's problems, they rarely address the causes. This plan aims to address the root causes of Haiti's problems while providing a plan for Haiti's reconstruction. Government endorsement is mandatory. Mike Spinelli will work directly with the Haitian government to implement this plan.

## Goals

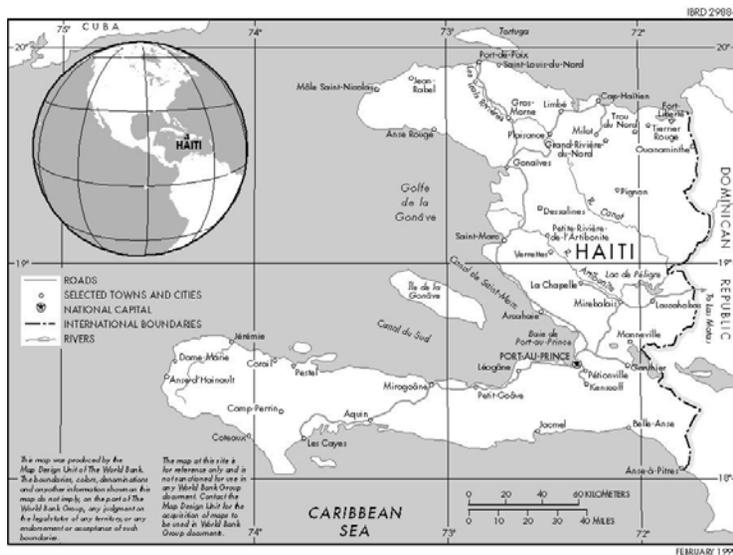
The goal of this plan is to develop a series of five-year programs. These programs aspire to put Haiti on the road to economic recovery by rebuilding its infrastructure. Collaboration is essential for the success of this plan. Partnering with Haiti's government officials and senior community leaders will ensure the plan's success. Similarly, empowering Haitians will also help put Haiti on the path to economic success.

It is important to understand the following:

**"If you always do what you have always done you  
always get what you always got!"**

# THE ROAD TO SUCCESS

1. Place this plan in the hands of Haiti's government & senior non-governmental organizations and community leaders. Encourage and make full use of the capability and cooperation of Haiti's civic sector.
2. Implement a series of five-year nation-building programs with the government to reconfigure Haiti, from rags to riches.
3. Make sure that each step in the series corrects the causes rather than the *symptoms* of Haiti's problem



# THE SHOCKING FACTS:

- 75% of Haitians earn less than a \$1 a day
- 70% of Haitians have no jobs
- 90% deforestation causes constant disastrous flooding
- Most children never go to school
- Life expectancy is 53 years
- More than 12% of Haitian children die before their fifth birthday, largely due to poor access to clean water
- Barely one in four Haitians can read
- 97% of Haitian homes lack electricity
- Approx. 5% of the Haitians are infected with HIV or AIDS, the highest rate in the Americas
- Major roads have potholes as big as bath-tubs. A functioning highway system doesn't exist
- 25% of Haitians die before the age of 40 (Dr. Paul Farmer)
- Emigration from Haiti is rampant, mostly from desperation; The vast majority are in the USA and eater to help their motherland.

While working to change these conditions, we must never forget, "*Nan tan grangou patat pa gen po*" - *In time of hunger, the potato has no skin.*"

Haitian Proverb

# HAITI'S PROBLEMS

- Underpaid and under trained national police
- Substandard roads
- Contaminated water
- Lack of electrical power
- Lack of alternative energy
  
- Lack of jobs
- Lack of agriculture
- Lack of a fishing industry
- Minimal tourism
- Lack of medical facilities
- Grangou (Hunger)
  
- Virtually no educational system
- Lack of housing
- Lack of effective taxation and customs
- Excessive export duty on manufactured goods
- Import duty and other charges on imports



Haiti is like a compressed spring awaiting industrious Haitian entrepreneurs and others to make capital investments in the country. The current perception of Haiti as being “unsafe” is thwarting any major business ventures.

# SOLVING THE PROBLEMS OF HAITI

The solutions offered here are in summary form, requiring further discussion and planning. Your creative ideas and enthusiasm are welcome.

## ***PROBLEM:***

### **UNDERPAID & UNDERTRAINED POLICE**

#### ***Solution 1: Raise the pay of the National Police***

Send loyal police and personnel abroad for professional training to create a civilian force capable of understanding and controlling crime and banditry. Training could take place in Jamaica or Miami; the latter already has many former Haitian policemen ready to participate.

#### ***Solution 2: The National Police should replace the United Nations' MINUSTAH force.***

***Solution 3: A zero-tolerance policy would be implemented for crime and kidnapping. The major job of the police force would be to display a show of force to deter crime.***

***PROBLEM:***  
**SUBSTANDARD ROAD SYSTEM**

**Solution:** A road-building program should be initiated and performed only by Haitians.

This would create many jobs while building a transportation infrastructure vital to Haiti's future economic base.

***PROBLEM:***  
**SCARCITY OF CLEAN DRINKING WATER**

Only 1 in 10 Haitians have access to piped water in their homes. Diarrhea caused largely by unsafe drinking water results in 42% of infant deaths in the rural areas. (Water Quality and Health Council)

**Solution:** Implement an immediate program of clean and protected water wells, concurrent with a water distribution system.

Procter & Gamble (P&G) and Population Services International (PSI) have joined forces to develop a model for delivering clean drinking water in Haiti using P&G's PUR Purifier of Water technology. PUR is a low cost and simple-to-use in-home water purification technology developed in cooperation with the U.S Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that has been shown to significantly reduce the incidence of diarrheal diseases in developing countries.  
[http://www.waterandhealth.org/news\\_center/in\\_news041505.php3](http://www.waterandhealth.org/news_center/in_news041505.php3)

***PROBLEM:***  
**LACK OF ELECTRICAL POWER**

**Solution:** The best power generator for Haiti would be windmill farms on the north coast, where wind is abundant, concurrent with building a distribution system.



***PROBLEM:***  
**LACK OF ALTERNATIVE ENERGY**  
Haiti has the potential to produce large amounts of alternative energy, both for domestic use and export. There is considerable research available in this area.

Ethanol can be made from sugar cane. Sugar cane produces a fuel superior to corn. This would lower the cost to Haitians, while exporting any excess production to the U.S.

The byproduct of producing Ethanol is a much needed charcoal! Charcoal made from trees is deforesting Haiti. Making it from Sugar Cane will save Haiti's environment. Brazil, a leader in ethanol production, has offered her assistance to Haiti.

Oil of the Jatropha tree can be extracted and converted to bio-diesel. This means lower prices for Haiti diesel. A byproduct of the Jatropha fruit is fertilizer. Jatropha is now grown in Madagascar, Kenya, South Africa and other countries. The plant grows almost anywhere.

**Caribbean countries enjoy a tax exemption for exporting alternative energy fuels to the United States.**

The U.S. would be a very large customer for excess ethanol as it strives to reduce dependence on imported fossil fuel.

*"Here we have a serious problem: America is addicted to oil, which is often imported from unstable parts of the world."*

*US President George W. Bush*

<http://www.medsandfoodforkids.org/boyandhorse.jpg>



**PROBLEM: LACK OF JOBS**

**Solution: Attract investors and manufacturers to “enterprise-and-energy” zones throughout the country. Position Haiti as an “outsource” for some of the manufacturing that the USA now sends to Asia!**

Job creation is central to Haiti's development, both short-term and long-term. Haitians need maximum employment at fair wages. American companies currently outsourcing to Asia would benefit more from Haiti's proximity, especially if coupled with new alternative, less-expensive energy sources. Compared to Asia, transport savings alone cuts the delivered cost of goods by 40% to 50%.

To be successful, Haiti would require only a small portion of the U.S outsourcing now going to Asia. Americans would benefit from trade with a nearby country that shares its goals of world peace, human rights and fair trade. We simply need to introduce Haiti to the American companies that now outsource manufacturing to far off lands. The advantages will speak for themselves.

*“It is now time for Haiti to become the recipient of the huge outsource market of the USA.”*

*Mike Spinelli*



<http://www.almendron.com/blog/?m=200411> photo by Pepe Mateo

***PROBLEM:***  
**LACK OF AN AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY**

**Solution 1: Food security for all Haitians.**

The field of agriculture has been neglected and has great potential for jobs and food security. Minimally, Haiti should recover its ability to feed its own people with clean and nutritious fruits, vegetables, grains and meat. Then, carefully-selected, high-value crops could be grown for sale to overseas' consumers.

**Solution 2: Maintain and expand Haiti's organic agriculture.**

Increasingly, Americans want organic fruits and vegetables. They also want foods produced closer to home. Haiti is their answer.

Much of U.S. winter produce comes from Chile and Argentina. Pourquoi pas le Haïti?

**Solution 3: Grow tropical crops.**

Haiti's climate is ideal for most crops that cannot be grown in the U.S. like bananas, avocado etc.

**Solution 4: Manufacture and repair basic farm tools and equipment in Haiti; encourage overseas charities to collect and send usable items to Haiti. Persons in the USA are willing to donate used farm equipment for merely giving them a tax deductible certificate.**

These items can then be shipped to Haiti under a special franchise, duty free.

Farm tools are easily cast in small foundries, and the handles can be crafted from wood.

***PROBLEM:***  
**LACK OF A FISHING INDUSTRY**

**Solution: Make better use of Haiti's extensive coastal zone and resources.**

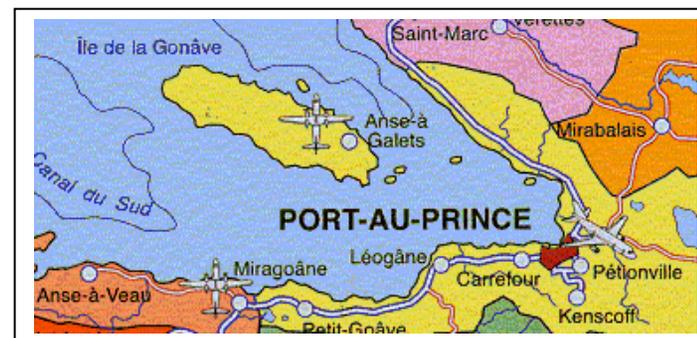
It is sad to see people in Haiti lacking food when their coastal waters abound with fish. A renewed fishing industry is a natural for Haiti. Also, the United States is just 700 miles away! Fresh fish can be delivered overnight to the vast southern Florida market as well as to the middle and northern Atlantic Coast. Haiti is fertile ground for businesses that will provide income and feed the people.

**PROBLEM:**  
**LACK OF MEANINGFUL TOURISM**

**Solution: Like a shadow follows the sun, renewed tourism in Haiti will follow economic development and new perceptions of safety.**

There are many traditional and virgin locations for tropical tourism in Haiti available for development. Aggressive promotion could especially appeal to Haiti's Diaspora, the expanding cruise ship industry, as well as the emerging Caribbean ecotourism sector. This is a vast untapped resource for Haiti.

Ile de la Tortue, Ile de la Gonave, Ile-a-Vache, Jacmel and Cotes des Arcadins are some priority areas. Some of these already attract tourists; a large island like Ile de la Gonave could easily be developed as the next Cancun!



<http://www.haiti-business.com/images/carte.gif>



Jane and Mike Spinelli  
at the Inauguration Ceremonies



A school bus which Mike was able to get  
donated to Timkatec.



Poverty and poor housing which can be alleviated  
**15**



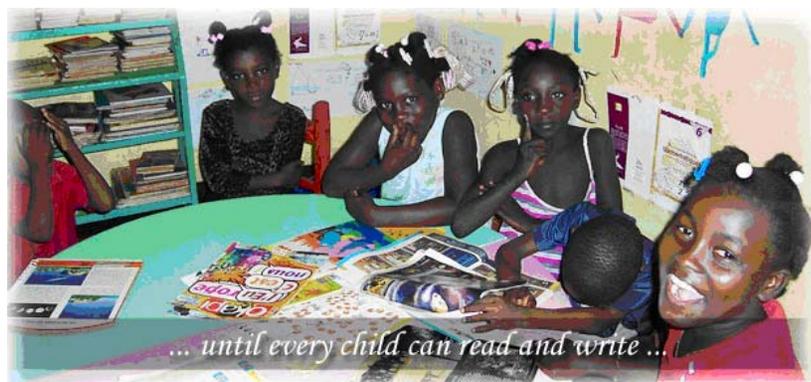
President Preval greeting guests at the luncheon  
following his inauguration  
**16**

**MAJOR HEALTH PROBLEMS.** (The book cited below is a statement on Haiti's Medical Problems)

Health problems in Haiti are rampant; and are exacerbated by a dearth of clean water, near famine conditions, and crowding in germ-ridden peasant huts, urban slums, shantytowns, prisons and homeless shelters.

**This Solution is (pa senp) not simple:**

Tracy Kidder's book *Mountains Beyond Mountains* carefully enumerates Dr. Paul Farmer's years of thoughtful work in Haiti. Implementation of Dr. Farmer's recommendations could fulfill the dream of a prosperous Haiti, peopled with healthy Haitians.



[www.fokal-usa.org/haiti.htm](http://www.fokal-usa.org/haiti.htm) Helping Haiti!

**PROBLEM:**  
**VIRTUALLY NO EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM**

**Solution 1: This is a top agenda item. Until the numbers of Haitian teachers are increased, many volunteers could be recruited from the USA, Canada and France. A teacher's Peace Corps!**

**Solution 2: For all children, provide government-subsidized universal education through grade school, accompanied by public, private and Haitian-Diaspora sponsored high school and college scholarships.**

**PROBLEM:**  
**LACK OF HOUSING**

**Solution: In the spirit of building sustainable communities - and according to careful homestead planning - grant land and materials to families who want to resettle and restore Haiti's countryside.**

Rural renewal will attract Habitat for Humanity, Food for the Poor, The Haitian League's "Lakou-Haiti" project and others promoting affordable homes, solar power, conservation, clean water, gardens, orchards and reforestation.

***PROBLEM:***

**LACK OF EQUITABLE TAXATION & CUSTOMS.  
EXCESSIVE DUTIES ON EXPORTS AND IMPORTS  
STIFLE HAITI'S MANUFACTURING POTENTIAL.**

**Solution 1: Reconfigure national, regional and local government revenue and taxation philosophy, rates, schedules, collections and compliance.**

**Solution 2: Build equity, fairness and honesty into the tax and tariffs system to promote national self-reliance and good business practices.**

**Solution 3: Provide economic investment guidance with preference and incentives to Haiti's Diaspora.**

While the word "taxes" is repugnant to most business people, it must be understood that the governments spends her tax revenue and enhances prosperity! Taxes are reinvested in the economy. The United States reached the highest levels of growth when she attained sufficient tax revenue to develop her infrastructure. With a strong national treasury, everyone gains, from the very poor to the very rich!

***PROBLEM:***

**THE KEY PROBLEM TO HAITI'S REVIVAL IS THE PERCEPTION OF VIOLENCE.**

Now that we have defined the problem, the solution becomes easy.

The media consistently paints Haiti as a country of crime, death and dying, while the government seldom refutes them. This stifles investment from outside capital markets, including tourism, specialized agriculture and manufacturing.

**Solution: Quell the violence and balance negative reporting with stories of peaceful progress. Win the confidence of investors.**

*Haitians* know that most of their country is peaceful. However, news of every kidnapping or violent crime - the norm for the Port-au-Prince area, but not for the rest of Haiti - soon reaches the world press. This wraps the country in a shroud of violence, unfairly tainting the world's perception.

**No effort can be spared in changing the current image that the world media and documentaries paint of Haiti.**

Typically, the media resurrects *past* violence each time a new incident occurs. Thus, the perception of violence grows and accumulates. It becomes a “machete mentality” that continues to dominate the press. The poor image of Haiti is exacerbated by documentaries on Haitian violence that are televised worldwide and on the Internet. These films leave foreign viewers with the sweeping impression that Haiti is unsafe.

Haitians normally avoid speaking about their poverty and violence. Yet Haiti is a country which is far below the poverty level, with a high infant death rate and lack of medical facilities. Unfortunately we *must face* this reality to accomplish any revival.

In virtually all of the author’s encounters with Haitians in Haiti, he sees a reluctance to acknowledge the country’s violence. They reason that crime and violence also exist in Miami, Chicago, Jamaica, etc., but life goes on without alarm. While true, Haiti’s past history of armed occupation, machete violence and brutal kidnappings continue to be shadows on the brain of the media. This *perception* of violence continues. Any violence, however small, becomes magnified in the media. The Minustah has stabilized major crime but will not be in Haiti forever.

***PROBLEM:***  
**THE PRESENCE OF “MINUSTAH” BRANDS HAITI AS DANGEROUS.**

The author is cognizant of the hard work going on now to fight crime and remove criminals; however, this is being done with dependence on United Nations’ peacekeepers, MINUSTAH. In addition, Haiti remains on the “travel advisory list” of the U.S. Department of State, which deters tourism and serious capital investment in Haiti.

**Solution: Securing Haiti’s communities, homes and commerce would be best done by Haiti’s own national police, once they are adequately trained and paid.**

Haiti is perceived as unsafe due to past violence and it is an established fact that “**Perception is Reality.**” Investment will avoid perceived violence.

Haiti can immediately be placed on the fast-track to recovery if it (1) acknowledges the world’s perception of Haiti as dangerous and (2) develops a trained and well-paid police force, aided by active and retired Haitian officers and others in the Diaspora. Criminals must know that they cannot win! They should help in the rebirth of Haiti.

## HELP IS AVAILABLE

- There is a Diaspora of millions of Haitians who contribute measurably to families and friends in Haiti and who are ready to invest in new enterprises.
- Haiti is supported by hundreds, perhaps thousands, of experienced and efficient charities and non government organizations, much more than most other nations.
- There is a worldwide pool of people with talent, energy and resources ready for Haiti; this is a “Fountain of Help for Haiti” that has yet to be organized into a cooperative movement!

The author highly recommends that a Haitian government ministry with the help of Parliament and a committee of leading citizens immediately recognize, enlist and organize the talent, willingness and resources of Haitian and non-Haitian organizations, agencies and institutions above for the country’s economic and social revival. This must be done now with **immediate action** and prioritize Haiti’s problems.

The People of Haiti will join hands to reconstruct their country.



*We must give the people hope!*

*“One Country – One Goal!”*



## BENEFITS TO THE U.S.A.

- The Democratic stability of Haiti has been the goal of many Americans for more than 200 years. This plan fosters democracy and resists counter ideologies.
- Economic prosperity and social stability will make Haiti a beacon in the Caribbean. Strengthening Haiti's economic and social infrastructure will change Haiti from a Fourth World country to regional and international respectability.
- Haiti has the resources to generate and export alternative energy to America. Jatropha, a naturally growing weed in Haiti, can be converted into bio-diesel, while Sugar Cane can produce ethanol.
- Outsourcing of commerce and industry to Haiti is preferable to doing business with countries that do not support fair trade, human rights and the environment.

## WHO IN HAITI WOULD OPPOSE AN ECONOMIC REVOLUTION?

There are always people who reject major changes to an existing order and treat it as a threat.

However, it is important to understand that a prosperous Haiti -- with new businesses, jobs, water, health care, electricity, roads and infrastructure -- everyone's prosperity, rich and poor alike, will be enhanced. In particular, all Haitians' purchasing power will be improved; the needs and aspirations of more than eight million people cannot be ignored and abandoned.

A rising tide raises all boats! Haiti needs unity of all her citizens, on both sides of the hedge.

**With a vibrant Haiti espousing an educational system for the people as well as action on the problems mentioned above, the country can transform itself from poverty to prosperity. This is long overdue for Haiti, a country with vast natural resources and a labor pool eager to obtain jobs.**

## CONCLUSION

The author presents a basic plan to resuscitate Haiti. The way to fast-track the plan is to gather and listen to all those who have their fingers on the pulse of the country. the charities and N.G.O.'s that have been serving Haiti for years, plus all of Haiti's citizen groups, mayors, doctors, teachers, engineers, business owners, civil servants, parents, foreign aid donors, friends and families in the Diaspora. **While there is plenty of room for discussion and debate, there is no time for hesitation.**

**Treating the *symptoms only***, of a national problem like Haiti's, only perpetuates the *causes* of the problem. Relieving the causes will automatically alleviate the symptoms, just as the cart follows the horse.

**To jump start this plan**, the author would need to meet with the President and Prime Minister to start the implementation of meetings with all of the ministers to endorse this plan. Immediate sessions would follow, with government endorsement, to assemble experts in each field to prepare a 5 and 10 year plan. **The time is now, the place is Haiti.**

The author promises no overnight solution, but his experience and connections to the business and nonprofit world friendly to Haiti is available to help restore national security, pride and prosperity. His forte lies in the field of motivation. The author has nothing to sell but simply offers his service to Haiti in the implementation of the plan described here.

***“Tout Moun Se Moun” –  
“We are all human”***



Children at Timkatec Orphanage, Pétionville

In recent years, the author worked with Patrick O'Shea to establish a small technical school for Timkatec Orphanage, Pétionville. Both have been funding the school and assisting Timkatec's director, Father Joseph Simon. Timkatec is designed to address the causes of Haiti's problem – the children will outgrow the orphanage but when they leave for the world beyond, they will have been schooled by Timkatec in a productive trade at Timkatec Tech!



Supporters of Timkatec Orphanage in Pétionville join Rev. Joseph Simon at the new tech school. Left to Right: Dula James, Former Director of Catholic Relief Services in Haiti, Patrick O'Shea, Mike Spinelli and Karen Coakley, patrons of Timkatec.

**MADE IN HAITI"?** All of the labels of the items on this page were clipped from clothes in Mike Spinelli's closet. He asks: Why is it that none of these labels carry the words: "Made in Haiti"? *"Pour quoi pas en Haïti?"*

