

## **Script to accompany power point of 'Haiti: Dr John and Sharon Harbottle'**

**Slide 1** Title

**Slide 2** Dr John and Mrs Sharon Harbottle from Bolton – St Andrew's Methodist Church Tonge Moor, are serving in Haiti in the Caribbean as Mission Partners. They were sent by the Methodist Church of Great Britain to work with Eglise Methodiste d'Haiti – Methodist Church of Haiti, in August and they will be there for 3 years.

**Slide 3** They are the first British missionaries to Haiti for over 20 years and they mark the start of a new relationship between the two countries.

**Slide 4** It has been a steep learning curve for both Sharon and John getting to grips with French and Creole, but also for the Haitian church having full time missionaries again and all that that requires.

**Slide 5** Sharon says, "For example, though we have been given a one bedroom bungalow attached to that of a Superintendant and have been here 6 months, getting the right furniture and equipment takes a while.

**Slide 6** John was allocated an office in March but with no chair for the desk - so things move slowly and a lot of patience is needed. Chair has now arrived. So we are getting there."

**Slide 7** Haiti is a poor island where most people live on less than \$2 or £1.20 a day – for rent, food, clothing, school equipment and medication.

**Slide 8** Though in the rural areas prices are less than in the city, a lot of people migrated to the capital Port au Prince after the earthquake in January 2010 seeking aid and work. Prices are high and we in the city find our stipend is also challenged.

**Slide 9** Virtually all food is imported as Haiti grows very little due to poor soils and natural disasters. A large pot of yogurt is £4 and lettuce leapt from £4 to £8 last week. Bananas are 6 for £1 and so meals out at a café are a rare treat for us too.

**Slide 10** John is leading and advising the health work of the church. There are 12 clinics, one in each circuit, and some are running well such as in Jeremie but it is heavily subsidized by the American Methodist church.

**Slide 11** John joined them on a mobile clinic one Saturday held in a church. Others are very basic and some have nothing.

**Slide 12** In December John made an investigative trip to the island of La Gonave and saw the clinic that has not functioned since 2009. The present Superintendent minister was born there and with the help of construction teams from the States in the Volunteers in Mission programme and local Haitian workmen the clinic has been cleaned out, renovated, roofed and painted and medical care has been given and all this since January.

**Slide 13** A medical couch donated by Lynn Cawley on the death of her son Josh has just arrived and is being installed on the island this week.

**Some 14** Some of John's time is spent teaching and leading small groups on issues of health, be it cholera and the need for hand washing for the Boys Brigade, training health workers,

**Slide 15** discussing procedures with nurses

**Slide 16** or showing people how to manage their diabetes.

**Slide 17** At the Christmas lunch for 500 children in a poor area of La Boule Douze, that lost most of the adults in the quarry in the Quake he was asked to give a talk and bring information on what they can do to improve their healthcare.

**Slide 18** He gives presentations to the main church committees and conference, and the church has responded by setting up a health board to oversee the work.

**Slide 19** He himself gives health care when required and every Wednesday morning is at Duplan clinic in Petionville.

**Slides 20, 21, 22, 23** Every opportunity is taken and co operation with existing agencies is also encouraged.

**Slide 24** Getting to clinics and churches can be a challenge because roads are dusty and broken up, rivers flood and cannot be forded, mountains rise to over 5000 feet

**Slide 25** and some places are beyond our 4wheel drive car.

**Slide 26** Sharon's work of producing Sunday School material and training manuals for preachers is based in the Christian Education office on the Methodist compound where we live.

**Slide 27** But she is also found in schools where sample lessons can be tried with the children or preaching on Sundays.

**Slide 28** She is on the plan of 2 circuits and it is a challenge delivering the service in French .....though fortunately for the sermon she has a translator.

**Slide 29** Three of her services this quarter have been recorded and aired on the Christian Radio station – Radio Lumiere.

**Slide 30** She was asked to deliver a training session at conference for lay people

**Slide 31, 32, 33** and has been the Guest preacher for the Women's Fellowship annual Conference.

**Slide 34** Being part of the community, supporting events,

**Slide 35** and attending the memorial services for the earthquake is important,

**Slide 36** along with being at the opening of a new circuit,

**Slide 37** surely a joyous occasion

**Slide 38** and welcoming former missionaries – Rev and Mrs Leslie Griffiths.

**Slide 39** We enjoyed our 5 day holiday in Jacmel on the south coast,

**Slide 40** though were surprised to find the need for local transport one day. Imagine both of us on the back of this motorbike! “And are we yet alive to see each other’s face?” came to mind after 8 miles.

**Slide 41** We value your continued prayers, emails and fund raising and ask that you remember us on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of the month when Haiti appears in the Methodist Prayer Handbook.