



## SEEK, Haiti : Making a Mark

Serving, Educating, and Evangelizing for the Kingdom stem from the Big Three: Time, Talent, and Treasure. The projects on which SEEK, Haiti is working require all of these facets, with 'Treasure' being the most far-reaching and available option for people who want to help.

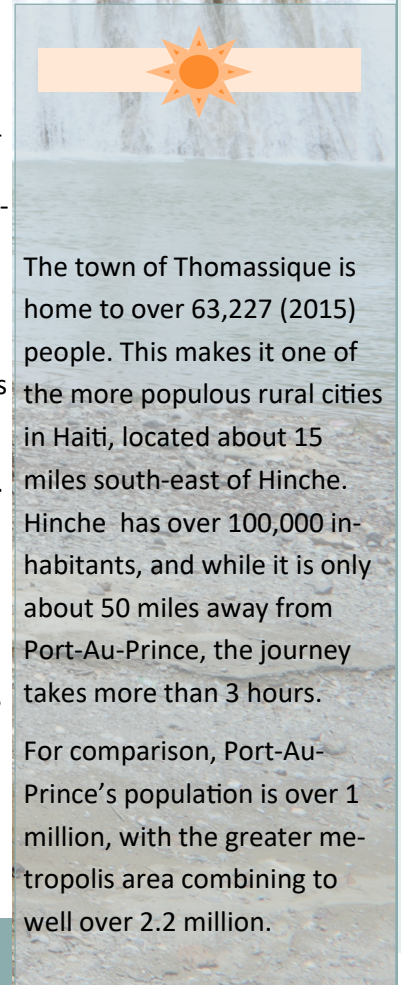
SEEK, Haiti is always looking to not only raise funds, but also raise awareness for its current projects. As a growing organization, it can be difficult to move from a mere idea to a common household name: as an organization, SEEK, Haiti is several years old, and we are ready to make our mark.

The organization's biggest fundraiser to date took place in November-December 2020, as a part of the kick-off for holiday giving. This project had Treasures coming and going: the Board of Directors reached out to friends, family, and other connections to put together an online silent auction to support the Forde Christian Academy in Thomassique, Haiti. When collecting auction items, SEEK, Haiti offered to pay some of the artists and creators for their time or materials – but through the grace of God, every person involved offered to donate their creations to support SEEK.

Over two dozen donated items included handmade knit baby sweaters and baby booties, canvas prints and wood paintings, gifts baskets from around the country, intentional journals, handmade knit tops, electronics, and more! Especially during COVID, an online silent auction was a suitable supplement for the organization to continue to raise funds for the Academy in a socially-distanced manner. The auction lasted a week and half, giving everyone ample time to survey the goods and choose their favorites. Thanks to everyone who bid on the items, the auction raised over \$760! One hundred percent of the donations from the auction went to support the Academy.

In the modern era, social media plays a large part in any organization's growth. While raising money for the Forde Christian Academy is our current goal, one of our long-reaching goals is to be a part of people's regular prayers, conversations, and support. SEEK, Haiti certainly grew as an internet presence through Facebook, Instagram, and our website with dozens of new followers – all of whom will now receive any updates our organization will have down the road. Help SEEK, Haiti spread The Word by passing these words along to your friends and family, and stay tuned for more updates in the near future!

Thanks for reading – your prayers and support mean the world to the children at the Forde Christian Academy!



The town of Thomassique is home to over 63,227 (2015) people. This makes it one of the more populous rural cities in Haiti, located about 15 miles south-east of Hinche. Hinche has over 100,000 inhabitants, and while it is only about 50 miles away from Port-Au-Prince, the journey takes more than 3 hours.

For comparison, Port-Au-Prince's population is over 1 million, with the greater metropolitan area combining to well over 2.2 million.



## SEEK'S FINANCIAL PLANS

Since its founding in 2017, SEEK, Haiti has been steadily growing and gaining a foundation to stand on so that it can fulfill the goal of spreading the Gospel in Haiti. Through trial and error, the SEEK, Haiti board has seen both successful endeavors as well as plans that did not work out to the fullest potential. In spite of a slow increase in regular funding we have been able to support teacher salaries, building a fence between the school yard and busy road, launching the goat project, and other smaller construction projects thanks to our generous supporters.

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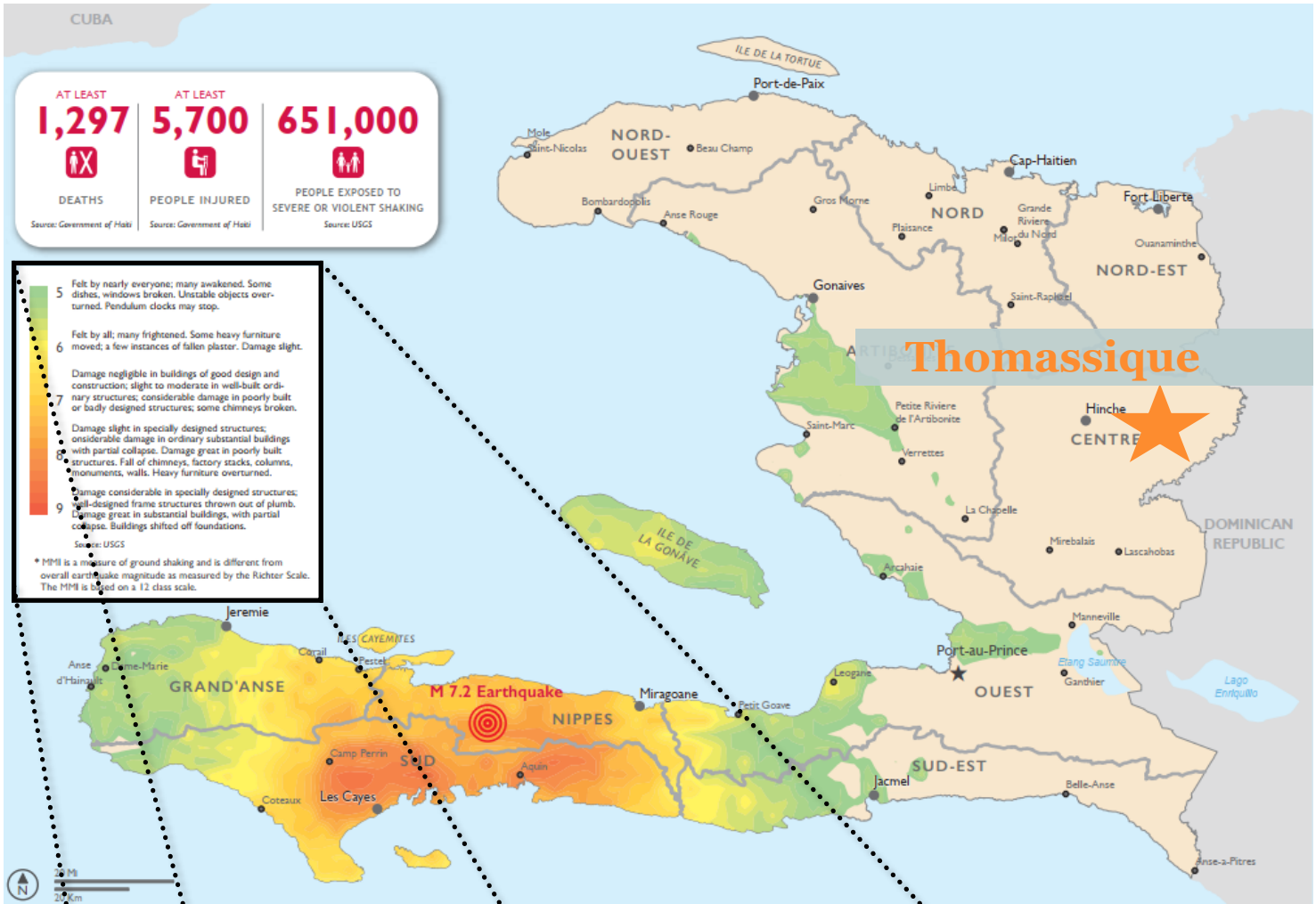
## EARTHQUAKE IMPACT

Thankfully, the earthquake that hit Haiti in early August had little impact in the region of Thomassique, and may not even have been felt by the inhabitants there.

*See the following page for a map of the earthquake, it's toll in the region, and where it may have been felt.*

Through a combination of in-person fundraisers, an online auction, partnering with AmazonSmile, and faithful supporters providing donations regularly, there has been a healthy growth of funds for the spread of the Gospel in Haiti. Thank you to everyone who has been a supporter of this organization, whether you have been doing so for years or just started in the recent months!

As we look forward, we have big plans for even more growth. We plan to expand our online presence as well as partner with more established organizations to better spread our name and mission. If you desire to join our faithful financial supporters, please head over to our website for information about our mission and how to provide your financial support. Keep checking in to see all that's to come and we look forward to working with you in spreading the Gospel in Haiti!



**Thomassique**

**AT LEAST 1,297 DEATHS**  
**AT LEAST 5,700 PEOPLE INJURED**  
**651,000 PEOPLE EXPOSED TO SEVERE OR VIOLENT SHAKING**

Source: Government of Haiti | Source: USGS

**5** Felt by nearly everyone; many awakened. Some dishes, windows broken. Unstable objects overturned. Pendulum clocks may stop.

**6** Felt by all; many frightened. Some heavy furniture moved; a few instances of fallen plaster. Damage slight.

**7** Damage negligible in buildings of good design and construction; slight to moderate in well-built ordinary structures; considerable damage in poorly built or badly designed structures; some chimneys broken.

**8** Damage slight in specially designed structures; considerable damage in ordinary substantial buildings with partial collapse. Damage great in poorly built structures. Fall of chimneys, factory stacks, columns, monuments, walls. Heavy furniture overturned.

**9** Damage considerable in specially designed structures; well-designed frame structures thrown out of plumb. Damage great in substantial buildings, with partial collapse. Buildings shifted off foundations.

Source: USGS

\* MMI is a measure of ground shaking and is different from overall earthquake magnitude as measured by the Richter Scale. The MMI is based on a 12-class scale.

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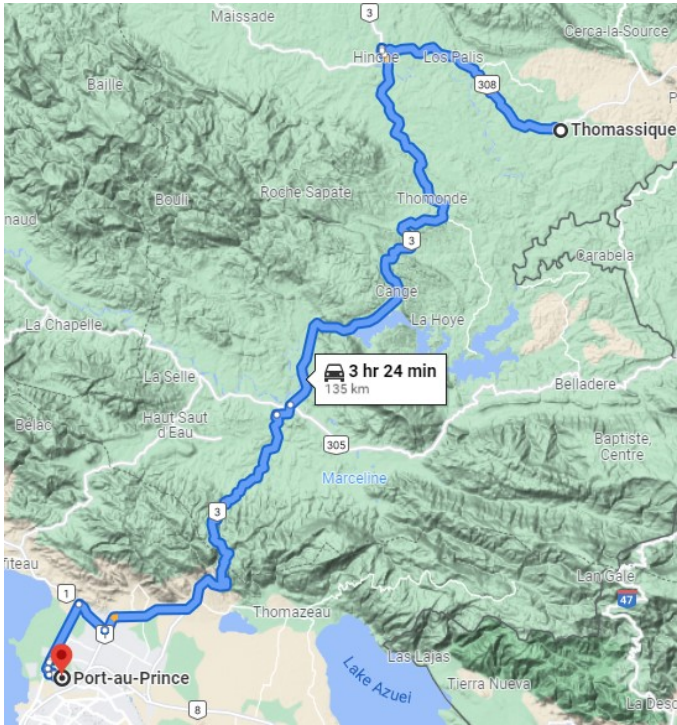
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Source: USGS

Last Updated 08/16/21



Map & summary created by USAID, not affiliated with SEEK, Haiti.



*A look at the tenuous mountain journey to Port-au-Prince*

## FDA : FINANCIAL NEEDS

As some of you may know, Forde Christian Academy uses a bus to help kids get safely to school. The school is located on a busy road, which at first made parents concerned about having their kids to walk to and from school. Supporting churches and the community in the Seward, Nebraska raised enough money to send a school bus full of school supplies to Thomassique, Haiti. This helped the school keep attendance from decreasing! Currently, the school has 2 buses. Unfortunately, one of them needs \$8,000 for repairs and new tires. Road conditions are not the best and can be very rough on vehicles. The school has expressed the need to have 3 buses total in order for them to have an extra one in case repairs are needed.

The school has also mentioned that there is a need for 2 motorbikes. One to donate to the director so he has easier transport to and from school. The other one would have 3 tires, and would be owned by the school for staff to use for school-related errands.

SEEK, Haiti would like to ask you for donations to go toward these transportation needs as they are vital for the functioning of the school. We have seen how big of a deal it is for them to have a school bus and how it impacts the school and the families of Thomassique. Please prayerfully consider donating toward this cause. As with any of our projects, if assisting financially is not feasible for you, please continue to pray for this project and for the work we can do as a non-profit.

## Current Events in Haiti

Haiti has been embroiled in turmoil for the last few months. On July 7th, 2021, the sitting president of Haiti was **assassinated**. The first lady survived the attempt on her life. Haitian officials stated that 28 people were suspected in the assassination, and to date, 23 of those people have been arrested or killed.

A 7.2 magnitude **earthquake** struck Haiti about 75 miles (120km) west of the capital. To date, over 2200 people have died, with a few hundred still missing. More than 12 thousand people were injured, and over 50,000 homes were destroyed by the earthquake or aftershocks.

**Covid-19** has also had an impact on Haitians, with cases reported in the 20,00 range, with fewer than 700 deaths. Haitian Health officials have publicly stated these number may not be accurate. COVAX recently delivered 500,000 vaccines of the Moderna variant, and efforts have been making steady progress in distribution, though official numbers have not been declared.

## THE GOAT PROJECT : UPDATE

The goat project was started several years ago as a way to create self-sustainability within the school system of Forde Christian Academy. The goal was to purchase goats, which would be bred and raised on a nearby portion of land. The offspring of the goats had multiple roles. Some would be raised and bred. Some would be used to feed the school children and staff for the daily meals. Some would be given to families at the school with particular need as an investment in their own sustainability.

Initially, the project progressed well. However, after a few years, the annual dry season began hitting the land too hard, killing the crops and destroying the source of food for the goats. One year, the well on the land also had problems, creating difficulty getting fresh water for the goats in a timely manner. In addition, the veterinarians helping support the goats would alternate years between Haiti and other countries and were not always available during this difficult seasons. As a result of these factors, many goats died each year and the project had to be paused. The remaining goats were sold and the project halted.

In the future, FCA desires to restart the goat project, as the motivation and goal of a more self-sustainable system to empower the staff and community still remain. Plans will be made for more land to produce enough food for the goats to overcome dry seasons, to construct a solar panel system for the well for more reliable water, and a foundation of funding to hire sufficient staff to care for the goats. When the plans and preparation are in place, SEEK hopes to support this project again.

### SEEK HAITI'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Kara Weishaar



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