

## Help start a business and lift a family out of poverty in Haiti

We've all read the stories and seen the pictures. The island nation of Haiti continues to struggle on its long, painful road to recovery from the devastating January 2010 earthquake. Well, the St Andrew men's group (aka Band of Brothers) has decided to support the Haiti Mission team (aka Seeds of Support Mission: Haiti) in a small but significant way. We will help a young Haitian man create a new business venture to support himself and his family. And we will do it with a cell phone drive.

First, the young man. His name is Joseph, and we met him on our last trip to Poste Dwait, when he volunteered to help us build benches for the Jerusalem Lutheran Church. Joseph was not only a hard worker, but his English skills proved invaluable as he soon became one of our primary translators. We have kept in close contact with Joseph via email since returning from our last mission in June. Since our departure Joseph has been seeking work, but there is none to be found. As you can imagine, life for an unemployed young Haitian man is extremely difficult. The challenge becomes even greater when that young man has a family he is determined to support.

Now, the business opportunity. Joseph wants to distribute used cell phones throughout his village. He has asked us to bring him used cell phones and cell phone accessories. Joseph will market them to the people of Aux Cayes and Poste Dwaite, with the proceeds buying even more phones he can sell. There's an acute need for the phones, and Joseph hopes to fill that need.

His business plan is simple and it might just work. He is not asking us to dig into our own pockets and send him cash. Instead, he is asking us to assist him in two basic ways: first; by cleaning out our junk drawers and sending down useless (to us) phones, chargers and accessories with the December Mission Team; and secondly, by praying for him as he works to make this business viable.

Here's where you come in. You have the power to help one young man lift his family out of poverty by simply donating your old cell phones and their accessories to St Andrew Lutheran Church. Here's all you need to do:

1. Find any old cell phone and its charger and any accessories you may have for it.
2. Put each phone, charger and accessories in a zip-lock bag and drop them off at the Haiti desk in the SAL narthex.
3. If you have multiple cell phones, even better. Just put each one in a separate bag.
4. If you have extra chargers or accessories that you're not sure go with what, we'll be happy to dispose of them for you as well. Simply bag them up and drop them off when you drop off your phone.

Don't worry about mysterious phone charges suddenly appearing on your statement as a result of your old phone going to Haiti. We have been assured by representatives of a cellular phone company that charges can only be made to the active simm card in your current phone. (So don't send your current phone without first removing the simm card and getting a new phone.)

Some phones do save emails, text messages and address books. To clear your phone's address book, text messages and emails before donating it, simply turn on the phone, find "factory reset" and exercise that option. That will clear out all the data. If you do reset your phone, please include a card that simply says "reset" in the bag with your phone. The SOS Mission Haiti Team will reset all phones not labeled as reset before sending them to Haiti. Additionally as a final check that all phones have been cleansed of all user data, Joseph will do a factory reset on each phone before selling it.

If you have any questions about Joseph and his opportunity of a lifetime, please contact Bob Seitz by email at [HondurasBob@Yahoo.com](mailto:HondurasBob@Yahoo.com) or by phone at 952-975-3682.