

Haiti Resources

*The resources below have been compiled by Global Mission Office staff: some are our personal recommendations or the contents of our libraries, and others have been suggested by members of diocesan mission Networks. While we have not personally read all of these, we hope that they provide a helpful starting point for those who are looking to learn more about global mission and the regions with which we partner. **We welcome additions to this list!** If you have book recommendations or comments on the resources catalogued here, please email Lauren Zook at lzook@diomass.org.*

All resources are available from online retailers unless otherwise noted.

Books on Aid

Katz, Jonathan M. ***The Big Truck That Went By: How the World Came to Save Haiti and Left Behind a Disaster***. 2013.

This book presents a hard-hitting investigation into international aid, finding that the way wealthy countries give today makes poor countries seem irredeemably hopeless, while trapping millions in cycles of privation and catastrophe.

Schuller, Mark. ***Killing with Kindness: Haiti, International Aid, and NGOs***. 2012.

Set in Haiti during the 2004 coup and aftermath and enhanced by research conducted after the 2010 earthquake, this book analyzes the impact of official development aid on recipient nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and their relationships with local communities.

Wilentz, Amy. ***Farewell, Fred Voodoo: A Letter from Haiti***. 2013.

The catalyst for this book is what award-winning journalist Amy Wilentz observed in Haiti in the wake of the 2010 earthquake. Attuned to the irony of her white outsider status even as she draws on her deep knowledge of Haiti's strength and struggles, she criticizes missions of self-aggrandizement rather than aid, exposes systemic corruption, and marvels over everyday survival.

Biography and Memoirs

Alvarez, Julia. ***A Wedding in Haiti***. 2012.

Acclaimed Dominican novelist and poet Julia Alvarez reflects on the joys and burdens of love—for her parents, for her husband, and for a young Haitian boy known as Piti. In this true account, she explores experiences that challenge our way of thinking about history and how it can be reimaged when people from two countries—traditional enemies and strangers—become friends.

Danticat, Edwidge. ***Brother, I'm Dying***. 2007.

At age twelve, Edwidge Danticat left Haiti to join her parents and youngest brothers in New York City. As she made a life in a new country, she and her family continued to fear for the safety of those still in Haiti as the political situation deteriorated—and in 2004, they entered into a terrifying tale of good people caught up in events beyond their control. (All books by this author come highly recommended.)

Kidder, Tracy. ***Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, a Man Who Would Cure the World***. 2003.

In medical school, Paul Farmer found his life's calling: to cure infectious diseases and to bring the lifesaving tools of modern medicine to those who need them most. Tracy Kidder's account shows how one person can make a difference in solving global health problems through a clear-eyed understanding of the interaction of politics, wealth, social systems, and disease.

Trost, Margaret. ***On That Day, Everybody Ate: One Woman's Story of Hope and Possibility in Haiti***. 2008.

Following her husband's untimely death, Margaret Trost visited Haiti to heal her broken heart through service. Struggling to make sense of the extreme poverty and touched by the warmth and resilience of those she met, she partners with a local community, and together they develop a program that now serves thousands of meals a week to those in need.

History

Dubois, Laurent. ***Haiti: The Aftershocks of History***. 2012.

Haiti's troubled present can only be understood by examining its complex past. The country's difficulties are inextricably rooted in its founding revolution—the only successful slave revolt in the history of the world. Revealing what lies behind the familiar moniker “the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere,” this book illuminates the foundations on which a new Haiti might yet emerge.

Farmer, Paul. ***Haiti After the Earthquake***. 2011.

Within three days of the 2010 earthquake, Dr. Paul Farmer arrived in Port-au-Prince, along with a team of volunteers, to lend his services to the injured. Having worked in the country for nearly thirty years, Farmer skillfully explores the social issues that made Haiti so vulnerable to the earthquake and describes the incredible suffering—and resilience—that he encountered there.

Girard, Philippe. ***Haiti: The Tumultuous History—From Pearl of the Caribbean to Broken Nation***. 2010.

Why has Haiti been plagued by so many woes? Philippe Girard answers this and other questions, examining how colonialism and slavery have left a legacy of racial tension, examining how Haiti's current political instability is a continuation of political strife that began during the War of Independence, and exploring poverty's devastating impact on contemporary Haiti.

Novels

Danticat, Edwidge. *Breath, Eyes, Memory*. 1998.

In Edwidge Danticat's first novel, 12-year-old Sophie Caco is sent from her impoverished Haitian village to New York to be reunited with a mother she barely remembers. There she discovers secrets that no child should ever know, and a legacy of shame that can be healed only when she returns to Haiti—to the women who first reared her. (All books by this author come highly recommended.)

Prayer Collections

Turnbull, Wally R. *God Is No Stranger*. 1970.

This is a book of prayers of Haitian Christians converted from Voodooism, each prayer accompanied by a photograph. Every prayer is an example of sincere, heartfelt communication with God, and each photograph tells a story by itself.

Religion and Culture

Ajax, Kesner. *A pastoral response to Haitian Vodou: A nightmare for religious leaders seeking true converts to Christianity*. 2013.

Written by an Episcopal priest who has been working in Haiti for more than 20 years in the field of pastoral ministry and education at all levels, this book is meant for those who want to better understand ministry in Haiti and its particular challenges.