Ever since the peanut crop failed last fall, things seemed to go downhill for the people of northwest Haiti. They had spent hours in their peanut fields, preparing the soil, planting the seeds, and weeding the fields. But they lacked rain, and when harvest time came a lot of people harvested much fewer peanuts than they had planted.

“We will suffer a little while,” the people said, “but soon we will have our millet crop.” They watched anxiously as their millet plants grew taller in the dry, dusty soil. Just when the millet was ready to go into heads, the rainfall stopped again. The .3 inches in December was not enough, and the millet crop gave the hardworking peasants very little harvest.

“This is a problem,” the people said. “We didn’t get many peanuts this year. Our millet crop was skimpy. But maybe we’ll have a good bean crop to offset our losses.” The people prayed for rain. They watched the sky, hoping to see rain clouds. But the slightly less than three inches of rain did not produce a good crop of beans.

“We still have corn,” the people tried to sound optimistic. “Some of us are selling our only assets—goats, chickens, or sheep—to buy food for our families. But we still have hope. We might get a good corn crop.”

The rains started in April. The people grew excited. But pretty soon the rains decreased, and high winds began to blow, drying things out. Now the corn’s growth seems to be at a standstill, and the caterpillars are already gnawing on it. So the corn crop, too, could be lost.

CAM plans to do a relief project in this area of Haiti. For four months, we will distribute rice and beans to 1,600 drought victim families for a small payment (to avoid creating a dependent mentality).

Steve Yoder, our assistant director in La Source, Haiti, shared about Molye, a young man from the area:

“Watching out of the corner of my eye, I noticed Molye walking toward me with a very halting and staggering gait. Without saying anything he sat down on a nearby wheelbarrow. Taking a closer look, I realized he looked very hungry. When I gave him some wheat, raisins, and a can of chicken, he turned to me. With tears in his eyes and in a near whisper he thanked me over and over. I can’t describe the flood of thoughts and emotions that raced through me as I watched him shuffle out the drive. “We’re hungry,” a Haitian mother said. “We buy food on credit for our ten mouths. I don’t know how long the merchants will sell it to us on credit, but I know God sees us.”

God does see them. And He sees the 40 malnourished children on the food program at CAM’s Joshua Memorial Clinic—children who, when they start with the program, are mostly skin and bones. He sees the children who pray their bedtime prayers, hungry.

If you would like to join in providing food for these hungry Haitians, please see the response coupon below.

Thou, O God, hast prepared of thy goodness for the poor.
Psalm 68:10b

God bless you!
Christian Aid Ministries
Phone: 330-893-2428
June 7, 2007

To insert coupon in envelope below, please tear along dotted lines.