From a Quest for Self-efficacy to an Ethic of Service: Becoming partners to serve the poor in Haiti

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“Our mission is to provide a **preferential option for the poor** in health care”

The poor have a special moral claim on the community…*we should listen to them.*

Our primary duty in any situation of oppression is to support the poor…*not to accommodate those with money and power.*

Medical resources should go first to those who need them most…*because disease makes its own preferential option for the poor.*
Community based
Remove barriers to access
Tackling the root causes of disease: poverty

Typical home in the Central Plateau
House that ZL built for one of our patients.
Access to water
Access to water: community spring cap
“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” – Nelson Mandela
School building under construction for Bon Berger to open March 2009.

New school construction at Chapoteau, finished July 2008.
Education: Literacy classes for adolescents and adults
Working through the public sector
All interventions undertaken in the context of primary care.

Public hospital PIH runs at Cerca la Source.
Dignity
Pragmatic solidarity: how partnerships work

• Pragmatic solidarity means providing the tools and resources Haiti needs to improve the lives of its poorest citizens.

• PIH/Zanmi Lasante’s biggest constraint is funds.

• We need partners who will take responsibility for raising support for the ongoing operation of projects.

• We prioritize using local staff. Where capacity is lacking, we seek to provide training.

• PIH does not make the decisions about undertaking projects and long term partnerships; ZL’s executive committee does.

• The inequality gap is so wide that we need as many people as possible to help stand in the breach. No one is dismissed from participating in the movement for health and social justice.
Thank you!

Questions?