



Missions Moments for 2010 Haiti-focused Build-A-Bed Projects

These Missions Moments can be used as part of your daily VBS worship rally or in individual classrooms as part of Bible Study. If missions is offered as a VBS rotation, craft projects (including heart-shaped fleece pillows to send to kids getting their new beds and Ugandan magazine bead necklaces or bracelets) are available at www.sweetsleep.org/build-a-bed to engage children even further with the mission of providing “a bed for every head.” These Missions Moments are only a guide – feel free to edit and adapt these to fit your ministry situation.

*** Note: The moments below are specifically designed for Haiti-focused Build-A-Bed Projects for 2010. If you are doing a general Build-A-Bed Project, feel free to incorporate some of these Haiti Missions Moments into your daily worship/prayer times.*

Day 1 – 15 minutes

Say: “Each day we’ll collect an offering as part of our worship time together. This year, our offering will go to help kids in Haiti receive new beds through Sweet Sleep. You may be wondering why kids need beds – doesn’t every kid have a bed? Well, unfortunately they don’t.

Sweet Sleep helps children who are orphaned or abandoned. What is an orphan?” (*Allow children to answer.*) “That’s right – an orphan is someone who doesn’t have a mom or a dad. In the US, children who are orphaned are often cared for by their grandparents or move to children’s homes. In many Third World countries, like Haiti, orphans are sent to orphanages where conditions are often very poor. Children sleep on old, broken beds or have no beds at all – forcing them to sleep on the floor or the ground. Orphanages try to take care of the children but new beds are expensive when you need to buy 1, 2, or 300 beds at a time! That’s where Sweet Sleep comes in!

This week, we’re going to have a Build-A-Bed Project and see how many beds we can build for orphans in Haiti! You have probably seen images of the destruction in Haiti because of the earthquake that happened in January. [**Haiti flattened building picture**] Even before the earthquake, Haiti was a very poor country and the orphans lived in rough conditions – almost none of the 800,000 orphans there even had anything to call a bed at all! Now, there are at least 300,000 more orphans than there were before the earthquake – because many moms and dads were in buildings that collapsed during the earthquake and

these children are now in orphanages needing food, clothing – and a healthy, comfortable place to sleep. *(include any specifics of your offering/penny wars/contests, etc.)* Let's watch a video and learn more about Sweet Sleep as we start our week together."

Show **"We Must Go: The Sweet Sleep Story."**

Pray – *mentioning the offering and that everyone involved – kids, leaders, volunteers would give so that children around the world can sleep sweetly. Pray that everyone would have open hands – giving everything they can to help orphans who are in need.*

(If you're taking offering on the 1st day, do so now. Play **"Open Hands"** by Matt Papa as the offering is collected.)

Day 2 – 5 minutes

Say: "How did you sleep last night? Who slept the most last night? Who got the least amount of sleep?" *(Allow children to raise their hands. You can say – raise your hand if you get 8 hours of sleep, 7, 6, 5, 4, etc. – It's always fun to see who got the least sleep – even if they're joking.)*

Look at these pictures of what kids sleep on in Moldova. [**Moldova Bed Picture**] You saw lots of pictures of kids from this area yesterday on our video. Moldova is where Sweet Sleep started working in 2003! Thousands of kids there have new beds because of Sweet Sleep's great work and kids like you who helped provide those beds! This is what kids sleep on in Uganda. [**Uganda Floor Picture with Mattress Scraps**] But these are the new beds Sweet Sleep provides there! [**Uganda girls with new bed**] When I see what these orphans sleep on around the world – especially kids in Haiti that sleep in conditions like this [**Haiti kid on ground picture**] it makes me want to give all the money I have to help them have a place to pray, to dream and to sleep sweetly. If you brought money for our offering today, I'm going to pray for our offering and then you can bring it forward. Let's Pray."

Pray for the children and for the offering. Pray that God would protect children who are currently sleeping in unhealthy conditions and that people around the world would give generously so Sweet Sleep can bring them a cozy, new bed soon.

Day 3 – 5 minutes

Say: "Alright – who out there has a dollar? Hold it up high – first one to hold up a dollar bill - join me here on stage. Now, what can you buy with a dollar?" *(Ask the child on stage, then get more answers from the audience.)* "Today, we're going to have another chance to give to our missions offering for Sweet Sleep to help orphans get new beds. I want each of us to think about how we can give sacrificially this week for these orphans. Who can tell me what it means to sacrifice?" *(To give something for the sake of someone else.)* "This dollar could buy a coke, 2 candy bars, *(some other things the kids mentioned)*. What I want to challenge us to do this week is to sacrifice so kids can sleep sweetly. If you were going to get a couple candy bars or a coke – consider going without those things so that orphans can have a place to sleep tonight. Let's give our volunteer a

round of applause. If you have your offering, you can bring it forward as soon as I pray. Let's pray together."

Pray that God would help each of us be sacrificial givers – giving up things we want so that others can have the things they need.

** Note: If you have used this activity before, consider asking a child to share their story of sacrificial giving from a previous year – camp, VBS, etc. This concept of sacrificial giving is so crucial for children to learn, that it should be included in any missions giving project.

Day 4 – 5 minutes

Say: "You guys have been doing awesome collecting money for beds for orphans! Thank you for being so faithful to God by giving these offerings to Him. Today, I wanted to share with you what else your offerings will provide. When Sweet Sleep goes into a new orphanage, not only do kids get brand new beds [**new Haiti bed pictures**] with solid frames, think foam mattresses, vinyl mattress covers to protect the new beds, comfy new sheets and a cozy new comforter, but they also receive a Bible [**Haitian kid with Bible picture**] in their language – which in Haiti, is French Creole! Can you imagine what it would be like if you didn't have a Bible to read and no one around you did either? Kids in these orphanages in Haiti are so excited to get their new Bibles! "One of my favorite verses is James 1:27 – *(put verse on screen if possible)* 'Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.' God calls us to look after orphans and widows."

Say: "There are lots of ways we can do that, and helping these orphans get beds is such an important one. Let's pray together and collect our offering."

Pray with the kids. Ask God to help us understand our calling to minister to orphans and widows. Thank God for allowing you to be a part of His plan and for blessing each of us so we can be a blessing to those who need our help. Pray for the children who will receive the beds and Bibles you'll raise the money for – pray that they will read them and understand what they read as they apply God's Word to their lives.

Optional activity: This would be a great day to make pillows to send kids getting their beds in Haiti. You can also practice these phrases in French Creole and use them on the tags for their pillows – or just learn them for fun:

Good morning	Bonjour!	(bon(g)-joo)
Good afternoon	Bonsaw!	(bon(g)-swa)
How are you?	Ki jan ou ye?	(key jaw oo yeh 'an' is nasal 'awe' sound)
I'm fine/Not bad	M-pa pi mal	(mmm pa pee mal)

How are you?	Koman ou ye?	(ko-mawe oo yea)
I'm fine/OK	Map boule	(map boo-lay)
Great!	An fom!	(awe (nasal) f-ome)
My name is.	Mwen rele	(mweh ray lay)
What is your name?	Ki jan ou rele?	(key jawe oo ray lay)
I love you.	Mwen rinmin ou	(mweh ray-mey oo)
Jesus loves you.	Jezi rinmin ou	(Jay-zi ray-mey oo)
Good bye!	Babay!	(ba-bye)

Day 5 (or Family Night) – 10 minutes

As worship begins, play “**Hands: Sweet Sleep’s Help for Haiti.**” (You can download the video for free at www.sweetsleep.org) Say: “We have had a great week together! And it’s been really exciting to learn about the needs of orphaned and abandoned children around the world – especially in Haiti - and how we can help them get healthy, comfortable new beds!” *(If parents are there and haven’t been the rest of the week, fill them in on what Sweet Sleep does, mentioning that you’re sure their sons and daughters have filled them in! Ask them to consider joining their children in giving sacrificially so orphans can sleep sweetly. Mention how much our own beds cost – then ask parents to consider giving that much for orphans to get new beds – think how many beds that would provide – since beds for orphans in Haiti are just \$200!)*

Say: “Today is the last day we’ll be collecting our missions offering at VBS. Let’s pray.

Pray for God to use the offerings your kids and families have given to provide hope and healing to the orphans in Haiti. Pray that when the children get in their new beds, that they’ll wrap the sheets and comforters around them and know that they are loved by God and loved by kids here in America. Ask God to help everyone there continue looking for ways to live out their James 1:27 calling to minister to orphans and widows.

Collect the offering, Play “**Hands**” by James Tealy.