

Lutheran Mission Association

Cap-Haitian, Haiti August 2004 Mission Trip

Newsletter Date

Cap-Haitian, Haiti Aug. 2004

Hurricane Jeanne pg 8

Was I a Missionary in Haiti

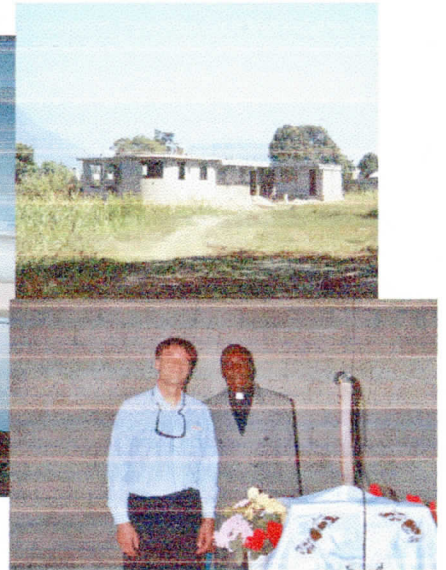
By Deb Larson

One of the biggest questions that crept into my mind when planning for this short term mission trip to Cap-Haitian, Haiti was what is my role -what do we call ourselves/myself? Are we missionaries? In learning more about short term missions and finally getting to Haiti I realized no I wasn't a missionary. Cont pg 2



Cap-Haitian Team

Church complex 2004



The School by Carol Davis

The main building is used both for school and church. School starts in September and the children will be wearing red, white, and grey uniforms. The cost of school is 250 dollars US not including school materials, food, or uniform. Cont. Pg 3

Top Les Uhrinak, Lil Spilde from Bemidji, Carole Davis from Baudette, Lee Kelly, Deb Larson, and Harry Batdorf from International Falls



Pastor Allan Wierschke
Blackduck and Pastor Eliona
Bernard

**Premiere Eglise
Lutherienne du Cap
Haitien
(First Luthran Church of
Cap-Haitian)** By Pastor Allan
Wiershke

The First Cement Brick By LeRoy Kelly

I am LeRoy Kelly one of the group members that went to Haiti this past August. This was my second trip to Haiti and to the same spot Cap-Haitian. I had a hand in laying the first cement blocks on the complex. Conti pg 4

Adopt a Student Program By Harry Batdorf

Our sister church in Cap-Haitian, "First Lutheran Church of Cap-Haitian" has a Lutheran pre-8 school. The school has approximately 260 students. No child who applies for admittance to the school is turned away. All are accepted regardless of ability to pay tuition. Cont. Pg 6

"All over the world this Gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it is among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth." (Colossians 1:6) Cont. Pg 5

Medical Clinic by Deb
Larson Conti. Pg.7



A Book by Martha VanCise, called "Successful Mission Teams A Guide for Volunteers," calls the people in short term missions, "Home-Field Links". A missionary is a earned title that represents work, commitment, and sacrifice, and college degree.

The world is changing and the reality is that there has been a marked decline in interest and support in long term missions. The good is that churches are growing through short-term missions and though we lack the preparation to serve as a missionary's you and I can fill a gap by linking our home church's to the mission field. Home-Field Links takes the foreignness out of the mission experience.

"Tell Me That Old, Old, Story", Home-Field Links can relate first hand stories and have more time than missionaries to tell their stories. Mission Teams or Home-Field Links and its process creates a cycle of faith building, to pray, to give, for some to go, for some to support, and this intern instills a sense of pride in us the church body by knowing we are carrying out the

Great Commission. Brothers and Sisters in Christ becomes a whole new meaning. Short-term missions is a way we as Christians can give our time and talents. There are many mission opportunities, not just out of the country, but right around the corner...

Home-field links can continue to tell their story over time spreading their insights to the entire church body and renew mission awareness, which intern links the real missionaries and their members with members in our churches. When missionaries visit our congregations they are no longer strangers, but fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

Volunteers focusing on linking the home church to the mission field will break down barriers that separate God's people and help our faith to grow.

We are not to take our responsibility lightly. The biblical command to do so is clear. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in

the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey every thing I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:18-20). Even though you don't physically participate our congregation benefits by being stronger through prayer, volunteering in lifting up the Field-Link Teams by participation in fund raising, by putting together mission packages, helping obtain needed supplies.

The Team all met with common questions and concerns like: Why not help the needy here? Wouldn't it be better to send the money than waste it on a trip? The urge to bring us to our senses. Everyone suddenly starts giving you news clippings of every disease, murder, political, and weather change of that country. Let alone personal issues with work and family. Questioning and hesitation are normal. Realities and What If's

Political events delayed

It helped us realize we were doing spiritual work, and God was bigger than any situation the Haitian President Aristide or the devil could throw in our way. He opened the door for us more than just than once. As volunteers in a foreign culture we quickly realized our own deficiencies and cried out to God for help. We were in Haiti as servants of God.

The team quickly realized what they meant by being flexible, open, and a spirit of servant-hood. Being realistic and prepared doesn't mean you will reach all of your mission goals (God has a Better plan), but what really counts is the relationships you form and build on. We as servant-disciples(Field-Link Teams) hope to enliven, learn, and teach, to bring to the world, to witness, to serve, and to do something tangible that impacts the community we enter as well as our home churches.

This passage from Paul really hit home what was entrusted to team and me, the task of linking the home church to the mission field and our responsibility to improve that link, Paul said, "Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me." (Phil.3:12) Further readings hit the target as well, "As the father has sent me, so I send you." Jesus said in (John20:21)

We the sent ones, the Field-Link Team, the servant-

disciples realized the Good News" the word" was and is our mission. St. Francis of Assisi understood this he wrote"preach the Gospel... and if necessary, use words." We aren't pastor's and don't all have the same gifts, but what do know as Jesus said, "For you have only one Master, and you are all brothers." (Matthew 23:8) Peter wrote "Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble."(1Peter 3:8)

We as a Field Link Team may never return to Haiti, but we hope to form and leave in place a mechanism in place through the Lutheran Mission Association, and our Missouri Synod that this work be continued after this trip has ended. Most importantly for Pastor Bernard and his struggling church in Cap-Haitian, Haiti, for Pastor Daniel Paul and the other Pastors there who need our support, to share the burden, that many hands make light work. May you help spread to other congregations that this discipleship, servant-hood, this Great Commission is much needed and welcome. I know We can as Brothers and Sisters in Christ can build up missions and fulfill the Great Commission, "We have seen the difference one year makes...a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the

Lamb."(Revelation7:9) What an honor and privilege that you sent me. With what great hospitality did the congregation in Cap-Haitian receive us-we all are truly blest, what an honor to be brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. Thank-you.

Your Sister in Christ, Deb Larson

The school cont.

The cost for one teacher's salary is 350 dollars US and their are seven teachers.

School started in September and the sanctuary will be divided into classrooms during the week by temporary dividers. Eventually as construction continues there will be permanent classrooms.

The school includes preschool, middle school, daycare and a sewing center for women taught by Pastor Bernards wife Linda.

Mrs. Eliona Bernard recently became a teacher with a

degree in sewing. Her final test was making and showing a wedding dress for a

style show. There hope is to make funds through sewing projects yet to be identified



and train women in a viable living.

We are looking for ideas for projects and when a project idea is formed we will be get the word out. Also we are looking for anyone who might be able to aid us in marketing these projects.

The UN donated rice for the children and as many of you heard the church storage room was robbed of the rice. The security wall has become top priority to ensure the safety of items received and to make it a safe environment.

Firstly, Pastor Bernard has asked to relieve the burden of teachers wages. He has seven skilled teachers. We recently received a donation to pay back wages and now are hoping to form a ongoing commitment for there wages, until there church can support themselves.

Secondly, he asks us to form Adopt a Student Programs to fund at a cost of 250 dollars a year tuition of a student in need.

We could sense the anxiety of families trying to get money to send their children to school as schooling is highly valued. We don't know the exact number of enrolled student at this time.

The children speak Creole at home, but they must learn French to find a better living for themselves. Even with good education it is difficult to find jobs. Even more difficult is to make the proper connections to make a new business work.

Valerie the principle and lay pastor ask's not to forget him.

He is in need of science, math equipment and school books in French . School supplies and paper are an ongoing need each year.

The teachers all have faith in Pastor Bernard and are very good and faithful to his cause. Keep them in your prayers.

Pastor Bernard and Valerie say "Thank you" for the school supplies donated for the



children!

Your Sister in Christ,
Carole Davis

Preschool



School Well



Principle and Lay Pastor
Valery



Teacher Admitting students
under the Mango tree.



Hopefully they will soon use
the office room. We helped
pour the floor before leaving.

The First Cement Brick cont.

I was very surprised at
how much they had done and
how nice it looked.

The complex is being
used as a church and school
now. The clinic is planning to
be open in January 2005.

The construction work
is all done by hand and many
of the church members are
employed there as well as
volunteer help. All the
concrete and mortar are mixed
by hand and carried by
buckets. After working all day
carrying buckets it would have

been nice to have a bobcat and cement mixer. But then it would have taken less labor. The Haitian people are so happy to have a job and they work hard to keep their job so they can feed their family. It was a wonderful experience to have the chance to work with the people of Haiti and to see their joy of us helping them and showing our love.

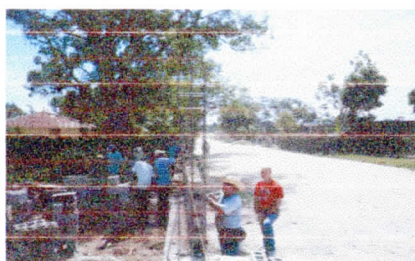
Your Brother in Christ,
LeRoy Kelly



Complex 2003 Above
Complex Aug. 2004 below



Lee laying brick



Ladies helping with security wall



Workers at the security wall



Surfacing the walls



Sifting sand



Security Wall first quarter

Premiere Eglise Lutherienne cont.

Our flight being canceled on Sunday, August 15th allowed all of us the opportunity to join our brothers and sisters in Christ at Premiere Eglise Lutherienne du Cap Hatien (First Lutheran Church of Cap-Haitian) in their worship service. Some of us had picked up on the Creole language better than others. Nevertheless one could tell that Rev. Eliona Bernard was preaching with conviction. One could also perceive that the ensembles and the congregation were singing with joy despite their meager circumstances. But why? Being one of the several late arrivals in the back I was fortunate in that the sermon was translated for us by Mr. Valery Marilus, the school's principal. It was based on Romans 8:28 "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to His Savior Jesus Christ." It is also good news that God's Word, Law, and Gospel, are being proclaimed faithfully in the preaching and the teaching

that is done in our sister congregation in Cap Haitian, Haiti. Despite our many differences with our brothers and sisters in Haiti we share the same faith, gather around the same means of grace, Word and Sacraments, and our pastors and congregations are bound by the same Lutheran Confessions. Having this in common we also have the privilege and responsibility to support each other in the spreading of the Gospel around the world. We can do this by praying for each other. We can also do this by assisting in supplying their needs out of the wealth with which we are blessed. This includes funds for the construction of the school, clinic and church; financial support for those in need including the school teachers; medical instruments and supplies for the clinic; and Bibles and Lutheran materials such as catechisms and hymnals for school and church. What joy to have salvation in Christ! What joy to share a common faith! What joy to be empowered by the Holy Spirit to share with our brothers and sisters in Christ!

In Christ's Service,
Pastor Allan Wierschke



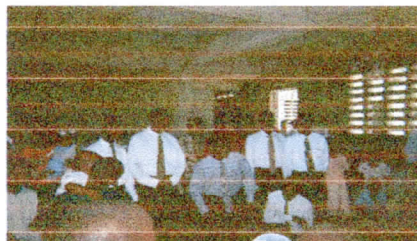
Left to Right Eve, Harry Batdorf, Pastor Bernard, Nelson, and Valery



Women choir



Church Kids



Men Choir

Adopt a Student cont.

Adopt-a-Student pays for school, supplies, uniform, expenses toward the school buildings, and the teachers salaries. The expenses of educating a child are estimated at \$250 per school year. Very few of the student's family's are able to pay a small portion of the tuition, but many are unable to pay any significant amount towards tuition. Therefore the teachers usually go without receiving their full salary. There is a real danger that the school will lose teachers if they continue to receive only a fraction of their pay. The teachers that are in-place at the school now are dedicated to teaching the sacraments that define ELCH, but also have to consider other employment that could offer steady pay.

An opportunity has arisen for members of the Northern Minnesota LCMS churches to make a significant positive impact on this situation. Pastor Bernard has developed an "adopt-a-student" program designed to help the overall financial health of the school, and create a bond between a sponsor in Northern Minnesota, and a student and his/her family in Cap-Haitian. The annual expense to the sponsor is \$250, payable in one lump sum or in smaller payment. The sponsor may choose to

“Adopt” a male or female student or no preference.

Please prayerfully consider sponsoring a student. Applications blanks are attached.

Your Brother in Christ,
Harry Batdorf

Medical Clinic

Pastor Bernard hopes to complete and open the Medical Clinic by Jan. 2005. He hopes to run the clinic with a nurse 5 days a week and a physician 2 days a week. The clinic would be open to both the rich and the poor. My hope is to open a sustainable clinic. Most clinics in Haiti can't stay open. One barrier is finding a doctor to work for the clinic. There is one doctor to 10,000. To find a qualified nurse to run the clinic. Pharmacist and Lab personnel. Other obstacles are having security in place thus the need for the security wall, clean water thus a filter system, a reliable energy source to replace the unreliable present generator plus possibly a solar system. Working and reliable refrigeration for vaccines and medications. Supplies and equipment will come, but we first need a sustainable system. If that is not possible at first -a Aid Station that can be used by the school and vaccination clinics and medical teams.

We need Doctors, Pharmacists, Nurses, Lab and other medical persons interested in this Medical Project to contact

me Deb Larson at 1-218-283-2447 or sandeels@frontiernet.net
We would like to form a committee to study the issues and make a plan.



Clinic front, waiting area to left, Storage to the right and



Pharmacy behind



Side view and septic
Dr. Office foreground and exam room by Harry



Lab



Hospital Justienien in Cap-Haitian



Complex view

DISASTER



SHARING Update SHARING Update SHARING Update

LCMS World Relief and Human Care Response to August - September Hurricanes Continues

More than a month into a hurricane season during which three powerful storms have caused death and widespread destruction in the United States, LCMS World Relief and Human Care anticipates an ongoing need for resources. As details of Hurricane Jeanne's devastation in Haiti continue to unfold, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's disaster response and development organization prepares to offer support to relief efforts in the Caribbean. The following summaries outline some of the hurricane-caused needs that have been identified, from most to least recent.

Hurricane Jeanne. Central western Haiti, especially the coastal community of Gonaives, witnessed massive calamity when Hurricane Jeanne struck the island nation beginning 16 September. Flooding and mudslides are responsible for a death toll that has reached 1,070 and is expected to keep rising. Rev. Revenel Benoit of Lutheran Church—Haiti (LCH; a national church partner of The LCMS) reports that there is no electricity, food or drinking water in Gonaives. "People are starving, including my family," he says. "Thousands and thousands of LCH members live now in the street.... The LCH bakery, cinder block factory and computer school have been destroyed by water." Authorities are speculating that Jeanne might also impact the United States.

Hurricane Ivan. Ivan ("the Terrible") struck the central Gulf Coast and the Florida panhandle as a category 3 storm on 16 September. It left 52 dead in the U.S. and another 70 in the Caribbean. Damage from Ivan, much of it due to

flooding and tornadoes spawned by the storm, is estimated to be between \$3 billion and \$11 billion. Ivan has returned to the Gulf and appears to be re-forming; Texas and Louisiana are thought to be in the storm's path as it regains strength.

Hurricane Frances. Fourteen deaths and approximately \$5 billion in damage have been attributed to Frances, which struck the eastern coast of Florida on 5 September. LCMS World Relief and Human Care is working to support the LCMS Florida-Georgia District in responding to needs across southern Florida.

Hurricane Charley. Category 3-strength Charley struck Florida's Gulf Coast on 13 August. Charley is blamed for 27 deaths in the United States and an estimated \$14 billion in damage.

LCMS World Relief and Human Care is working to respond through missionary and church partners in Haiti and other Caribbean locations, and through the LCMS Florida-Georgia and Southern districts in the U.S., as well as through LCMS congregations and Lutheran Disaster Response. There is an urgent and ongoing need for financial assistance.

Please mark checks "Hurricanes."
Send donations to:

LCMS World Relief/Human Care
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-9810

Credit card gift line:
1-888-930-4438

Online: <http://catalog.lcms.org>



**Haitian Project
Completion Costs
August 13, 2004** by Lil
Splide and Pastor
Bernard

**HAITIAN PROJECT
Completion Costs
August 13, 2004**

SCHOOL

(Completion of only the part that is already built)

1. 400 bags cement @ \$45 (Haitian)/\$6.43 (US)	\$18,000.00 (Haitian)	\$2571.43 (US)
2. 13 loads sand @ \$300 (Haitian)/\$42.86 (US)	\$ 3,900.00 (Haitian)	\$ 557.14 (US)
3. 4 loads gravel @ \$450 (Haitian)/\$64.29 (US)	\$ 1,800.00 (Haitian)	\$ 257.14 (US)
4. Electrical Supplies	\$11,000.00 (Haitian)	\$1571.43 (US)
5. Miscellaneous (5%)	\$ 1,735.00 (Haitian)	\$ 247.86 (US)
6. Workers (60%)	\$20,820.00 (Haitian)	\$2974.29 (US)
TOTAL FOR SCHOOL	\$57,255.00 (Haitian)	\$8179.28 (US)

(Not including metal plates for stairwell, furnishings, window bars, doors (see page 4)

HAITIAN PROJECT
Completion CostsWALLS

1. 61 loads stone @ \$850 (Haitian)/\$121.43 (US)	\$51,850.00 (Haitian)	\$7407.14 (US)
2. 1500 bags cement @ \$45 (Haitian)/\$6.43 (US)	\$67,500.00 (Haitian)	\$9642.86 (US)
3. Metallic iron(rebar), 3 t @\$6000 (Haitian)/\$450 (US)	\$18,000.00 (Haitian)	\$2571.43 (US)
4. 5 loads gravel @\$450 (Haitian)/\$64.29 (US)	\$ 2,250.00 (Haitian)	\$ 321.43 (US)
5. 40 loads sand @\$300 (Haitian)/\$42.86 (US)	\$12,000.00 (Haitian)	\$1714.29 (US)
6. Miscellaneous (5%)	\$ 7,550.00 (Haitian)	\$1078.57 (US)
7. Workers (60%)	\$67,950.00 (Haitian)	\$9707.14 (US)
8. Gate	\$ 7,500.00 (Haitian)	\$1071.43 (US)
TOTAL FOR WALL	\$243,600.00 (Haitian)	\$34,800.00 (US)

HAITIAN PROJECT
Completion Costs

CLINIC

1. 251 bags cement @ \$45 (Haitian)/\$6.43 (US)	\$11,295.00 (Haitian)	\$1613.57 (US)
2. 8 loads sand @ \$300 (Haitian)/\$42.86 (US)	\$ 2,400.00 (Haitian)	\$ 342.86 (US)
3. Electrical supplies \$7000 (Haitian)/\$1000 (US)	\$ 7,000.00 (Haitian)	\$1000.00 (US)
4. Miscellaneous (5%)	\$ 1,034.00 (Haitian)	\$ 147.71 (US)
5. Workers (60%)	\$12,417.00 (Haitian)	\$1773.86 (US)
6. Glass windows	\$12,500.00 (Haitian)	\$1785.71 (US)
7. Ceramic tiles 150 sq/m @ \$80 (Haitian)/\$11.43 (US)	\$12,000.00 (Haitian)	\$1714.29 (US)
8. Tile installation, per sq/m \$30 (Haitian)/\$4.29 (US)	\$ 4,500.00 (Haitian)	\$ 642.86 (US)
TOTAL FOR CLINIC	\$63,146.00 (Haitian)	\$9020.86 (US)

(Not including window bars, doors, (see page 4) plumbing, metal plates to cover 2nd story stairwells, furnishings & fixtures)

HAITIAN PROJECT
Furnishing Costs

SCHOOL FURNISHINGS

1. Benches, 6 doz @ \$2400/doz (Haitian)/\$342.86 (US)	\$14,400.00(Haitian)	\$2047.14 (US)
2. Desks, 2 @ \$800 (Haitian)/\$228.57 (US)	\$ 1,600.00 (Haitian)	\$ 228.57 (US)
3. Tables, 7 @ \$500 (Haitian)/\$71.43 (US)	\$ 3,500.00 (Haitian)	\$ 500.00 (US)
4. Chairs for worship services (estimate) 20 doz @ \$1500.00/doz (Haitian)/\$214.29 (US)	\$30,000.00 (Haitian)	\$4285.71 (US)
TOTAL FOR SCHOOL FURNISHINGS	\$49,500.00 (Haitian)	\$7071.43 (US)

WINDOWS AND DOORS FOR SCHOOL & CLINIC

1. Windows (w/bars)	\$43,200.00 (Haitian)	\$6171.43 (US)
2. Iron doors (6)	\$16,200.00 (Haitian)	\$2314.29 (US)
3. Miscellaneous (5%)	\$ 810.00 (Haitian)	\$ 115.71 (US)
4. Workers (Installers) (40%)	\$24,084.00 (Haitian)	\$3440.57 (US)
TOTAL FOR DOORS & WINDOWS	\$144,504.00 (Haitian)	\$12042.00 (US)

GRAND TOTAL COSTS FOR COMPLETION

SCHOOL	\$ 57,255.00 (Haitian)	\$ 8,179.28
WALLS	\$243,600.00 (Haitian)	\$34,800.00
CLINIC	\$ 63,146.00 (Haitian)	\$ 9,020.86
SCHOOL FURNISHINGS	\$ 49,500.00 (Haitian)	\$ 7,071.43
WINDOWS & DOORS	\$144,504.00 (Haitian)	\$12,042.00
TOTAL	\$558,005.00 (Haitian)	\$71,113.57

"Adopt-a-Student"

I/we desire to financially assist a student at the k-8 Lutheran school operated by The First Lutheran Church of Cap-Haitian, in the city of Cap-Haitian, Haiti.

The Church is led by Pastor Eliona Bernard, and the school principal is Mr Valeray.

I/we understand that there is no obligation on my/our part other than \$250 per school year tuition fee. The fee is payable either in one lump sum (preferred) or in smaller payments throughout the school year.

I/we understand that there is no requirement implied that sponsorship continue in upcoming school years although I/we may choose to continue to sponsor my/our student.

The school year in Cap-Haitian runs from September through May.

I/we understand that Pastor Bernard in return will mail each sponsor a snapshot of their sponsored child, periodic school progress reports, and some background information on the students family.

Sponsor's name(s) _____

Sponsor's mailing address _____

Sponsor's e-mail address (optional) _____

I/we prefer to sponsor:

____ a female student

____ a male student

____ no preference

Please send this form along with remittance to:

Lutheran Mission Association
c/o Mrs. Lori Salvhus
4443 Old Longlake Rd.
Bemidji, MN 56601