

Lutheran Mission Association

Spring visit to the North District Haiti

March 2006

The Great Adventure Continues Outlying Prayer Stations Visited!

Clinic Medical Le Lutherien (Lutheran Medical Clinic)

Twas set to have it started last fall, but as things go the Haitian's have patience, it is hoped to be open within this the next few months with what is ready. There will be an official opening celebration and then if it is acceptable to the Haitian authorities it will be licensed. They have visited and given recommendations throughout this process and we are thankful to the aide they have given to Pastor Bernard. The clinic project Pastor Bernard wishes to be a main focus this year. The clinic will require support for wages and supplies. Basic items have been sent in the container by LMA and that to come March 28 by Brookfield. This past year qualified staff have been searched for and the majority have been found. Number one we have a young Haitian Dr. by the name of Julney Jule Mesidor who has his own office and works with the Hospital Milot pronounced (Me-low). Dr. Mesidor will visit the clinic initially two times per week. Two nurses have been found firstly Mrs. Obas pronounced (Oba) a LPN and member of the church in Haiti. She lead us to Dr. Mesidor and Mrs. Margareth a RN with experience working in all three of the Hospitals near Cap-Haitian and experience working with missionary groups. Both women are friends and demonstrate good communication skills and knowledge. Mrs Margareth has a handle on the needed forms and government systems and has set my heart at ease on many issues. The nurses will work from 8 AM to 2 PM along with the Lab, but the Pharmacy will be open longer 8AM to 4 PM.. Dr. Mesidor is anxious to get the clinic going. Through a consultant to the Milot Hospital and other clinic's and Lab Schools in Haiti, Sister Marie Vittetoe we have found Mario Thelus a lab tech, a new graduate trained in the Milot Hospital, a graduate of the National Medical Technology School in Haiti, and highly recommended by Moleire Duval the head of the Lab in Milot. A Pharmacy tech is yet to be found but a Registered Pharmacist and Lab consultants to supervise the tech's have been identified. A registrar of patients will be hired and a housekeeper. Suppliers of consumable materials are being identified specifically one for the lab. Propalab is a major supplier in Haiti and other non-profit agencies will be contacted for aid. So if you know of medical equipment available or supplies please keep this project in mind. If you are a medical professional with service to offer please contact LMA.

Mrs. Obas has children of her own and one son is a US citizen and he is fighting in the Iraq war, so keep him in your prayers. Mrs. Obas takes classes from Lynda in sewing and cooking and is a model of patience and compassion. Sister Marie Vittetoe is a diamond in the rough she gave us a tour of the Milot Hospital and introduced us to the Hospital Administrator. Sister Marie gave us surplus supplies for the lab and we are so grateful to her. Milot Hospital will be our referral center. There is an ambulance service in Cap-Haitian and Milot is not far from Madeline with fair roads as roads go in Haiti for our sicker clients.

The clinic is nearly finished with the interior they just have to finish the cabinets in the lab and install the lab sinks. We will need a filtration system for the water in the Lab and this device has been identified.

We still need an exam table and hope it arrives with Brookfield's container. The electrical is in place and just awaits the hope of a functional generator to power it. Fans have been installed in some of the rooms. There is still need of a tropical refrigerator and a propane stove. More electrical lab equipment and other equipment and consumables are still needed, but we are confident in Christ's ability to provide as he has shown us already.. We have received many gifts of equipment toward the clinic and wish to say Thank you. A list is available upon request and funds are in need to finish stocking essential supplies. Medical books for the physician, lab, pharmacy and nurses are needed even in English with graphics especially.

Stocking the pharmacy is still an issue and anyone with experience in this area would be welcome. There is a rumor that medicine can't be shipped to Haiti, it can. Non-prescription medication with a valid expiration date is very welcome and can be shipped directly to individuals and the usual custom duties will be applied. Prescription medication can be shipped to a Dr. or Pharmacist in Haiti with valid expiration dates and we now have a Physician of which we can ship too and when the clinic is licensed it can be shipped there. The nurses will do basic clinic exams and referrals to Dr. Mesidor. The lab will do basic simple tests at first like urine stick tests, glucose, hemacrit, stool for ova and parasites, sputum for TB, pregnancy tests, Malaria, vaginal infections. The nurses will have a lot of teaching to do in community health. The deep well project and latrines are part of the community health prevention project to break the cycles of illness in Haiti. By drilling deep wells in Haiti, Typhoid has been cut by 50%. The majority of the population in Haiti have never used an outhouse and so the use of something so simple to us is a teaching issue in Haiti. The school children will receive health education classes. The pharmacy will be very much needed and used.

The building of a clinic has brought to the forefront more than before the need for security, the things sent are very valuable. A security wall was built and razor wired at the beginnings of this new church community and with the building of the structure metal doors, barred windows and locks. They have many keys to deal with daily! But security is a must unfortunately in Haiti. With the sending of the container a 40' metal storage container was planted in cement and chained door and locks aided to protect the shoes and other things sent. With the move of the medical equipment from storage to the Pharmacy area of the clinic, the most secure, a attempted break in was made and will likely occur again. No one was seriously injured, but the it was a renewed awakening to this issue and further security measures are in place.



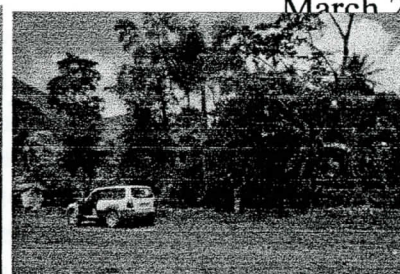
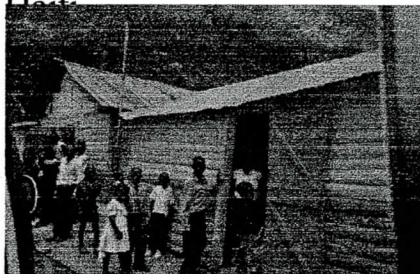
Prayer Stations One on One Visits

The prayer station first visited was St. Rapheal a small and very poor community. The church will be located a few miles from the main center, the town is drug-out along the road. The land here is

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arid and rock strewn with very few tree's. Tree's are needed for the charcoal to cook food and this town lacks this making them poorer still. This town was cut off from the rest of Haiti by a swollen river that washed out a major bridge in the last hurricane season



and they are anxious to have it rebuilt. We traversed that river in the SUV, but luckily it is a dry season.

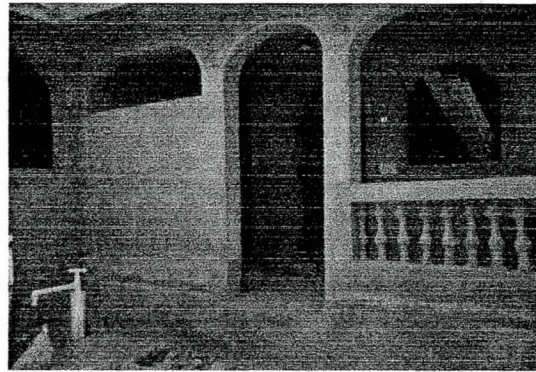
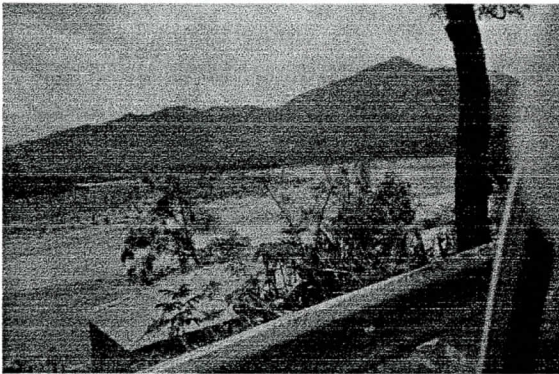
The station building walls are palm leaf woven matts with a tin roof. They have a lay Pastor visiting at present, but it is very difficult to get there due to bad, bad roads! There was about 40-45 people attending the church service held specially for us on the first Saturday of our stay. We are hoping to buy land about 3 acres for a church and school building. The land costs about 2,250 dollars US. There is plenty of stone to build with and I don't think we will need to buy much brick, mostly cement. They welcomed us warmly and we hope this will be a successful church in the future.

With the container sent we were able to provide food, clothing, shoes, medical and hygiene supplies to them in time of great need. Thank You MN North!

The second station visited was holding school with about 50 students in dirt floor shanty or hanger as the Haitians call them. The student's school was started by a Mr. Francios (Frans-wa) a very Christian Haitian man in his 50's who was felt lead to help the poorer in the Madeline area. He has taken in 14 orphan's into his home and Pastor Bernard's church is trying to help them. Some of the food, shoes, quilts, school, medical, hygiene and medical supplies have gone to his orphans and school. The air mattress we brought with our last visit were given to the orphans for beds. He lives not too far from the school with his orphans. The students sang us a welcome song and we took pictures to bring back to show you. A chalk writing was on the door to his school, written by I don't know who, but it said. "Rose like you, Jesus"!

The Third station visited was Dondon started about the same time as the main Church in Cap-Haitian. We went to Sunday service here in cabin like shanty or hanger with a dirt floor and a very passionate rooster crowing outside of one of the windows. Approximately 200 souls- men, women, and children crowded into this small building. They sang and the elders recited the epistle lessons to the congregations members, because this was a large group, three elders took charge of three groups, the groups then recited the epistle back group by group. It was soon very warm in the building. Vicar Gergens went with us to the church and is quite a joy, but don't let him drive! Francois Pierre is the Lay Pastor of this church and it was the first time we met him. He is a fiery man of small stature and a large family, his favorite saying is Chop Chop with the same meaning as in the US. He gave us many bananas to take home and they tasted very good. The women in the church were very happy to receive dress clothes in the container, they have some Haitian appropriate clothing to wear to church. One dress in particular stood out I remember picking it out and repacking it a couple of times, the women wearing it was of particular strong character and I was happy to know she was wearing it. Like in the other places they have benefitted from the gifts collected by the beautiful hands in our district. We brought with us some gifts for this church. A piece of land has been bought by a benefactor in MN North for the church in Dondon, the piece of land was visited too during our time there. Funds will be needed to build the actual building costs yet to be estimated. One church in MN donate church items and they will receive them.

The fourth station visited is in Grande Riviere du Nord a small city with only one church. A church is yet to be started here, but it has good prospects. This town is more modern in Haitian terms and in better condition than most visited. Pastor and school Principle Valerie will be sent here to start a congregation. A building has been found to rent and 2,000 for three years. It is much better than I expected, it even has a bathroom, water, and a sewer system. It is one floor, but a second temporary floor will be added for church services. The main floor has 4-5 rooms that can be used for school. It is a very nice site and we pray it will prosper. Pastor Valerie was very instrumental in the work at the Madeline Complex and we know he will do very well for this new site. Pray for he and his family as they make this move to a new mission.



Cap-Haitian Church and School Update

The church continues to flourish. Pastor Bernard has a huge job and is blessed to have 3 Vicars in his service and his Lay Pastors. Lynda Bernard is a wonderful wife and they truly do complement each other. I found myself utterly exhausted at the pace kept here. It took so much energy just to travel to the site! Both Vicar Gergens and Riche were recently married. The interior of the shared sanctuary and school just needs paint and it should be finished nicely. Lightening would really enhance the church. The generator is no longer functional and a member of the church loans his for services and when needed.

Roads are terrible and the people in Cap-Haitian are terribly embarrassed by the lack of garbage disposal in their city. I hope it is one thing that can be accomplished there before the UN leaves. The UN is working on road systems. The UN tanks and machine guns are still visible, but Cap-Haitian is safe compared to Port au Prince. The Haitians are anxious to be on their own and see the UN go, but tolerate their presence as long as positive things are accomplished. We had a unique unplanned visit during our travels with the general in charge of Cap-Haitian and his officers; it gave us a unique insight, let's say. The teachers remain very dedicated. The added staff at the complex makes funds to pay them all a struggle. We have a secretary, Miss Wicklund helping the Pastors and the school keep organized, she lives with her Aunt one of our teachers. One of our goals was to try and teach quick books, but it will be awhile before such good accounting will be realized. We will search for a simpler program, one problem in Haiti is very few know how to use a lap board and computer programs. Accounting will require teaching. This has struck us as a possible class for the Vo-Tech once it gets going in the future.

The classes sizes at the Cap-Haitian school is relatively the same as last year, but the preschool was very crowded with no place for the children to nap. This is the first time I was present while school was in session and I can tell you four classes in one room was very, very loud. A lot of recitation is done and the teachers have no desks and the students not enough, and they need more sound proof room dividers. The preschool is open to Pastor's office through a doorway blocked off by a chalkboard. I could hardly hear myself think. We brought another bucket water filter for the school children and Miss Wicklund will be in charge of its use- we hope to purchase more at \$150 dollars a piece for the other schools. Shelving was brought for the various departments, but more is needed. School kits, shoes and uniforms will be needed again for next year. A uniform project has been started were women in the US are making uniforms for the schools, if you would like to know more contact LMA.

Adopt a Student program has become vital to keep the schools in this district going we would like to thank those who support the program, I can tell you it really is making a difference in these children's lives. Unfortunately many children are needed at home to work and support there families and as they get older it becomes harder and harder to come each day. We hope to promote activities that will entice them to stay in school and learn more about Christ. Another Lutheran group that supports food to schools in Haiti continues to provide rice and beans to the school. A women is hired to cook the food in small cook house next to the complex. The children can use cups, spoons and more plates. Water pitchers are also needed to serve clean water rather than dip into a bucket. That diet is supplemented from time to time by vitamins donated to LMA. Pastor Bernard has planted a small garden, bananas, and plantains for the church members and school to supplement there diets. Members of the church frequently look to the church to provide jobs and services there government can't give them. The second part of the complex has been started and a foundation lain, more funds will be needed to finish the project and by the sound level alone still ringing in my ears it is needed.

The bus is used primarily for bringing people to church on Sunday as gas is expensive and the children can walk to school. The bus brings people from the downtown areas were the old shanty church was and for women and men unable to traverse the distance physically or financially to come to church on there own. One of the women in the choir we met in Haiti in 2004 has had a stroke and is paralyzed on one side of her body, with the bus she is able to come to church, she is no longer able to work and her family is barely able to feed themselves, this young church tries to help the best they can, but she is happy she can come to church too.



The seminary in Port au Prince no longer has funds for a building so many students are fostered out to the 7 Pastors. They have split the country into 7 districts to be managed by the 7 main Pastors. They all have delegated jobs at the National level and in there own districts. The seminary is in need of support and educational materials. LMA has a project to provide a book of Dogmatics called, "La Doctrine Chretienne" by JT Mueller the cost is \$20 including shipping needed for these students, Pastors, and Lay Pastors. LMA is also collecting funds to send French Catechisms and french bibles to Haiti the cost including shipping is \$10 dollars a piece. We plan to have the next shipment arrive before school in the fall of 2006. Please keep this project in your prayers. Tithing in Haiti is a problem, churches are often thought to provide a free service, please keep this issue in you prayers.

Another container project is in the works. We are in the planning stages and will get more information out on this in the future. Another rumor around the Synod is that all containers should go through Port au Prince this was to have come from Thomas Bernard. This is not true and was discussed with him. He

encourages all the aid his districts can get from what ever means they can get for they are in need. Port au Prince is often the most dangerous port to deal with and Port au Prince itself is an area of unrest compared to Cap-Haitien which is an open field at this time. Daniel Paul has received aid by way of roads from the Dominican Republic, I expect it is more difficult in the southern areas of Haiti at this time.

We learned a little more about Voodoo culture this visit and we saw the flags that are shaped like a cross with red and blue banners flying from them. Lil asked, "do you think I could take a picture fast." Pastor said, "sure we have a car to get away with", so we did. No one was around however. Many people are ready for the Christian life we have and the other major religions we visited with were very happy to have Lutherans in Haiti as other cult religions are very active in Haiti too.

If you would like to arrange someone to speak at your church please contact LMA at 1-800-399-0209 ext 101

Deep Water Well Dug Clean Water for the Church and Community

The odyssey of finding Mr. Pudwell. I think we could write a book concerning this adventure in Haiti, but I will put it in a nutshell. This man has worked in Haiti 32 years with his wife who died this past year of cancer. She was a nurse and he a surgical tech. -after some years in Haiti they found many illnesses were related to unclean water and he began drilling deep wells as surface wells are considered green, unless filtered. Estimates are that with the number of deep wells drilled in Cap-Haitien Typhoid has been cut by 50% thanks to Mr. Pudwell, he is somewhat famous in Haiti with some Mission circles. He is from North Dakota and seems like the guy that would stand next to you at an auction sale. We sent word by his mission we would be visiting him, they didn't know his address and he did not have a cell phone and did not use the internet-he only received mail. In a city of a million people we were not sure of how to find him because there are no phone directories there and he didn't have one anyway. Pastor Bernard and Lil went to look and half an hour later they were back. We thought they had given up already but surprise, surprise they inquired with two individuals and he was only two miles away and they visited and scheduled a well drilling for the next week. The Lord made the path to his door. The Monday we were leaving we received a call from the complex that Mr. Pudwell was already there. We decided to go quickly before getting on the plane. He said he dug wells in that area without a problem and we should have good water and he would set up the pump and cement platform all for \$1500 dollars and by the end of the day we had a well at a depth of 65 feet! The Lord is Good!