



A mission organization of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

The 2007 Container Project!

The Container Was Unloaded Ahead Of Hurricane Dean!

Many of you are wondering how things are going! The container arrived at the church complex in Cap-Haitian and was unloaded on August 16th, 2007. The complex was locked down for the customs officials to check the items sent and tally a customs fee. A group from the First Evangelical Church of Haiti, officials from Haitian customs, and CASCO assisted in the process. CASCO, our shipping agent and customs broker, was our observer to help mediate potential overcharges that Haitian customs are known for. The items were unloaded very professionally. The container arrived and was unloaded prior to Hurricane Dean. Lynda Bernard reported wind and rain, but no significant damage was done in the area from Hurricane Dean.

LMA has felt blessed by the outpouring help from the Minnesota North to supply the final amount so we were able to send the 60 kilowatt generator in the container. The generator was moved by a machine from CASCO onto a waiting pad specially built for it by the Haitian congregation at

the Cap-Haitian Complex. We thank the Minnesota North LCMS congregations and MN North District LWML for the awesome prayers, financial support, and material support to make this hope a reality. We are waiting on a final tally for the customs fees and hope it is around the same as the estimate given by CASCO of nearly \$6,000 US.

The members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Haiti's have returned a joyful "Thank You to All of You!" They can't believe people in the USA would do this for them. They ask, "Why do you help us?" Prayers, support, and material gifts to the young Haitian Church are our response of love in serving our God.

The materials sent in the container have been placed throughout the Cap-Haitian complex where they will be used and sorted. Extra items like hygiene kits, shoes, quilts, blankets, and clothes will be placed in the storage container for future hand-out to those in need in Haiti.

Those who visit the complex come to new levels of understanding when they stand in that place and see what the Lord has done, can do, and will do to build up His church in Haiti.

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The Container Project cont.

How will the container items help support the complex and the church in Haiti?

- The church will use materials such as books for the seminary, Bibles, Sunday School materials, and church items and communion ware.
- The school received the school kits, a playground fence, toys and classroom supplies for the teachers.
- The Women’s Center received the awesome gift of new sewing machines, sewing kits, material, baking supplies and other related notions.
- The Orphanage received furnishings, kitchen and household items, bedding, clothing, and toys.
- The Lutheran Medical clinic has the gift of a new examination table, clinic supplies and items that can be shared with others in the medical community.
- The generator will give light to those who study the Bible when the sun goes down. It will power the machines that help the ill in the community. It will run the music the Haitian’s love so much, and power equipment that teaches women a new way of life.



This two acre complex is alive in the Word of God. We know the church being built will truly become a “beacon of light” to the rest of the city and district. We know this is true. Visitors to Haiti have taken notice of and are curious about what is happening inside the Lutheran Church’s gates.

Many needs were filled by the second Haiti Container Project and we feel tremendously blessed to be a part of the Lord’s work in Haiti. We ask ourselves – Why us? – and again we know the answer. To the Minnesota North LCMS and others; you are making a difference in the North District of Haiti and its surrounding country; your love is shining and bringing hope.

Faith is an awesome thing!

Will another container be going? Yes, but it will be placed behind some projects that need finishing first. We are again gathering, sorting, and storing new container items at a site in Bemidji. Gifts will be accepted. You are asked to package items in uniform sized boxes. Apple boxes are helpful for loading and packing the container. Clothing should be sorted by gender and age. A new list of needed items will be posted in the near future. However, priority this coming season will be placed on construction before another container is sent.



HAITI

The Evangelical Lutheran Church, North District, Haiti

The Second Annual Lay Leader Conference was held at the Cap-Haitian complex this August over a two week time period. Sixteen students arrived safely ahead of Hurricane Dean but it impeded the way of others. LMA was happy to help sponsor this event and Pastor Bernard said that many wonderful challenging questions were asked of him at the conference. Food sent in the container helped to feed this group of around thirty individuals from the outlying churches in the North District of Haiti. Pastor Bernard is very impassioned for this group to learn and has really enjoyed the event. He truly is a teacher.

Travel in Haiti is difficult and tough on even the toughest SUV. The LMA has been concerned that the lack of a vehicle would be detrimental to the growth of the church in the district. Pastor Bernard's borrowed SUV gave up its ten plus lives this past spring. Pastor Bernard was given a wonderful gift of a pickup truck to help in his outreach to his district; to meet incoming visitor's needs for travel within his district, to support the needs of his Pastors,



New Communion Ware
For Outlying Churches

to transport essential items and travel within the district, and for his own family use. We are so grateful for this wonderful gift. Thank-you!

In July, Thomas Bernard, the

past president of the ELCH attended the LCMS National Convention in the US. In the first part of August there was a National Convention of the ELCH. Thirty eight Haitian pastors and delegates met in Port au Prince, Haiti. ELCH Elections were held at the convention and Marque Kessa was voted in as president of the ELCH. During the session six new Pastors were ordained, two of them are wonderful men whom we have gotten to know in Cap-Haitian and who work diligently with Pastor Bernard. Vicars Riche and Gergens have been ordained in this group! Let us celebrate with them and their families at this achievement. These are gifted men.

The seminary is without a home in Port au Prince and there are many issues to discuss. A current idea to fill this dilemma is with a program called, "Seminary Without Walls". More information will be provided in later LMA publications.

The Haitian seminary is also in need of 300 books (in French) to establish a college library and to fill a requirement by the Haitian government. Books have been sent in the container and private shipments to Haiti.

How to help? Funds are needed to support students housing and purchase food and books.

News From Outlying Churches

The **St. Raphael** church building project is progressing. Pastor Riche is in charge of construction. An amount of \$3,000 has been set aside for construction materials. The immediate goals are to put a roof on the building, to develop a water source and to build an outhouse. There is a project in the works to buy a goat herd to help with economic development and nutritional support for this impoverished town.



St. Raphael's Members



St. Raphael's Side View



St. Raphael's Front View

Don Don The church holds services in a rustie rented building and is served by Pastor Francois. Land has already been purchased for a future church building site.

Airport Church Membership is stable. Services are still held in a rented building. Pastor Riche, a newly ordained minister of the ELCH, serves this congregation.

Grand Riviere du Nord Church membership continues to grow. The church currently meets in a rented building with Pastor Valery on site.



Grande Riviere du Nord

How can you help?

- Supply additional construction funds towards St. Raphael church
- Purchase books for the seminary (French)
- Supply Bibles, catechisms, and other teaching material for church growth. (In French and Creole language.)
- Support the "Seminary Without Walls Project". Many other towns and districts that are looking for churches to be established. There is much work to be done.

If you want to know more about ELCH churches your LMA contact is Lil Spilde.

HAITI PROJECTS

The Women's Center

The center recently held its yearly fashion review. This event is becoming one of the summer highlights at the complex. The complex was gifted new sewing machines that arrived in the container. The first

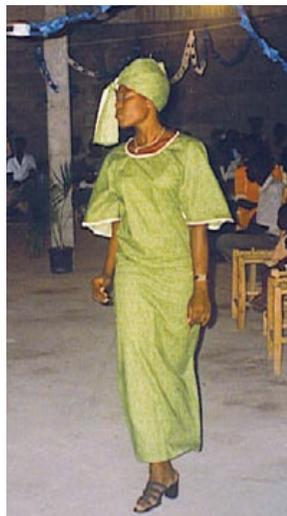


students of the three year Women's Center program graduated this summer. The sewing room and kitchen are very limited in space and are in need of expansion. With her many responsibilities, Lynda is still in need of a helper.

Haitian women are very active in the support of the complex.

They take care to look their best in the midst of great strife. These women are strong and want their children to learn and grow.

How can you help support this area to manage its growth? Supply funds towards expansion and construction. Support a teacher to assist Lynda in her duties. Possibilities for the Women's Center are huge, but are currently limited by space and personnel.



The Women's Center



**Lynda's Mom Cooking
For The Team**

If you would like to know more about the Women's Center, your LMA contact is Deb Larson.

HATT

Image Gallery



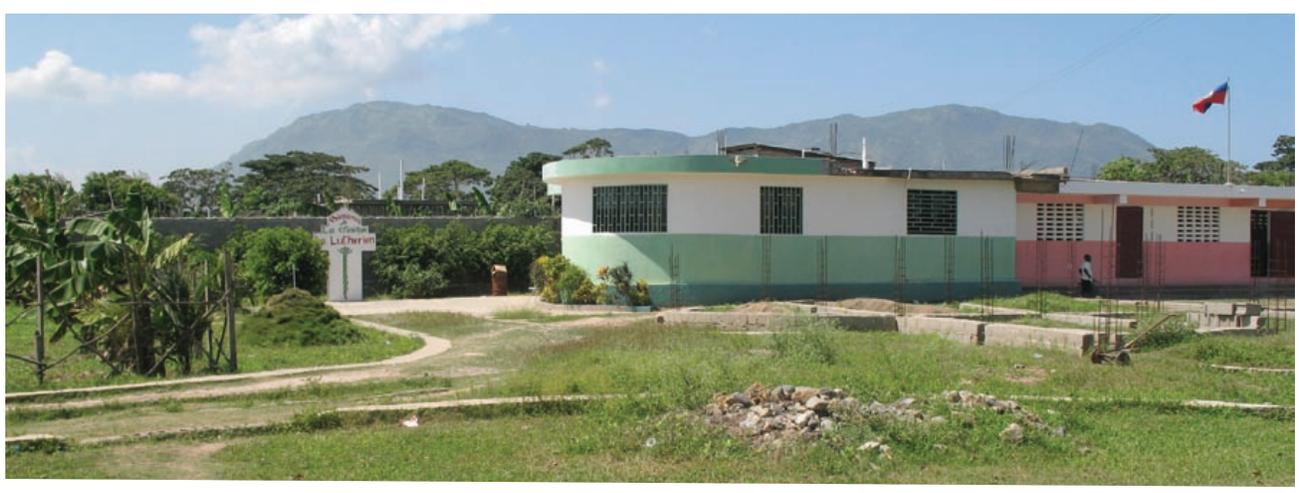
Sunday School Children



Preschool addition, located in front of storage container. The area under the kid's feet is the foundation for upcoming construction.



Children reciting at school.



Cap-Hatian Complex Spring 2007

HAITI PROJECTS

School Systems

The *Adopt-A-Student* program remains the most important fund raising project in support of students and teachers.

A yearly appeal letter for the Adoptee's was sent to the MN North District churches from Harry Batdorf, event coordinator. *"Remember this year the orphanage children will attend the Cap-Haitian complex and every orphan will need to be adopted for school support. The government of Haiti only educates about 2 1/2 percent of the Haitian kids. The rest need to go to private schools to be educated. Most Haitian families are unemployed and exist day to day; money for school is a luxury. This project supports the student and the teacher. If teachers aren't paid there is no school. The teachers in Haiti have remained very dedicated through thick and thin. Please keep them in your prayers."*

With your support, the *Adopt-A-Student* program this past year covered all of the teachers wages. In addition, each adopted student received an education, uniforms, shoes, books, and school supplies. Thank you to those of you who have supported this project. Your gifts make a difference in the lives of these children and teachers.



One of the Adopted Students

A Secondary Education classroom was built from two standing walls at



the complex to house students that have graduated from Primary. The Primary class sizes are large and fill the complex. It is with much joy to know that these first students are already graduating to the next grade. This coming year there will be 9th graders, next year 9th and 10th graders. With prayers and "a leap of faith" we begin this secondary education school.

The school kits, shoes and clothing materials that were sent in the container met the needs of the outlying churches and the expanding schools in Cap-Haitian. Pastor Bernard sends a big "Thank You" for all the wonderful work you have done to help in this area.

Some of the schools in the District are receiving school lunches through the Trinity/HOPE Feeding Program, an LCMS group that is supplying food for schools throughout Haiti. We thank them for their gifts of food for these kids to eat.

How can you help?

- *Adopt-A-Student*
- supply materials for a student kit
- make school uniforms
- send funds toward the construction to meet the growing needs of the school system

If you would like to know more about the School Systems, your LMA contact is Harry Batdorf (218) 377-4323.

Future Plans of the LMA

What's Next on the LMA Agenda?

- 1) First on our list of priorities is to finish construction at St. Raphael Church. The cost to finish this project is in the range of \$8,500. Currently, \$3000 has already been set aside for this.
- 2) As a reminder, we have only completed one-quarter of the Cap-Haitian Complex, and much more prayerfully needs to be done. Church services are temporarily held at the complex and due to limited space, the Cap-Haitian Complex is taxed heavily when multiple events happen at the same time. Future plans for a separate church building that will be located at the front of the complex are still in the works. The estimates are still out. We would like to have \$10,000 ready by the time a construction team is sent. We are hoping that significant work will be done on the complex.
- 3) Plans are in the early stages for a construction team to start work as soon as March 2008. Our current plan is for two groups in a two week time frame. Each group will contain 5-6 individuals arriving at week intervals. There are still ongoing risks to life and limb in going to Haiti, so small group sizes help us better manage their safety. Funds will be sent ahead to have materials purchased and ready for each team. In addition, each individual will be required to help raise their own travel funds and also help raise funds towards the construction funding.

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Rev. Nathan Higgins
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HAITI PROJECTS

The Children of Faith Orphanage

The orphanage is located in a gated home that is rented in a safe area close to the Cap-Haitian complex. Land has already been purchased for a future orphanage proper. The children are healthy and happy to have a safe place to live. Pastor Riche, his family, and a worker live with the children to manage the children's needs. Miss Wicklunde and Mrs. Lynda Bernard, with the help of the congregation are actively involved in the children's care.

There are many challenges for this young church to take on these types of responsibilities. The children from the orphanage will be attending the Cap-Haitian Complex school and are among those needing adopting by the *Adopt-a-Student* program. We are in a position to help support these young children and build them a brighter future with Christ in it.

Many of you wonder how you can help support the Haitian children? These are great kids with many hardships in their lives. Supplying funds towards housing, school, food, health care and wages would be a great help.

A wonderful thing to do would be to encourage mission focus in your Sunday Schools. Imagine what 12 Sunday Schools each giving \$200 dollars a year could do! A gift of a \$1000 dollars would dig a well for safer water.

The land purchased for the future orphanage has the potential for growing gardens and fruit trees. The area at the Cap-Haitian complex used for a garden needs to move because the complex will be soon under construction.

Does your youth group need a project? How about sending funds to purchase seeds for a garden or supply wages for a gardener. Their efforts would help support a family, provide food for the schools, churches and orphanage in the North District. Any remaining produce could be used to sell toward self support.

There are many needs. If you or your group would like to help The Children of Faith Orphanage the LMA would gladly visit or speak with you. If you want to know more about this project, please contact Lil Spilde.



Rented Orphanage Home



Future Orphanage Site

The clinic is still functioning. It is a difficult thing to do in Haiti. With such a large population and so many varieties of health issues, there is much need for medication. The Lutheran Medical Clinic is already facing the demand for repairing or replacing worn out lab equipment, purchasing additional equipment, and adding more staff. The current clinic staff remain dedicated, yet are hard pressed to keep up with the work since no secondary staff is there to back them up.

Having Doctors is a blessed thing and we want to keep them. The container project supplied many items that will help with the material function of the clinic. There is also a group from the states trying to do a census in Cap-Haitian and it is figured to be over a half million souls in the city at this time. AIDS, Malaria, and TB plague the city which lies in a low swampy mosquito ridden area of a river on the edge of a polluted ocean harbor. Many challenges face the new Haitian government and the UN to re-establish Health Care in Haiti.



Dr. Mesidor

Two of the Doctors are specialists, an Internist and an OB/GYN. Obtaining items they need to manage their practice at the clinic is a challenge. We estimate the clinic will spend



\$10,000 in medication per year. There is need for more OB/GYN equipment, EKG machine, lab equipment, pharmacy work and the development of a x-ray department. There is still need for an eye glass clinic and dental care. Funds are needed for expansion. Exam space and storage space is very limited.

The generator project has been a critical component to ensure the clinic will grow and we are at the cross-roads. One obstacle to the success of the clinic was during its beginning in 2006, when the clinic medication shipment was highjacked. Even after that the clinic has continued to venture onward.

Two groups visited and worked at the clinic this past year. First, two young nurses helped. The second group was "Christ in Medicine", an LCMS group who have felt the call to help in Haiti. Their visits have helped bolster the clinic in the Haitian community. We are thankful.

Trinity/HOPE feeds many of the ELCH



schools in Haiti and utilized the clinic facilities through the “Christ in Medicine Team” to do a health

study. A BMI study was performed comparing children fed and not fed through the school lunch program. Students weights and measurements at the Cap-Haitian complex were compared to the children not fed at the Airport School. The comparison study was significant. With what one steady meal a day can do for the health of these kids is amazing.

There are many opportunities for use of the Medical Clinic. This past year the clinic has, for the most part, been self sufficient. The Christ in Medicine team is planning to return this coming year.

The clinic is in need of medication to meet the needs of it’s clients. A gift of \$3,250 dollars will help keep the clinic supplied with medication for three months. Funds and donations toward equipment and construction are a need.

If you have felt a call in this direction or have equipment to donate or want to know more about the Lutheran Medical Clinic your contact is Deb Larson.

Needs List

Items for St. Raphael

- Goats to help support the church: Approx \$60 each
- Chickens - cost not known, anything would be helpful

Building Materials

- Cement Blocks for building: Approx \$1 each
- Bag of Cement for building: Approx \$7.75 each

Supplies and Equipment

- Funds to purchase Rice
- Musical Instruments – new or used in GOOD condition
- Accordions, Guitars, keyboards (no wind instruments, organs or drums)
- Water Filters (Tealbrook) – to filter water for safe drinking water; \$182 each
- Replacements Filters: \$68 each (replaced every year)

Support for Education

- Adopt-A-Student: \$250/yr (For student uniform, school supplies, and to help pay for teachers.)



Mission Statement

Lutheran Mission Association promotes mission activity among the congregations of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod in northern Minnesota. LMA promotes and maintains relations in a substantive and “hands-on” way between LCMS members and confessional Lutheran missions around the world for their support in the work of bringing the Gospel to the world.

Meeting Times

Lutheran Mission Association meets monthly at Trinity Lutheran Church in Bemidji, MN usually on the first Saturday of the Month. We welcome anyone to attend these meeting to learn more about what is happening in the North District of Haiti.

To learn more call 1-800-399-0209 and ask to speak with Lill Spilde.

Organization Status

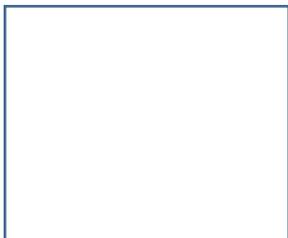
Lutheran Mission Association is a 501C3 nonprofit organization. All proceeds go directly to missions with no overhead costs.

*“The ransomed of the Lord will return.
They will enter Zion with singing;
everlasting joy will crown their heads.
Gladness and joy will overtake them,
and sorrow and sighing will flee away.”
Isaiah 51:11*

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St. Raphael’s Congregation



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