

Lutheran Mission Association News Letter

Fall 2006

LMA

Schools

The Evangelical Lutheran Church and School of Cap-Haitien is growing! Thanks be to God! The work in Haiti is graced by the help you have given. Pastor Eliona Bernard, the President of this District writes to LMA to pass on to you. "My friends in Christ, it is important that I tell you about those activities as you are part of what we call "The Great Adventure" but the main reason why I write you this once again to tell you how grateful are your generous supports to our schools by sponsoring some of our students. It is a fact that besides the word of God to educate a child, develop his skills is the



best way to change his life and we try take to do so by creating schools but sometimes we are tempted to ask ourselves whether you do the best choice when we consider the problems we face. In Haiti unfortunately not everyone has access to the "bread of education". It is a wonderful thing when you send a child to school by sponsoring his studies, it makes the difference because you change a life. It is a sad thing that in this small country of Haiti violence become the number one cancer of the society, most of the evil actions: kidnaping and other similar crimes are committed by young from the age of 14-20 who did not have a chance to go to school! those young ones whom the society despises or rejects seem to have no other option than creating their own means to survive or take revenge from this society. Dishonest politicians use them to do bad things to reach their political end then turn against them once in positions if they dare talk about them. The situation of those children are complicated and it calls us to do something few it could be, this the reason why everywhere we plant a new church; we start it together with a school, for us in the Northern District of the ELCH they go along not necessary in the same order of priority. It is not an easy task taking into consideration the poor financial situation of many of our members. By writing this letter I want to remind you that what you have done for those kids during those past years is really great and I want to encourage you to continue to do the same thing on their behalf, on our behalf this year otherwise we would choose the worst option which is ASKING THEM TO STAY HOME as we would not be able to continue to do the same thing for them as usual through your supports. With your dollars some children of our schools, the most vulnerable ones received supplies, uniforms and tuition got paid which helps us to support partially our teachers.... We pray that our Lord Jesus continue to bless you as you are helping the needy ones of Haiti".

How many schools are there in the North District today? When LMA started we ^{knew} new of two

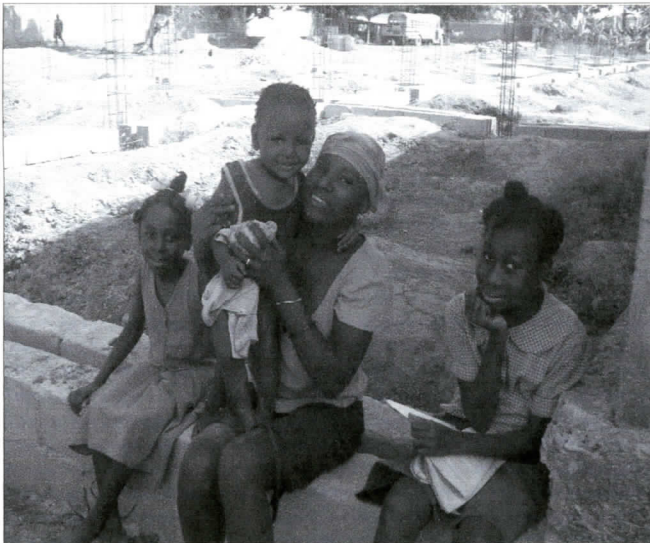
schools, ^{the} The Evangelical Lutheran Church and School (Madeline Complex) and the Don Don Mission. We found out later they also helped to support the man ^{who} ran the orphanage and school in the Airport District. This year, after his death, the school and his orphans have become part of our Mission Projects. St. Raphael became a mission and school is held there too. Pastor

Valery was installed in Rivere du Nord on LWML Sunday and he will start school as things progress. So! it adds up to 5 schools from 2 less than three years ago! This means they need support ^{to} know more than ever. The Madeline class rooms have yet to be constructed and school continues in the church sanctuary. The noise from many classes in one room is disruptive, but the students are well behaved, attentive and respectful in class. The shoes sent in the last container can be seen on ^{their} feet. The uniforms made by LWML women of the North District held up [?] with thanks. Recently, I reviewed some photos of the children I took day we left Haiti in March and one young girl was smiling more than the rest and I zoomed in on her...to my surprise on her right foot was one dusty sandal and the left was a polished black Mary/Jane shoe with a white ruffled sock. "yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory. Psalm 73:23,24 was the glow in her face.

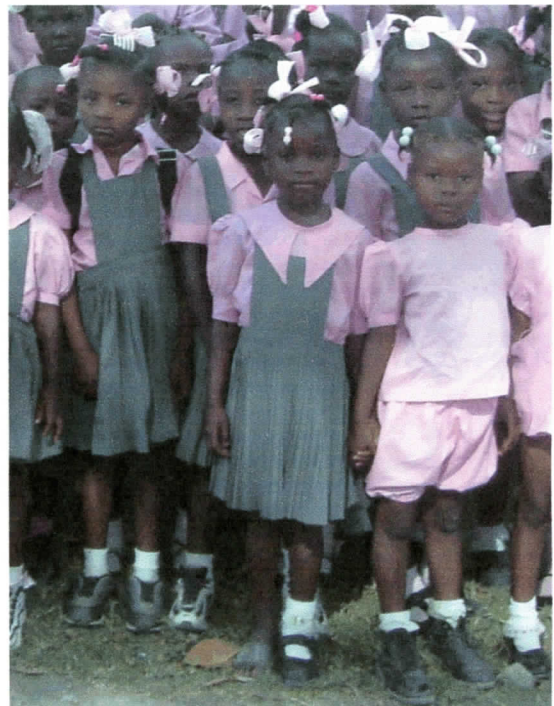
The preschoolers had no place to lay their heads. St. Paul's Lutheran LWML International Falls Quilter's are busy making nap mats!

^{the} Adopt-A-Student ^{Program} has ^{be} successful in raising the number of Adopted ^{Students} ~~some~~, but it would be great to ~~match~~ ^{increase} that amount two-fold. Please prayerfully consider this project..

Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who come to me will never go hungry and he who believes in me will never be thirsty." John. 6:35



The caretakers wife and his children sitting on the foundations for the next section of the complex. ^{she} His wife cooks for the school.



One shoe one sandal

Lutheran Medical Clinic

The Lutheran Medical Clinic opened in June 2006 and is still open in November of 2006. We can only believe by ~~his~~ awesome grace this has happened. "I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth. These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them." Issiah 42:16 The clinic opened in an amazingly short time by Haitian standards and ours. We know ~~who~~ did this! The devil has put obstacles in ~~its~~ path: attempted robbery before it opened in

March, prescription medication hijacked by Port au Prince, the struggle to pay for wages and supplies and one medical mission trip was canceled due to kidnappings. We worry like expectant parents at its birth. The Lord whispers, "Whether you turn to the right or the left your ears will hear a voice behind you saying, 'This is the way; walk in it'". The costs in its operations are huge and we are at minimal services in regard ~~to~~ what the US client would expect, but for the Haitian, a much healthier choice than a Voodoo witch Doctor!

Pastor Eliona Bernard writes, "We also rejoice in the Lord that our Medical Clinic as well as the Pharmacy and the Laboratory are in function since the 5th of June, certainly not without difficulties because we are facing great challenges to pay our staff, order medications for the Pharmacy and

Equipment for the laboratory but we try to do the best we can to help the community for who health care is a luxury. All those social activities are of a great benefit for our Church not in terms of financial revenue which is very important to us considering the number of needs which we are facing every day but it is a visible reality that our Church her continues to grow spiritually and numerically as well and those social activities play in an important role in this growth. We thank all of you who are helping by providing some of the equipments needed for the laboratory for instance a refrigerator and back up generator. Those are really important to us, there is no lab without these two, we have run this generator every day because we have no other source of energy."

LMA is overflowing in thankfulness and strengthened in faith by grace in this wonderful gift ~~he~~ brought to Haiti. We can only say, "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." In your mission planning please prayerfully consider supporting this clinic. We would like to thank the International Falls Community for supporting our Annual Used Book sale which raised \$700 dollars!

Oap's Haitians The clinic was visited by the Kobinite Sante a dedicated group helping to rebuild Hospital Justinien's infrastructure and help establish a public health system in the area and more good contacts have been made for the clinic. The gave group gave the clinic a thumbs up!

A group of organizations that help Haiti from Minnesota called the Minnesota Haiti Connection held a conference in the cities and 4 of our members were able to attend. Mr. Tony Marcelli from CASCO



Opening day at the clinic in June of 2006



shipping was a guest speaker and the group was able to talk with him ^{with} and regarding ^{to} shipping and Tony's plans to build two warehouses one to store food and one for medical supplies. Break out groups were able to listen to talks and share ideas on electricity, water, food, gardening and medical issues.

Brookfield announces they hope to visit the Haitian North District Complex and outlying Missions in December they are hoping to ship medications to the Hospital's and clinic.



The Orphanage of the Children of Faith

^{Francois} "We live by faith, not by sight" 2 Corinthians 5:7 My mind can't but continue to reflect on the door of the Airport school and ~~Frans~~ standing by it with the words encrypted on the door, "Rose like you Jesus." Those words came true ^{as} Frans went to be with our Lord and by Faith the orphans were put into the hand of the ELCH. ^W what powerful words! If my eyes could have ^{seen} foresaw this wonder! The orphanage opened in August!!!!!!!!!!!! The Clinic in June!!!!!!!!!!!! WOW!!!!!!!!!!!!

It truly blows the idea that we have that we can plan, ^W we had considered an orphanage in discussions with Pastor Eliona for in the future!? "In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps. Proverbs 16:9". The Lord truly leads. In that hard land of Haiti there is always a joy or a wit to pass on to a friend to lighten the load. I've come to believe the orphanage was a wit the Lord passed on to us. ^W ^{Knew} He new the struggles to be faced and the hard work done in Haiti. My minds eye sees a twinkle in the Lord eyes as it says in Psalm 37: 23 "The Lord delights in the way of the man whose steps he has made firm." He knew when to put ^W his steps in place..... Pastor Eliona writes, "The orphanage has 16 children ages 3-12 among them 11 boys and 5 girls. Most of the children are survivors from the flood that destroyed the city of Gonaives two years ago, ^W those children have no parents or if they do, those parents lost everything in that flood, they become homeless in one day. ^W as a Church we cannot pretend that we can change their whole existence but we are trying to do something. ^W your generous support to those children in one level or other would be well appreciated and welcome."

We are raising funds to purchase beds to be made in Haiti for the orphans the cost is 2,500 and donations are still being collected as the beds are being made. The first beds have arrived.

The orphanage will need support in form of wages for the caretakers, food and clothing, health care, housing, and the services of the attentive Vicars that ^W Aid Pastor Eliona. The orphanage holds school during the week for the kids and neighborhood and church services for those in the Airport district.

Haiti in the News

Haiti is a land that will be deforested totally in 20 years, in the near future one in five Haitians will have AID's. The soil of the of Haiti is washing into the sea and soon the poverty which is Haiti will be a unbelievable human tragedy unless an aggressive resource is put into action. It will not be flood victims in the orphanage it will be AID's babies or children of parents who died of AID's.

Pray for Haiti and for the ^{politicians} Politicians that set it's policy. Support the Mission work in Haiti and

Pastor Eliona and his struggling church. Pastor Eliona reports AID's is a reality. He tells us the man who worked sifting the sand for the cement work projects has AID and he is visiting him and asks us to keep him and his family in our prayers. We remember him steadily sifting throughout the hot day's, quite and hard working. He is dying of AID's. Please pray for his family and there well-being. There is no unified system for the management of AIDS in the country were it was first discovered. The world has forgot Haiti again after its false blame to its causing AID's.

"For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants. Isaiah 44:3."

The Church

The church struggles to pay its Vicars, 2 Pastors and Lay Pastors wages, housing for the two Vicars and there families and transportation to the mission churches..not to mention the establishment costs of these missions.

Pastor Eliona writes, " We are thankful to God that in spite of the political and social situations of the country, the Gospel is producing fruits and the Church is growing, there is no doubt that the Holy Spirit is at work. We give thanks to God that in the ~~only~~ district of Cap-Haitian, three new missions have been put in place for the ~~only~~ year 2006: one is at Saint Raphael (Rocher) an area where people are so vulnerable; no purified water, no health care, no sanitation, no school, no food. There is a real emergency to do something without having our hands full, by faith we start doing something. The second new mission is at Grande Riviere du Nord which is about 30 minutes driving from Cap-Haitian and finally the third one is at the city of Cap-Haitian very near the Airport."

This letter in August is already old. Land has been purchased in St. Raphael and school has started. Recently, a donation of money was sent to begin building a church/school. Money has been sent to help feed the starving and two nurses visited the area in Sept. Lay Pastor Valery is now a Pastor and was installed at Riviere du Nord. Services are now being held in the Orphanage. Other places are asking to become Lutherans. Pastors Vicars are soon to be Pastors and he will need help again to run his district as the Lords branches grow.....! Please pray for the growth in Haiti and the wisdom of its leaders and for the faithfulness of its new Pastors. Just a reminder the Catechisms have arrived in Haiti to be distributed and the seminar books. Thank you for supporting this project so generously. It will be an awesome piece of the great adventure as these books make an impact in Haiti!



River du Nord Church in March dedicated in Oct.

In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:6."

The Container

The Container

Many of you are wondering if we are sending a container. The answer is YES! It will cost 7,000 dollars for a 40 foot container and the help of Orphan Grain Train we plan to send one in May. We have raised 3,000 dollars and still have a goal of 4,000 more to reach. Please help us attain that goal. We will be sending the LWML gifts, food, clothing, medical supplies, church supplies, household supplies and anything else which is a need! The last container was a blessing of great magnitude!

*Choice
Supplies*

“Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed 1 Peter 1:13



Pastor Valery teaching in front of the storage container

The Women's Center

The women's center continues with the many other needs placed on this growing mission field.

Many women do not have funds for classes and this creates problems in making this a self sufficient operation. Lynda struggles to help run the Women's Center, run the Medical Clinic and many other tasks demanded of a Mission Pastor's wife and the District Pastor's wife. Please keep Lynda in your prayers and consider helping this under-funded blessing.



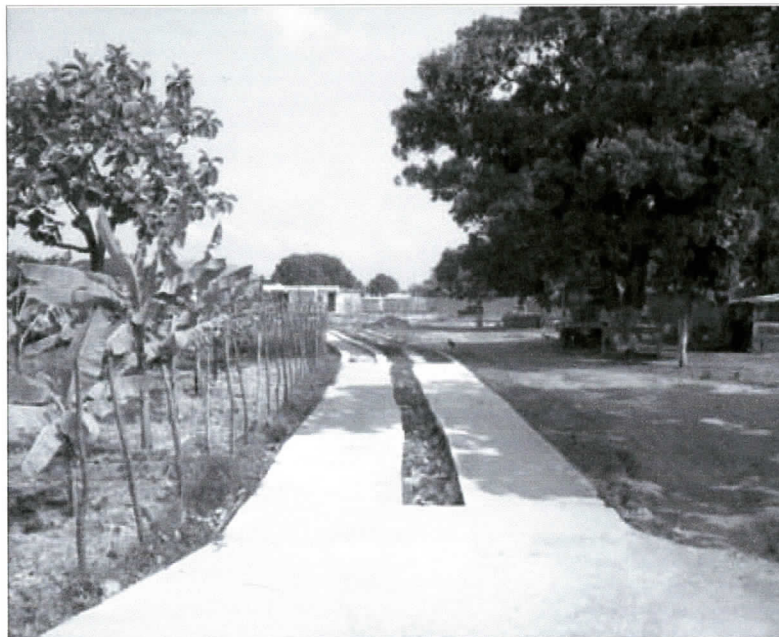
Fashion Review in March.

How We Help You Help Haiti!

If you would like to have someone come to your church and speak. Please call 1-800-399-0203 Ext. 101 and ask for Lil. We would be happy to give you a personal update on the wonderful events happening in Haiti.



Some of the school kids watched the well being drilled



Looking down toward the complex and the driveway partially paved, banana trees to right, and bus to left under the Mango tree.