



NEWSLETTER

LUTHERAN MISSION ASSOCIATION
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Report on trip to Cap Haitien

As I planned my second trip to Haiti to teach an English course, I wondered to myself, how much good will this do, teaching English for just 2 weeks. I had no idea how God would use this experience and the impact it would have on me and the Lutheran Church of Cap Haitien.

Pastor Eliona had sent out the word in the church that we were coming and if the people wanted to take the course, they must pay (a little over \$1.00 US) to show that they were serious. He informed me upon arrival that he wanted for me to give a test at the end of the course and then we would give certificates at the completion.

The first day we had about 19 students and each day, as people talked, more students arrived, many of them not members of the church. At the end of the first week we had 38 signed up. We worked two hours a day, from three to five, using Rosetta Stone projected on the wall, as well as my working with pronunciation and vocabulary.

The students learned four songs in English: "Jesus Loves Me", "This is the Day", "Lamb of God", and "Go, My Children With My Blessing". They also learned The Lord's Prayer in English. It proved to be a great witness to God's Love, and who Jesus is, and what He has done for us through His death and resurrection.

Pastor Eliona invited everyone to church for the last Sunday and the students were told they would sing the songs that they learned in class, and also receive their certificates. About 30 students were at the church that Sunday, and sang beautifully, a cappella! This may not sound like anything so unusual, unless you have heard their normal singing there, which sounds more like African Baptist than German Lutheran! It was very impressive and the theology was clear, which Pastor Eliona had explained to them when he had initially translated the hymns.

An added blessing was that there was an infant Baptism, and, as is his custom, Pastor Eliona explained infant Baptism to the congregation, and the Scriptures that support it.

Many of the students are still attending church there. We hadn't dreamed that the English class could be such a valuable evangelism tool. Because of this unexpected outcome, Pastor Eliona told the class that next year we would have both the beginning and more advanced English classes. Please keep this endeavor in your prayers.

In May, I had the opportunity to share some of my pictures and trip to Haiti in 2008 with three classes of public school third graders. They were very receptive and had excellent questions about Haiti. They wrote letters to me afterward, and I share these excerpts: "I learned that Haiti does not have a lot of money and food," "Thank you for teaching us about Haiti. I never knew that they were so poor so I wish I could help them. I learned that you should be thankful for what you have," and "I wish that I had lots of money so I could help them."

- Lori Salvhus

Clinic Report

Dr. Brutus and I worked together when we were in Haiti in June, 2009. The clinic is three years old and is powered by the generator (gift from LWML-MnN). The clients of the clinic are a mixture of patients, many are parents with children or little babies. Some should have come to the clinic much sooner than they did. We decry their lack of money to pay for a doctor, medicines and lab expenses. Dehydration and malnutrition make the problem more difficult and gut-wrenching for the medical workers. Internal parasites are a common problem; I tried to educate as well as treat maladies.

Lab tests followed, and some of the things we sent in the containers were used. Sometimes there was a visit to the pharmacy, but lack of money makes medications difficult for them to procure. If

hospitalization was needed, the cost of the stay plus travel costs compound their problems.

We can help by providing money for prescriptions, but when we leave, who can they turn to for help? We pray and must leave it in God's hands, thankful for this open door given by faith.

Lori, Lil and I take a lunch break, which consists of tuna which we brought, with crusty Haitien rolls and pineapple which is in season. Pastor just celebrated his 50th birthday, and he joins us and shares his birthday cake. Then we sort container contents for both the clinic, as well as projects undertaken by the church boards. Diapers made by American hands are vital and the Haitians feel they need to dress in their best clothes, which we can sometimes provide from the container.

We met one evening with the Cap Haitien Health Network of Haiti's North District. We heard of others who are helping and were also told about their needs from the Health Ministry. Creole was translated to English by Pastor Eliona, who was also a guest.

We would like to help find gynecologists and pediatricians and help to fund them. Our NGO (Non-Governmental Organization) status was discussed, and obtaining that status would help us be more efficient in working with them.

Another day we headed to the local hospital with supplies in the pickup and found a large crowd at the gate of the hospital. Several men from Port au Prince had killed some Cap Haitians, so the community came after the murderers and killed two of them. They were stopped by the police who took the third murderer who was critically injured, to the hospital. Police and hospital security were calming the crowd and we were allowed to enter. Hospital personnel were delighted to receive the supplies we brought.

- Deb Larson



Deb Larson & Dr. Brutus

Adopt - a - Student Program

The Lutheran Mission Association has made a tremendous impact on the Lutheran schools in the North district of Haiti through the Adopt-A-Student program. By adopting a child, not only is that child allowed to go to school, but his/her "share" allows the school to continue in educating all the children. When one thinks of the cost per child of education in the United States, it is amazing what \$250 does in Haiti. (The government of Haiti only educates about 2 ½% of their kids.) Each year the program has become larger and more help can be given to the four school we are aiding. Teacher salaries are very low in Haiti, and it is extremely important that our Lutheran teachers are paid. The LMA wants again to express our gratitude to all the people and groups in our churches who have and are continuing to support this much-needed program.

Grande Riviere du Nord Church

How exciting that the church at Grande Riviere du Nord now has land instead of renting their former space. They have taken the metal and wood-rafter roof from the rented building (which they had built), and put it on their new land against a wall to provide a "lean-to" for their worship services.



Worshipping

In new bldg
at

Grande
Riviere du
Nord



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Building at Grande Riviere du Nord

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Adopt A Church Program

Adopt-A-Church is a new program developed within the last year, and is getting off to a good start. A congregation, ladies' or men's groups or Sunday School classes can help support a young congregation in Haiti's North District with an amount of money they choose to give each month. So far, St. Raphael's Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church receives \$75 /month from two groups, Evangelical Lutheran Church in DonDon receives \$150/mo from one group, Gloria Dei Evangelical Lutheran Church (Airport church) of Cap Haitien receives \$60.34 from three groups. Faith Lutheran Church of Grande Riviere du Nord receives \$25/mo from one group. First Lutheran Church of Madeline does not receive any monthly support yet, but a couple of groups may soon be contributing to their "adoption".

There is no limit to the amount that can be given to each entity; even small amounts are appreciated. We try to spread it out among those very poor congregations.

Donations are GRATEFULLY accepted! If any of you would like to help support those churches, call, write, or e-mail Lil Spilde whose address is on the back of this newsletter.



Land for Self-Sufficiency Project

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The Self-Sufficiency Project

A four-acre piece of land near the Cap Haitien (Madeline) compound has been purchased and will contain several components of a "self-sufficiency" project to help employ our Haitien church members and render income for the entire North District of the ELCH. The land is mainly open except for about 8 fruit trees (mango, orange, avocado, lemon and banana) and will be completely enclosed with a 10' concrete block wall. Within the wall on the south section will be 8-10 housing units with plumbing and electricity to be rented out. A dividing wall will separate the south section of housing from the north section which will contain the gardens, a chicken/egg project, and possibly an ice-making business. Produce, eggs, and ice will be sold off-site by sellers from the congregation. Butcher chickens will be sold on-site. It is estimated there will be employment for 20-25 people with this project.

The people of the North District are excited to have their congregations being more self-sufficient and less dependent on their U.S. brothers and sisters. There is much preparation being done to determine the costs of the project. LMA plans to apply to granting organizations in the U.S. (including USAID) to help with the project. Any help with the grant process would be most welcome!! - Lil Spilde

What LMA does. . .

Lutheran Mission Association promotes mission activities among the congregations of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod in northern Minnesota and other locations in the USA. LMA promotes and maintains relationships in a substantive and "hands-on" way for support in the work to bring the Gospel to the World. The work is done between LCMS members and Lutheran churches around the world who are in altar and pulpit fellowship with LCMS. Our current project is to help with the churches and schools in the North District of Haiti.

LMA Meetings. . .

Lutheran Mission Association meets monthly at Trinity Lutheran Church in Bemidji, MN, usually on the first Saturday of the month at 9:30 a.m. We welcome anyone to attend these meetings to learn more about what is happening in the North District of Haiti.

To learn more, call one of the officers listed, or e-mail Lil Spilde at plsilde@paulbunyan.net
Newsletter: Karen Lueth, 218-699-3436
Adopt A Student: Harry Batdorf, 218-377-4323
Adopt A Church: Lil Spilde, 218-333-1560

Lutheran Mission Association

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Organization Status. . .

LMA is a 501c3 non-profit organization. There is virtually no overhead and all proceeds go directly to the mission in Haiti. We visit Haiti at least once a year, and find our brothers and sisters in the ELCH are very accountable for the money sent.

LMA Officers. . .

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