

NEWSLETTER

LUTHERAN MISSION ASSOCIATION - MnN
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Report on trips to Cap Haitian

Trip 1, mid February 2010

The earthquake hit Haiti on January 12, 2010. We already had tickets for our February trip, and decided to go anyway. Those who traveled were Paul and Lil Spilde, Doug and Sara Batzlaff and Susan Martin. We took with us about 250 lbs of medications (mostly over-the-counter) plus about 50 lbs of dehydrated soup mix, some oatmeal, dried milk and enough money to buy 2000 lbs of rice and about 500 lbs of beans.

Cap Haitian, being on the northern edge of the island nation, was shook, but there was little damage. However, there were thousands more people who came to the city of Cap Haitian, many without places to stay, food, or clothing, and others with injuries sustained in the earthquake. The folks in the main compound had stretched their supplies to the limits, trying to help their brothers and sisters. We re-bagged the rice & beans and gave away many bags. Also, there were some clothes that had gotten damp in the container/storage unit, and we sorted and washed many clothes to be distributed. (We also hired a welder to patch the roof and walls of that unit so it doesn't leak anymore.) An old building had been damaged by the quake, so we helped the Haitians pull it down and repair the part of the perimeter wall that had also been the back wall of that building. Susan worked in the clinic, and we sorted in the supply and pharmacy room, bringing some things to Hospital Justinen. We also visited the outlying churches and an orphanage operated by the Northeast District of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Haiti. We will tell you more about that in a future newsletter. - Lil Spilde

Trip II - Mid June 2010

Perhaps June is not the best month to go to Haiti, but in spite of the heat, my husband and I had a very good trip to Cap Haitian. I taught English for the third year. Some of the students had been in my class from the beginning and I am pleased at how well their English has improved. Pastor Arvid's class met in the morning for three hours (the first

several days, under the mango tree). His subject was "The Means of Grace", and his students were seminary students and many other church leaders plus other folks from the community. His class was followed by a meal, as some of his students came many miles and were staying the two weeks with friends. Most of the same students then spent two more hours in English class in the afternoon. There were about 36 students in the morning class and 45 in the afternoon class. They were long days for them, especially in the heat.

The daily trip from Pastor Bernard's house to the compound took from 30 to 40 minutes, over roads full of potholes and bumps and it was usually very dusty. There were so many people on the streets and because the soccer World Cup was on, even more were out, watching wherever there was a TV.

The first week the water in the shower wasn't cold enough each evening, but the second week we either were getting used to the heat, or it had cooled some. We thoroughly enjoyed the Haitian food and the fresh fruit was especially good: mangos, bananas, pineapple and fresh juice every morning for breakfast.

We worshipped with the church at Grande Riviere du Nord the second Sunday we were there, under a "lean-to" roof. The last Sunday, Pastor Arvid preached and Pastor Eliona translated. The English class sang three hymns in English. With the other special music, the service was two-and-a-half hours long, followed by an hour of Sunday School. Five big boxes of children's shoes had arrived from LMA while we were there (many collected by folks in the Fosston, MN area) and were distributed. The kids were overjoyed!

(Pastor Arvid and I will be glad to come to any churches in MN North District to share our experiences in Haiti with you.) - the Salvhus'



Pastor Salvhus teaching "Means of Grace", Summer 2010

Clinic Report

We would like to thank all of you who support the clinic with your prayers and your contributions. Without support of Lutheran Women's Missionary League and others in the LCMS, we would be unable to provide service to the Madeline area of Cap Haitian. The 2008 and 2010 grants from LWML purchased medical equipment and will help complete clinic construction.

In the past year, the clinic hosted three different nurses from the USA and one medical team servicing 500 community members. There is another US team planning to use the clinic in October. In the interim the clinic struggles to maintain wages, medication and morale in the crises afflicting the country.

There is great need for hygiene kits, food, clothing, quilts and shoes as supplies are depleted from the many seeking aid after the earthquake. Please consider giving toward the next container - you can find information in another article in this newsletter titled "Shipping Container". Another dire need is help with wages for clinic employees.

I was privileged to visit Haiti for the sixth time in June 2010, and am humbled at the wonderful things the Lord can do amid great crisis.

- Deb Larson, LMA Vice Pres.



Nurses at the clinic assess vital signs of a visiting client

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Adopt - a - Student Program

The Lutheran Mission Association continues to make an impact on the four schools in the North District of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti. Folks are sponsoring 36 students and that work is giving wonderful support to the schools. 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 2½% of their kids.) As you know, teachers' salaries are very low in Haiti, and it is very important that our Lutheran teachers are paid. LMA again expresses our gratitude to all the people and groups in our churches who continue to support this program.

The Self-Sufficiency Project

LMA applied to USAID for a grant to help develop a self-sufficiency project on the four-acre piece of land near the Cap Haitian (Madeline) compound which has been purchased, but unfortunately the timing was very bad. The application was sent to USAID the day before the earthquake in the southern part of the island, and USAID spent all their funds giving immediate help to the country of Haiti.

There is a glimmer of light in the situation, however. LCMS Human Care and World relief has reviewed the project and decided to grant us \$35,000 for the "chicken project". We do not know how far that will take us - the perimeter wall will be expensive, but the chicken buildings will be built so that their back wall is part of the perimeter wall. If enough area can be enclosed, there could be some of the garden project also included. If there are folks who would like to donate specifically to that self-sufficiency project, it would be most welcome. They would receive complete information as to how their donation is spent and how it helps the Lutherans in Haiti become self sufficient. 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. - contact Lil Spilde for further information.

Lutheran Church at DonDon

The Lutheran church at DonDon has a wonderful problem - they have outgrown their rented building. They own a piece of land (about one acre) and have finished the foundation and about four feet of the wall height. A gift of \$3000 has been received by LMA this winter and it was determined that it should go toward the construction of a temporary metal roof over part of the enclosure so they no longer need to rent a building and can have services at their new location. Below are pictures of

it as we saw it a year ago. Immanuel Lutheran Church of Cass Lake has been sending DonDon monthly support, and that has help pay their pastor and teachers, and for that they have been very grateful.



Half-wall completed at DonDon - soon to have shelter for worship & school

Adopt A Church Program

Adopt-A-Church is a new program developed within the last year and is providing much-needed support for the congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti's North District. 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 receives \$26/mo.

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 or Lori Salvhus whose addresses are on the back of this newsletter.

Uniform project

The sewing center in the North District's compound in Cap Haitien will be sewing school uniforms for the students at our schools. The District would like to be

able to provide free uniforms for their students. LMA sent \$500 to start with the purchase of fabric and supplies to get the first ones made. They will also sew and sell uniforms to other area schools as a way of paying their employees.

The Website

LMA-MnN's website can be accessed by going to:
<http://lmamn.org/>

Shipping Container

Lutheran Mission Association MnN has purchased a semi trailer to be used for storage of goods gathered up to eventually be shipped to the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti's North District. The storage trailer is on the property of Dick Schmidt, 4.5 miles south of Bemidji's south intersection of Hwys 2 and 71 and 1 mile east on County Rd 9.

Some of the things needed are:

Church: folding chairs, tables, musical instruments (non electric), French language Bibles, Luther's small catechism in French

Sewing Center: large spools of thread, fabric

Cooking Center: kitchenware, family kits*, apt size refrigerator, propane cook stove

Clinic: Exam tables, cabinets, over-the-counter meds, metal crutches, walkers, storage tubs

Schools: School kits*, hygiene kits*, chalkboards, chalk, erasers, kindergarten mats, backpacks, Bibles & catechisms (in French)

Clothing: Shoes (no high heels), rain boots, women's dresses (no plus sizes), socks & underwear, men's clothes (no plus sizes), scarves, gloves

Other things: Spades, hammers, shovels, hand saws, screwdrivers, cement screws, hand operated cement mixers, portable generators (gas or diesel), water pumps, chicken wire, screening, PVC pipes and joints, chain link fencing, bed frames & mattresses, copiers, printers, cases of copy paper

For the complete list, and where the items should go, please e-mail Lil at spildee@paulbunyan.net or write to her at 1839 Wilton Hill Rd NW, Bemidji, MN 56601 and she will mail it to you.

* Kits: contents of kits are included in the complete list, which is available to you at the address above.

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 spildee@paulbunyan.net
Newsletter: Karen Lueth, 218-699-3436
Adopt A Student: Jenny Higgins, 218-766-4562
Adopt A Church: Lil Spilde, 218-333-1560

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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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