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Unexpected Blessings

by Kim Waller, HLMS Board of Directors

Haiti Trip- January 29th-February 5th, 2020

Will we be going to Haiti because of the unrest? Will we have a bus? Do we have a team? By the end of our week in Haiti we had a theme- Unexpected Blessings! God Overwhelmed us with countless Blessings!!

First unexpected Blessing... 3 weeks before our trip we had confirmation from many Haitians that the country was doing much better- children were back in school with uniforms and without fear!! Great news! We were going to Haiti and bringing much needed supplies and purchasing **over 9 tons of food!**

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ -

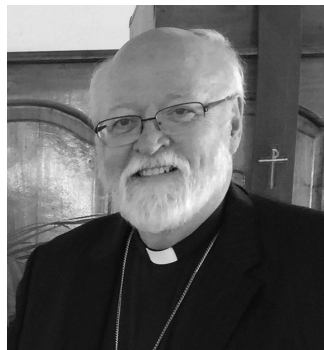
As you probably know, travel to Haiti has been difficult this past year. My wife and I were hoping to make three different trips and were unable to make any trips. Things have settled a bit, but in the recent words of one of our Haitian pastor friends - "we are slowly climbing back into normalcy, but insecurity is rampant throughout the country. Everywhere one may be, caution is the norm." Which is a good reminder that God remains in control...Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever...as baptized children of God we are in His hands.

I'm writing this at the end of January because God has opened another area of opportunity for my wife and I. We will be leaving for Shenzhen, China in a couple days to spend ten weeks serving two congregations there. We are well aware of the virus concerns and are tracking that through the CDC and our friends who are already serving there. We do ask your prayers for good health and safe travels back home in mid-April.

Writing early gives me the chance to look forward to the season of Lent. Please allow me a few thoughts.

Lent is a time of somber repentance. Repentance is contrition - true and deep sorrow for our sins, the realization that we come before a just and righteous God as beggars - and strong faith in trusting that Jesus' Lenten journey leads Him to the cross, where payment for all our sins was made. In Christ shedding His blood for the sins of the world, guilt and punishment for sin was removed. God's favor and peace is ours because of the suffering and death of the One who suffered and died on our behalf, as our Substitute, in our place.

Odd to the world, and to us at times, that the cross is a place of victory. Jesus on the cross is battered, beaten, and bloody; "numbered with the transgressors". He will die there. But in doing so, sin, death, and the devil are defeated. That is His victory. That is our victory. And on Easter morning, the certainty and assurance of all that is (continued on page 6)



Pastor Jim Dahlke

THE CALL

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Lutheran Mission Society, USA

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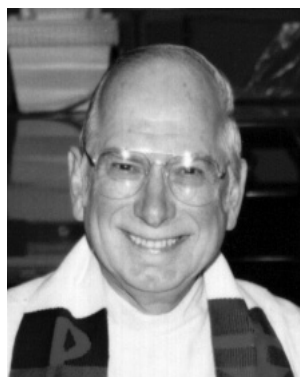
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The mission of the Haiti Lutheran Mission Society, USA is to minister to the spiritual and physical needs of the Haitian people, so that they might be won by the Holy Spirit to be disciples of Jesus Christ." 1 Cor. 3:7-15

“On the shoulders of those who helped build the foundation”

Over the past few months we have lost some of our past and present board members who were foundational and dear to this organization.



Pastor Reimnitz was a founding member of the HLMS. He secured a large donation and loans to build the first Lutheran church in Haiti. He acted as president from 1978 - 2009. He, along with the other founders, developed the vision and over the years built and funded multiple churches, schools, orphanages and medical clinics to help the Haitian people. This organization would not be what it is today without the wise leadership of Pastor Reimnitz.

Jim Schmersal - (written by a fellow board member) Having been on many

boards, you see people who are happy to offer up suggestions but then there are the rare ones who have the ideas and suggestions but are built for DOING. Jim Schmersal was a DOER! When it was time to retire it was like he made a decision that he was going to continue on at the same level but just change his focus to his passions which were his family, helping others and specifically the people of Haiti. He helped our Executive Director



move several times, all in the same year. If you were working with him you had to be ready to go because he was on a mission to get every job done concisely, efficiently and expeditiously. He wrote grant requests, he helped shuttle Pastor Thomas and his children who were going to University in NE, he took loads of donated items to Orphan Grain Train in Norfolk, he travelled to Haiti many times working on building projects at the orphanage and building playgrounds....the list could go on and on. To say that he was “all in” does not do justice to his passion to help. This was all done with absolutely no seeking or need for attention or accolades and with a quiet and reserved demeanor that was selfless. It was hard when he got sick to understand why someone like this could get cancer and suffer the way he did when he was so instrumental in the mission of the HLMS, telling people in Haiti about Jesus. The only answer could be that God has big plans for this man on the other side and needs more DOERS.

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Unexpected Blessings - Trip Report *(continued from cover)*

... Our Haitian friends found us a bus to use (Good Shepherd sold their bus)! Thank You Jesus!

... We had a team of 9, all of which had been to Haiti before! A smaller team has many benefits as you'll read below!

... With a smaller team we were able to go into Cite Soleil at the last minute to visit classrooms Sister Paesie has started for the street kids. What an eye opening exposure to some devastating conditions!

... Unexpected deep conversations during our morning and evening devotions because our group was smaller and more intimate.

... An unexpected Blessing was meeting Shelley Jean, the founder of the Apparent Project/Papillon, who employs 200 Haitians making jewelry from cereal boxes, clay pottery, selling T-shirts and metal art! This was a highlight to meet the person behind the organization that helps so many Haitian families.

... Lavinski and Sara were unexpected Blessings/children that joined the orphanage/guesthouse where we stay. What a Joyful addition these kids were!

... 110 water filters were donated to us to bring down to help with clean drinking water!



Continued from previous page

... Being able to go to Rosie's home and meet her grandma! Jesus is all about relationships!

... We were all unexpectedly Blessed by one of our team members, Chad (a chef), who stepped in twice to cook our breakfasts in the mornings due to a death in Gertrude's family.

So many Unexpected Blessings were showered down on us! Thank You Lord for watching over us and surrounding us with Your Angels!! Thank You for letting us dispense about 200 free eye glasses to the Haitians, for letting us help one of our workers with his roof and another with a well, doing a craft, games, and delivering food with those at House of Love and Hope, Divine Family and Hudson's Youth program, and being able to spend precious time with Nadine and her family! Wow! Abundant Blessings all around!!! To God be the Glory in all these Blessings!!!



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Jack Hunter - a former board member of the Haiti Lutheran Mission Society, was called to his eternal rest on February 9th after a brief battle with liver and pancreatic cancer. Jack was an invaluable help to the society and the work we support in Haiti. He possessed a degree in engineering that enabled him to be involved in, and sometimes supervise, the construction of major building projects like basketball arenas for the NBA, federal government buildings, theme parks like Universal Studio in Orlando, Florida, etc. It was his expertise in engineering matters along with his managerial and organizational talents that made him such a valuable asset to the work in Haiti. Even

more important, however, was his zeal for the gospel. Jack had a passion for sharing the message of Jesus and His love for all people, about His death and resurrection which gives all of us the sure and certain hope of eternal life. This is what compelled him to make 11 trips to Haiti, visiting and working on various projects, encouraging the laity and leaders of the Lutheran church there, and showing the love of Jesus to our Haitian friends. Jack and his wife, Pam, developed a long-lasting friendship with a little Haitian girl many years ago while working on the orphanage in Lilavois. It is a friendship and love that has continued for many years. She became like a daughter to Jack.

Jack and Pam were in Haiti when the 2010 earthquake struck. That night he and Pam, along with the rest of the mission team, stayed up all night, helping some of the victims of the quake as best they could. Two months later he and a fellow engineer returned to Haiti to assess the damage to the church's buildings and school. The day he left Haiti Pastor Louis dropped him off at the airport. Later that same day Pastor Louis was murdered outside his home. We will always be thankful that God sent Jack to work and help in Haiti. His contributions, not only on the engineering front, but his ability to recognize a problem and recommend a solution, will be greatly missed. We thank God repeatedly for his efforts and most of all for his love of our Lord and Savior, Jesus. Shortly before he died he was hospitalized for 13 days. Pastor Robert Nowak reports that Jack told him he witnessed to every one of the medical personnel that attended him. That was Jack, and we will miss him greatly. We thank God for him and eagerly look forward to seeing him again in heaven. Praise be to God!

President's Report *(continued from page 2)*

confirmed - He is risen, He is risen indeed.

This is the message we are blessed and privileged to confess to the people of Haiti. This is their victory, too, in spite of the external circumstances. Jesus - crucified, risen, and ascended - is the One who promised "I will never leave you or forsake you...nothing shall snatch you out of my hand."

May God richly bless you during this Lenten season.

In one of many powerful Lenten hymns, we are blessed to hear and sing these powerful words - "Christ, the Life of all the living, Christ the death of death, our foe; Who Thyself for me once giving to the darkest depths of woe; through Thy sufferings, death, and merit, I eternal life inherit; thousand, thousand thanks shall be, dearest Jesus, unto Thee."



-Pastor Jim Dahlke, President HLMS

PRAYERS FOR HAITI

Spring 2020

Prayers of Thanksgiving:

For the safety of Kim and Keith Waller and their team who have traveled to Haiti & for the work accomplished through them.

For the lives of Pastor Reimnitz, Jim Schmursal, and Jack Hunter and for their contributions to the HLMS helping spread the gospel in Haiti.

That the demonstrations in Haiti have calmed down for now and that there's more stability in the country.

For our dear Haitian workers in our churches, schools and orphanages & for the opportunity to minister to physical & spiritual needs of many Haitians.

For your continued prayer and financial support for the HLMS Mission so that both bodies and souls are fed.

For the faithful leadership of the HLMS Board.

Prayer Requests—Please PRAY:

For Gods peace and comfort for the families of Pastor Reimnitz, Jim Schmursal & Jack Hunter.

For increased financial resources to support the growing schools, including the need for more student sponsors at Good Shepherd Church and School and Cite Soliel as well as more chairs and desks.

For increased financial resources for the children's program at Zion Church.

For the continued safety of those in Haiti and for the stability of the nation.

That God would prepare the volunteer teams going to Haiti & keep them safe as they work in Haiti.

That God would sustain & continue to grow the mission in Haiti and give continued enthusiasm, wisdom and strength to its leader.

For God's wisdom and discernment for the board members as they lead the HLMS.

**The next meeting of the
Board of Directors of the HLMS
will be held on Saturday,
May 16th, 2020 at 9 AM
at the office of
Buethe & Associates
Insurance
Lincoln, Nebraska**



HLMS Call

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_____ I would like to help sponsor a child to attend school and receive an accredited Christian education for \$130 per year.

_____ I will continue to pray for the HLMS.

_____ I would like to contribute to the HLMS general fund. Enclosed is \$_____.

_____ I would like to pledge a monthly gift of \$_____ to the HLMS.

_____ Please forward additional copies of the HLMS brochure. I need _____ copies.

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