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New Adventures into the Unknown

by Kim Waller

After cancelling our trips to Port Au Prince, Haiti in 2022 due to unrest, riots and possible kidnappings we decided to go to Cap-Haitien, Haiti this past January (January 18-25, 2023) about 5 hours north of Port au Prince. It was a new adventure for my husband, myself and our team. As usual when doing a mission trip (and life) we NEED our Heavenly Father guiding our every move. This was especially true as we needed a new place to stay, a new bus and driver and new contacts. God sure came through with keeping us safe, introducing us to so many new people, and giving us opportunities to serve His children! As a perk and a sense of security we invited 7 of our Haitian workers to come up from Port au Prince to Cap-Haitien to stay and work with us. What a gift for Haitians and Americans alike! It gave the Haitians some time away from their dangerous conditions, an opportunity to make some money, time for all of us to get to know one another Spiritually (during devotions) and playfully as we had some pretty cutthroat games of UNO and Farkle- haha! And finally, we felt safe having (continued on page 4)



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear friends in Christ and friends of Haiti -

Have you ever made big plans only to have everything change? Has your desire for something ever turned to emptiness and failure? Has God ever said "No" to you?

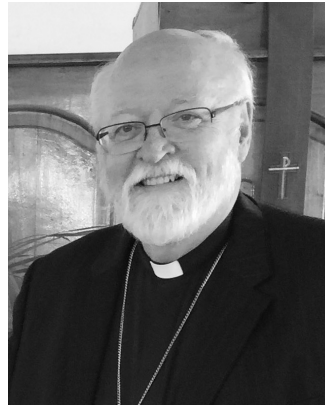
Welcome to King David's world. Battles have been fought and won. The kingdom is now at its farthest reaches. It's time for King David to relax and enjoy his new palace, truly fit for a king. But something strikes David as terribly wrong. He's lounging in a palace whose walls are lined with cedar. The ark of the Lord is kept in a tent! So with the blessing of his good friend and counselor, Nathan, David decides to build a beautiful temple, a dwelling place for the ark of the covenant. And while Nathan is enthusiastic and supportive, God is not. Although God has blessed David in many ways, God would have someone else build the temple.

We often make big plans, plans we think are in the best interest of God's kingdom. To realize God may have a different plan is important to our faith and life. We know - "the best laid plans of men e'er go astray". There's one thing we can trust to never go astray....God's plan for us never changes. It's a salvation plan formed before the foundations of the world. It is a plan that centers in Jesus' Good Friday - "it is finished" and Jesus' glorious Easter - "He is risen, He is risen indeed!" That's the great thing about God. What He says, goes. What He promises, happens. How true it is that God's ways are not our ways and His thoughts not our thoughts.

Obviously, in recent times, it's been extremely difficult for our Haitian brothers and sisters in Christ. We continue, as God provides, to pray for and support them in whatever ways God allows. If God says "No" to our plans and desires, it's because He has a much better "yes" in mind for us. So as life changes, as challenging circumstances arise, as unforeseen situations appear - here's something for all of us to hold on to - you are each a child of God by virtue of Christ's life, death and resurrection. You belong to the Father through His grace and mercy. You are part of a kingdom that endures forever.

Jeremiah 29:11 - "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare(peace) and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."

Rev. Jim Dahlke, President



Pastor Jim Dahlke



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

THE CALL

Published by the Haiti
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Pastor Thomas Update from Haiti - Feb. 6, 2023

Dear members of the HLMS, Supporters and Donators,

Grace and peace to you from God, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

We pray that this update on the ministry of the Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church & School finds you all well as we are serving the Almighty One. **We are thankful to God that even in the midst of the political unrest and the social conditions that are raging nowadays; He continues to remind us of His love, the plans He has for each one of us and most importantly for the forgiveness of our sins.** We truly believe that He will never abandon those who trust and depend on Him to lead us to the path of life.

The purpose of this letter is to thank each one of you for your continued prayers, your support, your donations; and to give you an update on the ministry God has entrusted to us. We live in a time where the daily chaotic social conditions have driven some families to leave the country and go abroad. In certain neighborhoods businesses and schools are forced to relocate, and in the worst cases even close down. As leaders and Pastors, we are asking ourselves: "How do we navigate this crisis and confront this monotonous turbulence? Shall we leave the country? If yes, what about the assembly? **Who will take the message of salvation to those who are still living under the bondage of the evil ones?** The Lord is our Shepherd and we believe He will restore our souls. The enemy may have knocked us down, but by God's grace we will rise up again forgiven and restored. **We believe that as servants called by God, we need to trust Him and focus on the ministry He entrusted to us, in order to prevail through strength and carry out His mission.** We are confident that no harm will happen to us without His permission.

Thanks be to the One whose love for us goes beyond human understanding. In spite of the complex crisis, we continue to have an attendance of 500 students from kindergarten to 12th grade at the Good Shepherd; and they continue to be taught in God's Word and Christian values. A picture of our Friday morning devotion will be attached to this letter.

We are thankful to God for His faithfulness by keeping His covenant to us, but we are also thankful to each one of you for your continuous prayers, support and donations. Without such a Christian love and generosity from your part it would be very difficult to impact the lives of our youngsters who are the future leaders of the country.

PRAYER REQUEST

- Prayer for the safety of the family members and pastors;
- Prayer for the safety of our students and teachers;
- Prayer for the stability of the country;
- Prayer for the spread of the gospel

In Him,
Pastor Thomas Bernard



New Adventures...(continued from cover)

them with us! God worked beautifully through all involved working together.

Our new guesthouse was quite a surprise with plenty of room, more bathrooms, a pool (Wow!), and lots of green land with mountains so up close. A gorgeous area but filled with many people in dire need! The people in Cap Haitien rely on filling their store shelves with food coming from PAP and that is not happening at the moment.

Our team was willing and anxious to do whatever God offered through this trip! We were able to run 4 Eye Glass Clinics (Pastor Eliona's church, 2 Lutheran churches in the mountains and 1 for the neighborhood surrounding the Guesthouse). We saw and prayed with 534 people coming through the clinics while passing out 415 eyeglasses. What a gift to be part of God's plan and helping His children!

As a team we were able to bring 22 (50 lb.) check on bags of toiletries (toothpastes, brushes, deodorant and soap), clothes, vitamins, pain relievers, candy, nutrition bars, flip flops, water filters, crafts and a pinata! Because we didn't have the orphanages we usually visit to pass these "treasure's" out we filled up 1 gallon Ziploc bags and passed out to the people coming through the clinics. What a Huge Blessing and surprise for these Haitians!

We also purchased \$8,000 worth of food- which basically only gave us about a third of what that amount would usually give us! The prices are so high and astonishing. Hard to believe that the Haitians are expected to live this way. It is all mind boggling. We gave this food to some to the workers at the Guesthouse and the rest to Pastor Eliona to distribute. (continued on page 6)



To Mourn, To Rebuild, To Move Forward

Richard “Dick” Buethe Memorial

I won't forget the first time I traveled to Haiti with Dick in 1981, just one year after his initial trip to Haiti, the one that started this mission we now know as The Haiti Lutheran Mission Society. In the years that followed, Dick's passion for the people of Haiti was unmatched. That fire God planted in him never dulled from his initial trip in 1980 until his death on November 29th of 2022. Throughout this time Dick was an example to so many of what happens when God puts that flame in your heart for something and you truly relinquish that space of yourself for God to work in and through you. To others watching from the “outside” it was nonsensical. How did this sort of tenacious passion for an outreach make any logical sense in light of all the horrendous and unrelenting history, political climate, natural disasters and violence known by this tiny country. But thankfully, Dick didn't see things through the lens of what is logical but instead saw



through the lens of “all things are possible through God who gives me strength”. To say God gave Dick strength is an understatement. For those who knew him and titled him “the Energizer Bunny” it was evident that his passion for Haiti was more of a gift to him than vice versa. It

**“In the years that followed, Dick's passion for
the people of Haiti was unmatched”**



fueled his entire life with an unmatched enthusiasm, drive and energy that left others in awe. As noted by many who traveled with him, to say that Dick had the gift of patience would simply NOT be true. The lack of that quality could come across as harsh to some but also served to accomplish quite a lot on his trips to a country not used to operating on American deadlines. Meetings with engineers, pastors, politicians and more to get countless building projects of churches, schools and orphanages completed, rebuilt, and completed again, required this tenacity. He waded through customs a multitude of times, spent long nights sitting up in airports when connecting flights were missed and he cut through red tape again and again and again. When I tell you that it was not always **(continued on page 6)**

New Adventures...(continued from page 4)

God continued to reveal contacts for us for the future, which will take time! Mike and Nancy (owners of the guesthouse) are looking for a reputable orphanage for us to visit and help out and a retired Haitian pilot sat next to me on our return trip and talked to me about a school (about 20-25 minutes away from our Guesthouse) that teaches 4, 5, and 6 year olds and needs help! Sounds like a possible future help!

We are immensely thankful for all of God's help, direction, and provisions during this trip! Also, for your many prayers while we prepared and were in the country! May we all continue to do what we can to help our Brothers and Sisters in Haiti! **"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."** Hebrews 13:16



Dick Buethe Memorial (continued from page 5)

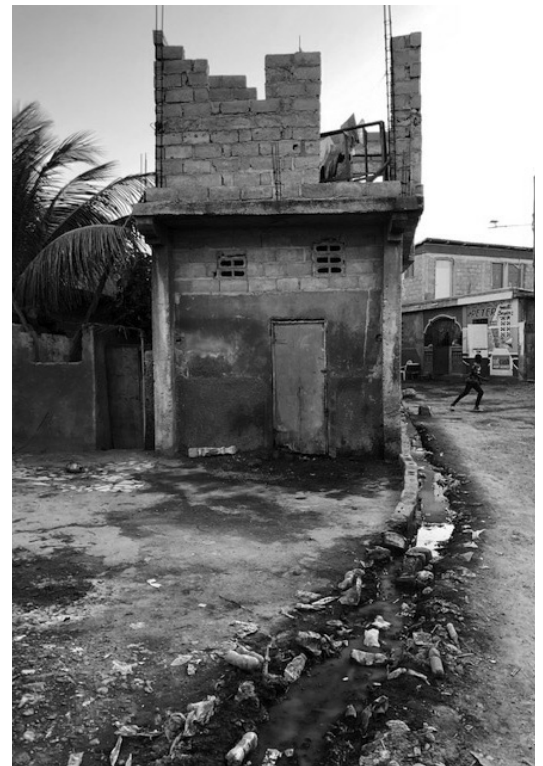
easy, that would be a huge understatement. I was with Dick the day he found out that his dear friend and partner in the mission, Pastor Louis, (the first pastor supported by the HLMS) was shot by gunmen at his home. Grief was equal parts mixed with the drive to get to Haiti, to mourn and to get to work making sure the flock in supported churches, schools and orphanages was supported. Dick was airborne from leaving Haiti just one hour after the massive quake of 2010. Within a month he was back in the country experiencing the aftershocks and helping with the logistics of rebuilding. Dick's dearest friend in the world Leonard, the one who picked him up at the airport each time he arrived and spent his time driving mission teams in his "big green bus" also had his life taken by gun violence. The heartbreak of that loss was incredible but again Dick made his way back - to mourn, to rebuild, to move forward.

What a gift to have been witness to so many facets of the HLMS through the lens of Dick Buethe, my dad. I'm so grateful for the

seven trips to Haiti I took with him

and the fact that each of my children has had this opportunity as well. His legacy cannot end here. Will you join us please to take up the call to once again mourn, rebuild, move forward. We can't do it without you. God bless you.

Kris Costello, Messiah Lutheran Church, Lincoln, NE



PRAYERS FOR HAITI

Spring 2023

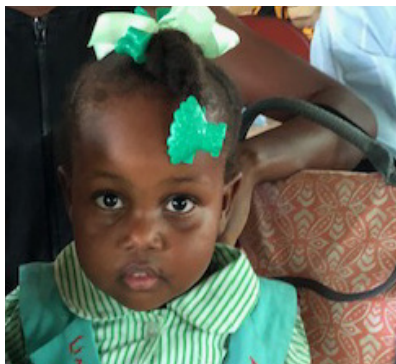
Prayers of Thanksgiving:

- For the safety of the Waller lead group who went down in January to Cap-Haitien and did amazing work.
- For the leadership, teachers, and students who continue on in the face of fear, violence and unrest because they understand the need to know God's Word and Christian values.
- For the wisdom and fortitude of dear Haitian workers in our churches, schools and orphanages & for the opportunity to minister to physical & spiritual needs of those they serve.
- For your continued prayers and financial support for the HLMS Mission so that both bodies and souls are fed.

Prayer Requests—Please PRAY:

- For additional donations to help us support these mission outreaches at one hundred percent.
- For new support so that we can be more prepared to help when crisis occurs.
- For the continued safety of those in Haiti, for their health and for the stability of the nation.
- That God would prepare the way for volunteer teams traveling to Haiti this coming summer so that God's love can be seen and felt through their work.
- That God would sustain & continue to grow the mission in Haiti and give continued enthusiasm,
- wisdom and strength to its leaders, loyal contributors and board members.
- 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 20th, 2023
at 9 AM at the office of
Buethe & Associates Insurance
Lincoln, Nebraska**



HLMS Call

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Box 82653 Lincoln, NE 68501 (402) 474-2063
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The Haiti Lutheran Mission Society Needs Your Help!

In order to help us track our readership, please enclose this portion of your newsletter with your financial support or requests for information. This will allow us to make any necessary address changes, forward correspondence and material to you, as well as ensure that we receive your pledge. *Thank you for your continued support and prayers.*

_____ I would like to 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.

_____ Please send a copy of The HLMS Call to this address:

(Please make your check payable to the Haiti Lutheran Mission Society, USA)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email: _____