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Psalm 119:1-2

You're blessed when you stay on course, walking steadily on the road revealed by God. You're blessed when you follow his directions, doing your best to find him.

Do you ever find yourself confused, frustrated, maybe even scared when you just don't know what comes next? Maybe you feel a bit of that as autumn approaches, school sessions begin again, schedules begin to fill - yet so many unknowns loom large in our world. The news media loves to keep us on the edge of our seats, waiting to drop the next "story" of what we should focus our anxieties on today. If there is one thing the last few years have taught us, it is that we simply cannot forecast what comes next. What we can wholeheartedly rely on though, is God's steadfast provision through all the twists (continued on page 6)

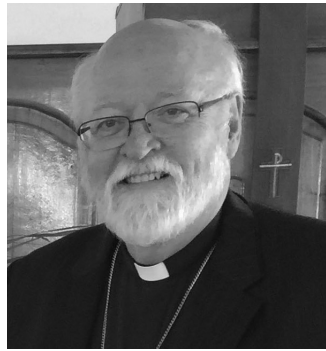


PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear friends in Christ and friends of Haiti -

He was literally a giant of a man, head and shoulders above the shorter Israelites. He was armored to the hilt, a helmet of bronze and a coat of mail weighing over 100 pounds. His weaponry included a sword and an immense spear whose iron point weighed over 100 pounds. Twice a day this giant of a man - Goliath by name - would enter the valley separating the Israeli and Philistine armies. Not only would he challenge Israel to provide someone to do battle with him, but he also spewed forth sarcastic and biting words of scorn for Israel's God. No wonder Saul hid in his tent. No wonder no one in the Israeli camp was willing to do battle with Goliath. It certainly meant a quick defeat and a gruesome death.

Into this dramatic scene steps the young shepherd boy, David. Hearing Goliath's daily tirade, David volunteered - "...your servant will go and fight him". In what would have been a humorous moment except for the seriousness of the situation, Saul offers his armor, but it doesn't fit. I suppose it was like a 48 long on a 36 regular frame! With his staff, five smooth stones (ever wonder why five? One was enough to do the trick!) and his sling in his hand, he approaches the giant of a man. One more round of laughter, disdain and cursing from Goliath, and one more word from David - "you come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty...for the battle is the Lord's". We know the rest of the story!



Pastor Jim Dahlke

THE CALL

Published by the Haiti
Lutheran Mission Society, USA

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Whether in Haiti or the United States, we all **(continued on page 4)**



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

Pastor Thomas' Update from Haiti

July 28, 2022

Dear brothers, sisters and friends in Christ,

Grace and Peace to you from God our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! We pray that all is well as we are serving the Almighty One.

Unfortunately, we are writing you this update today without very much contentment or joy, as again the hardships seem to be amassing atop another. **The main issues we face today in the country as individuals and even as a congregation have to do with security, the high levels of inflation, and still to this day political instability.** There has been an increase in crimes, such as: kidnappings, assassination attempts, and theft of property. Furthermore, with gangs controlling a few parts of the country, economic activity has vastly slowed down and in some areas reached a standstill with families looking for shelter in safer areas leaving everything behind. The authorities have stated that there are roughly 15 kidnappings that happen every week on the national territory. Due to this fact, our currency continues to be devalued against the dollar and increasing the cost of living for many. The situation is very tough to be frank. Right now, we are doing our best to prepare for the upcoming school year which should begin in September, with the hope that we see some sort of relief in both the security and economic situation. **We simply cannot allow the kids that need an education to be left helpless.** We have ended the academic school year (2021-2022) with 475 kids, and this year (2022-2023) we are expecting 515 based on current registration.

Nonetheless, we know that our God is faithful and his love for us endures forever. He has provided for us and will continue to do, just as he feeds the birds and various other creatures in nature. Most of the time we complain about what we do not have and what we don't receive from God, forgetting all that we have received from Him and what he has done. We must continue to put our Faith in Him and let His Will be done. We keep each one of you and the whole world in our prayers; especially at this time when the wars, inflation, and illness are touching each and every one of us globally.

We thank God for His protection and guidance. He continues to bless the ministry of the Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church & School. **We also want to take this opportunity to thank each one of you and the various congregations for your continuous support and most importantly your continuous prayers.** May our Heavenly Father continue to keep us safe, give us hope and keep us in his Grace.

In Him,
Pastor Thomas Bernard
Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran
Church & School.



have our Goliaths. We all have those seemingly insurmountable, unconquerable, hopeless situations and circumstances. Remembering God's faithfulness in the past, David trusted God for courage and strength in the present. David refused to rely on earthly devices when he could place all his trust in an always faithful God. God is a source of strength and comfort greater than anything the world offers or does. As hard as we try at times to avoid the conflict or to fight the battles our way, we can't. Although our situations and circumstances are quite different (Haiti and the United States), we both can place our lives in the sure and certain hands of God. **As David declared - "the battle is the Lord's!" Remember that. Jesus Christ fought and won the single, most significant battle of all time. Jesus Christ, on the cross at Calvary, defeated forever the giants of sin, death, and the devil. His victory is our victory. We are more than conquerors through Him.**

To our readers and donors, I thank God for your faithfulness in supporting the HLMS work in Haiti. The challenges continue, the "giants" are there, but we trust in a God about whom David would write - *"The Lord is my Rock, my Fortress, and my Deliverer...He is my Shield and the horn of my salvation."*

Rev. Jim Dahlke, President





**“You’re blessed when you stay on course, walking
steadily on the road revealed by God.”**



From the Executive Director, Dick Buethe

Wow, it is so hard to believe summer is coming to a close. Time is certainly flying by these days and one of the things I miss the most is my quarterly travel to Haiti to see my beloved friends. Although the pandemic and political unrest in Haiti has altered my travel, I am blessed to be in regular communication with Pastor Thomas Bernard, speaking to him one or two times each and every week. It is encouraging to hear his resolve and gratitude even through these difficult times. The new school year begins in September. Our board will also be meeting in September, welcoming in some new board members who we are so excited to introduce to you in the near future. Thank you for staying the course with us, through your prayers and financial support. May God bless you and your families as you continue to grow in Him.

Dick Buethe, Executive Director HLMS



Psalms 119 *(continued from cover)*

and turns along the way. The past couple of years have drastically changed our world and also our ability to travel to Haiti to work alongside our brothers and sisters there. Through these changes, though quite challenging, we have seen so much support rise up from our supporters as we continue to walk steadfast with this mission work, the work that continues day in and day out in the lives of our Haitian friends. We have also witnessed so much strength, so much resilience through the unrelenting difficulties those in Haiti endure.

Thank you for staying the course with us, with your prayers, with your financial support, with the hope you share day in and day out. We celebrate in knowing our eternal future is bright and our time on this road is short. We walk it hand in hand, one step at a time, with each other, led by our eternal loving father.



PRAYERS FOR HAITI

Autumn 2022

Prayers of Thanksgiving:

For the safety of our pastors, teachers, students and families in Haiti.

For new board members joining the HLMS to continue the vision of sharing the gospel message in Haiti. For their unique gifts and talents and their willingness to share them.

For the upcoming school year, soon to begin in Haiti, that it would be peaceful, healthy and fruitful in the furthering of education.

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.

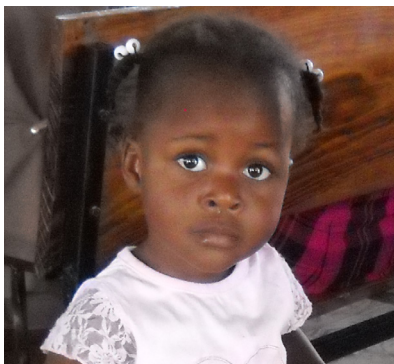
For new support so that we can be more prepared to help when crisis occurs like we have seen recently.

For the continued safety of those in Haiti, for their health and for the stability of the nation. That God would prepare a way for volunteer teams to once again travel to Haiti 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, Sep 24th, 2022
at 9 AM
at the office of
Buethe & Associates
Insurance
Lincoln, Nebraska**



HLMS Call

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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 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.

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

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

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Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ **Zip Code:** _____

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