



President's Letter 2

Trip Report 3

Bonnie Nowak

HLMS Trip Report 6

Dick Buehe, Executive
Director of the HLMS

PRAYER REQUESTS 7

Jill Jank

Find us on
Facebook and Instagram
and get all the latest trip
reports, photos,
videos and more.

Find us at "Haiti Lutheran
Mission Society, USA"
and "like" us today!



Let The Healing Begin!

by Kim Waller

Overwhelming! A rollercoaster of emotions! Hard work! Let the healing begin! These are a few thoughts that describe our February 1st-8th trip to Haiti- just two weeks after our beloved Leonard was shot and killed in such a violent way. Only with God's help and the help of His loving children were we able to have a very successful week. The tears and memories came in waves. But, **to give Leonard honor, we remembered not to worship our friend but the Jesus he served!!**

We had 13 team members total- 2 from the state of Washington, 3 from Nebraska, 1 from Kansas, 1 from California, and 6 from Michigan! As Keith said in his devotion at the end of the week he didn't know how we were going to get through this week (without our dear friend, driver and protector) but our team pulled together. We mourned, we shared, we laughed, we let God's Word speak to us, and we let working at Leonard's lift a heavy burden. This team was miraculous!

We also had the Joy of meeting Joel, a driver from Good Shepherd- a very humble and respected man of the church. Even though we didn't speak the same language, we had our translator friends and were able to work, laugh and share with one another. It warmed our hearts to see this man work alongside us as we laid the foundation of the new church in Village Coracess. We also spent a full day at Leonard and Renia's home cleaning out the lower level in which Renia will eventually be able to rent out for income.

(continued on page 5)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Brother and Sisters in Christ,



A great man died on January 17, 2017. No, his name will not be found in the New York Times or the Washington Post. It will not be announced on CNN, ABC, NBC, CBS or FOX. But it will be recorded in a far more important place, the Book of Life, the book containing the names of all those who have died in Christ and are now in heaven awaiting the resurrection. His name is Leonard Isidor, and by now most of you know that Leonard was tragically murdered on the afternoon of January 17, 2017. He had just delivered our mission team to the airport in Port Au Prince at 11:30 AM after which he went to the bank to cash a check. At 1:00 PM he was approached by four men who demanded his money, then shot him next to the vehicle he had been driving that was filled with another adult and children he was taking home from school.

I have known Leonard since I first went to Haiti in 1990. He became an immediate friend. As anyone who has ever known him will tell you, it was impossible not to like Leonard. His humility, his laughter, his charming smile and his unmistakable love for Jesus were evident from the moment he said "Hello."

Leonard was the brother of Elucie Louis, the widow of Pastor Doris Jean Louis. For many years he made a living driving a tap-tap on the streets of Port Au Prince. But he was also the driver for many mission teams that have made the trip to Haiti in support of Lutheran mission work. He would pick us up at the airport (always on time) and deliver us to our hotel or guest house without delay. He exchanged money for us, helped us order off restaurant menus, and provided cold beverages for us on the beloved "Green Bus." He looked out for our safety, never taking the same route twice.

These things are all nice, but what I remember most about Leonard was his great love for the Lord and how he showed it in his life. If there was ever a man who lived out Matthew 5:16 it was Leo. He was a servant to all. He helped provide food for those in need. He gave away filtered water from his home to neighbors who would come from all around asking for it. If they needed a ride to the hospital, he gave it, no matter the time of day. He shared what food he had with those who had none. Though he had little money of his own what he did have he was willing to give to those who had none. He opened his house to relatives and others who needed a place to stay. He even started a church in his home, Zion Lutheran Church. Leonard loved Christian music and loved to sing. He loved to play his accordion. But most of all he loved to share the gospel. **He told us he did what he did, shared what he had in the hope that those who received the benefits of his work would come to church and believe in Jesus.** *(continued on page 4)*

THE CALL

Published by the Haiti
Lutheran Mission Society, USA

Board of Directors:

Rev. Robert Nowak
President

Dick Buethe
Executive Director

Dale Oberle
Vice President

Jack Hunter

Jim Schmersal

Lyle Middendorf
Treasurer

Gordon Quitmeyer
Assistant Treasurer

Anita Harms
Secretary

Keith Waller
VP Construction Teams

Kim Waller
VP Church Contact Team

Dr. Michael Priebe
VP Medical Teams

Rev. James Dahlke

Tim Costello
VP Publications

Advisory Board Members

Rev. Dr. Charles Reimnitz

Rev. David Mommens

Rev. Clint Poppe

Contact: 402-474-2063

Web address: www.haitilutheran.org
F: Haiti Lutheran Mission Society, USA
Mail: PO Box 22544 Lincoln, NE 68542



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

What is Plan B? Trip Report Jan. 10-17, 2017

by Bonnie Nowak

Eight of us (Bo Brunner, Purple Hayes, Pam and Jack Hunter and the Nowak family: Pastor Robert Nowak, Matt, Amelia, and I—representing Good Shepherd, Glencoe; Holy Cross, Prior Lake; and Redemption, Bloomington) met at the Minneapolis-St. Paul airport at 2:30 a.m. in preparation for the 5 a.m. flight. We arrived in Haiti and were met by Léonard and his big smile and the green bus. Each morning and evening team members volunteered to give a devotion. Mine was based on Psalm 31:14 & 15: “But I trust in you, O Lord; I say, you are my God. My times are in your hands...” As a team, we put our days and plans in God’s hands even though we often wondered, “What is Plan B?” As there were many problems throughout the week with Leo’s famous green bus.

On January 11, we visited Good Shepherd Lutheran, but we had to reschedule the rest of our plans as the green bus had engine problems. Léonard was able to bring the teachers and staff from Cite Soleil to the Palm so Pastor Nowak could pay them. It was on this day that we learned that one of our team members, Purple, was an expert mechanic and knew the Isuzu engine well. They determined the problem was the alternator, and by the end of the day, Purple and Léonard had it fixed.

January 12, we traveled to the warehouse to buy a ton of rice and beans to be distributed at Zion Church then unloaded and bagged the food into gallon zip lock bags for distribution. As we did so, other team members painted the walls in the area where Zion meets as well as the iron gate.

January 13, we purchased more food supplies for Good Shepherd Lutheran, Caradeux. Our team then split with the women stopping at the Apparent Project (an arts and crafts business venture that hires mothers so they can care for their children instead of placing them in an orphanage) and the men delivering the rice and beans to Good Shepherd. Later Léonard and part of the team took the green bus and picked up Pete Gepson, Good Shepherd, Glencoe, at the airport and purchased rice and beans for the orphanage. Further plans for the day were thwarted as Purple and Léonard discovered more engine trouble—this time an oil pump.

Plan B: On January 14, we piled into Léonard’s smaller Toyota truck and headed to the House of Love and Hope. Léonard returned to the hotel to work on the engine with Purple. We presented a VBS program with the theme, “God So Loved the World” to 24 children. We were joined by Hudson Isidor, who translated for us and helped lead music with Matt Nowak on the guitar.

January 15, we worshipped at Good Shepherd as Pastor Nowak preached and Pastor Thomas Bernard translated. We were blessed to join our Haitian brothers and sisters in Holy Communion. Sunday afternoon we returned to Zion for a VBS program with 70 children in attendance and Hudson helping us.

January 16, Pastor Bernard and Léonard drove our team to the new preaching station at Coracess. We met the pastor, Desrameau Joseph. As the time for VBS came there were 20 to 30 students. Those numbers grew until we had 140 students. The VBS program was presented with Hudson’s help, and part of the team went into high gear to make another 50 kits so everyone could have the materials to make a necklace.

On the morning of January 17, Léonard drove us in the Toyota to the overlook outside Pétionville before taking us to the airport. Léonard said goodbye and thanked us for bringing joy and the love of Jesus to Haiti.

In Miami we learned the terrible news about our dear friend and brother Léonard. As God’s people, we wondered, “What is Plan B?” We know that Léonard has claimed his crown of glory, but what about his family, the ministry, what about us? The answer: we know that our times are in God’s hands, and we know that God has Plan B covered for Léonard’s family, the people of Haiti, our team members and the Haiti Lutheran Mission Society. To God be the glory.

President's Report (continued from page 2)

All his work was directed toward that goal. Leonard was one of the greatest Christians I have ever met, a true role model for all of us. **In a tribute to him the Haiti Lutheran Mission Society has established the Leonard Isidor Memorial Fund for Christian Outreach in Haiti. Donations contributed to this memorial will go directly to the effort of sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with the country that Leonard loved, Haiti.** Leonard would have liked that. If you would like to make a contribution in memory of Leonard please send your donation to the Haiti Lutheran Mission Society and designate it for the Leonard Isidor Memorial Fund.

In closing, please remember Leonard's family, especially his wife, Renia, in your prayers. A great Christian man, a dear, dear friend of ours, has been taken from us for a time, but because of the death and resurrection of Jesus, the very thing Leonard loved and lived for, we will look into the bright eyes and generous smile of this great Christian friend and brother in Christ, Leonard Isidor.

God's peace be with you,

Pastor Robert Nowak,

President

*“Leonard was one of
the greatest Christians
I have ever met”*

**Leonard Isidor
February 4, 1952 -
January 17, 2017**



(Continued from cover)

On this day (which would have been Leonard's 65th birthday) we worked long hours with the family, we broke bread together, shared God's Word with each other, shared some tears and sang songs, including an original by Jill Jack written especially about Leonard, entitled "Be the Light". (This song has been recorded and anyone is invited to go to www.jilljack.com and purchase this song from CDBaby.com for \$2.99- all proceeds will go to the Isidor family).

Our team was also able to share with the workers and children out in Village Coracess 154 bags filled with new underwear, rice, flip flops, spaghetti, a new handmade brown baby doll (thanks to women in Nebraska), and toiletries. What a JOY it was to share from our abundance as they shared their hard work, songs, games

and smiles with us!

It was a very successful trip in which hard work was done, tears were shed, healing began, sacrifices were made, new friendships and memories were started and God's Word led us! Thank You Lord for directing our paths and giving us all the strength to carry on Your work! (As Leonard would want us to do! He was a great example in being Christ like!!!)

Please keep the Isidor family in your prayers.



FREE DOLLARS FOR HAITI

Do you have a policy/investment with Thrivent Insurance? You may be able to contribute to the HLMS at no cost to you through Thrivent's "Choice Dollars" program. Members are encouraged to direct money from Thrivent to a charity of their choice. Last year almost \$8,000.00 was donated to the HLMS by Thrivent on behalf of members who were enrolled in this program.

Please check with your agent to see if you qualify, then consider directing your gift to the HLMS for work in Haiti. It costs you nothing!



HAITI TRIP

January 19-24, 2017

DICK BUETHE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HLMS



This trip to Haiti I was accompanied by my wife, Nancy, my daughter, Kris and director Roger Moore. Two days prior to our departure we learned of the death of my best friend in Haiti, Leonard. This news left us all extremely saddened as well as with many questions as we departed Lincoln with three large suitcases full of supplies to share at the churches, orphanage and communities.

The evening of our arrival we met with Nadine, Leonard's daughter, to discuss funeral arrangements and family needs. On Friday we took a short trip to Coraccess, Haiti to visit our newest HLMS supported mission site. We were able to spend time in the existing church/school building with the students and teachers. It is exciting to see the progress of a new foundation and progress happening right next to this current/temporary structure. We also have plans to put in a well for the entire community to benefit from.

Friday evening as well as Saturday morning were spent at services remembering our dear friend, Leonard; both missing his tremendous impact in this world as well as celebrating his current celebration in heaven. I spoke at the Friday evening service, sharing our gratitude for Leo and his incredible service to not only our teams but also his community in Haiti.

Sunday morning was so uplifting with a joy-filled service of praise and amazing music at Pastor Thomas Bernard's church. After service we traveled to Croix de Bouquettes to Josie's orphanage full of the most precious children. The children were just finishing lunch as we arrived and we enjoyed the afternoon playing with them, doing puzzles, crafts and games.

We were able to visit more with our friends and Leonard's family on Monday. Leonard's nephew Hudson as well as Pastor Pierre have plans to continue the outreach that had been going so strongly at Leo's house. Please keep this community in your prayers as they heal from this loss.

Thank you for praying for my travels!

Dick Bueche
Executive Director



PRAYERS FOR HAITI

Spring 2017

Prayers of Thanks:

For the Christian witness & work of a precious, tireless worker for the Lord, Leonard Isidor, who died tragically. He was with us from the beginning of our work in Haiti. He is with Christ. To God be the glory!

For the safety of Dick Buethe who traveled several times to Haiti & for the work accomplished through him.

For the safety & work of the Minnesota team who traveled to Haiti in January. They met a number of needs and worked as unto the Lord; for their gifts that matched beautifully with specific needs of our mission.

For the new preaching station at Coracess, Pastor, Desrameau Joseph, & the incredible turn-out for the VBS program which grew to 140 students & for the Minnesota team who loved & shared Christ with them.

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 our freedom in America, allowing us to bless many for Jesus' sake.

For the faithful leadership of the HLMS Board.

Prayer Requests—Please PRAY

For comfort for all who mourn the loss of Leonard Isidor; his family, friends & the Haiti Mission Society.

Pray that God would provide for the many needs that Leonard met through his ministry.

For financial aid to continue our work in Haiti.

For funds for food.

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 leaders.

For continued prayers,

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

(prayers submitted by Jill Jank)

**The next meeting of the
Board of Directors of the HLMS
will be held on Saturday,
May 13th, 2017 at 9 AM
at the office of
Buethe And Associates
Insurance
Lincoln, Nebraska**



HLMS Call

Haiti Lutheran Mission Society
P.O. Box 22544 Lincoln, NE 68542 (402) 474-2063
www.haitilutheran.org

NON-PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
LINCOLN, NE
PERMIT NO. 967



The HLMS Call is
a Publication of the Haiti
Lutheran Mission Society, USA

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)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Email: _____