



**MESSIAH LUTHERAN'S
TRIP TO HAITI**

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**June Tewes Memorial Mission
Trip to Haiti
January 15-20, 2014**

Fourteen of us from Messiah and two from North Carolina boarded planes on Wednesday, January 15 and sent some personal version of this prayer heavenward: **"Lord, June had an amazing servant heart. Let us honor her vision. Use us as your instruments to bless the people of Haiti."**

Our group included seasoned mission workers as well as novices, and we focused on several goals: 1) Distribute "pillowcase dresses" and shorts, along with socks, underwear, and health kits. June was part of a Messiah ladies group that has sewed dresses and shorts over the last few years. 2) Conduct a medical clinic. 3) Paint the church/school library at Pastor Thomas' church (Delmas 75), and prepare for a planned construction project. 4) Share the gospel message with children through a faith bracelet craft and coloring books/crayons.

Before we set to work, we attempted to absorb some of the culture. Long-time Haiti shepherd Dick Buethe had engaged his usual driver and mini-bus for the duration of our trip. Our first destination was a mountain lookout with a beautiful view of the city and bay of Port-au-Prince. We all came to appreciate Leonard's skillful and assertive driving on uneven roads in a city of 3.5 million people and no stoplights. Since Haitians speak French or French Creole, we also valued our translator Josue, a policeman on holiday.

We noted that many buildings were in disrepair, with piles of rubble and refuse everywhere. Most property was behind gated walls topped with razor wire or broken bottles to repel intruders. The smells of diesel fumes, raw sewage, and acrid smoke from trash fires filled the air. People were walking everywhere along the roads, even sandwiched between lanes and vehicles in stop-and-go traffic. Tap-taps, pickups converted to mini-buses, were a common site. People who were not walking lined the roads with stalls to sell their wares.

(continued on page 3)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus,

Greetings to each one of you in the name of our only Lord and Savior!

I am more than excited to report that our Lord's work in Haiti goes on with many blessings. I would like to share a few of those blessings with you in this article.

First of all, we are pleased to report that a library for the school at Good Shepherd (Pastor Thomas Bernard's congregation) has been completed and was dedicated on February 9, 2014. This was important because the Haitian government demands that a school, in order to be certified, needs a library with books suitable and adequate for the students in attendance. The completion of the library meets this requirement.

Another blessing is the fact that the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti has approved for membership the congregation currently served by Pastor Maurice Pierre. A ceremony celebrating this fact was held on March 9, 2014. We are pleased to report that our Executive Director, Mr. Dick Buethe, was in attendance that day, along with some of his family members. The Buethe family has been intimately involved with Lutheran work in Haiti from the very beginning, so it is only fitting that he and his family should be there on this momentous occasion. Please keep this new church in your prayers.

Work has also been progressing on the addition of a new classroom at Good Shepherd that will house another high school class. The Haitian educational system includes an additional year of high school, grade 13, that we do not have in the U.S. Until now students at Good Shepherd needed to transfer to another school for their final year of schooling. The addition of the classroom will enable students to complete their high school education at Good Shepherd, and then advance to the University for a College Degree. We thank God for all who have so tirelessly worked on this effort.

Work has continued on the new church in Leogane. Workers from the U.S. were there in February plastering walls and doing other work to hasten the completion of this facility. We are all anxious to see this work finished. Once again we thank all those who have given of their time, energy and finances to make this happen. (continued on page 5)



THE CALL

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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

(continued from cover - June Tewes Memorial Mission Trip)

There were many sellers, but few buyers. Every time the bus paused, locals were persistent in their efforts to sell their handcrafted arts. Especially along the mountain road we saw groups of school children in uniforms specific to their private schools. Clothing was spotless and girls adorned their braided hair with ribbons and barrettes. However, we learned that even though education is highly valued, most children can't afford to attend school.



During our time in Port-au-Prince we were pleased to visit Leonard's church twice—once for an evening prayer service and once for a Gospel concert in our honor. This wonderful church, pastored by Maurice Pierre, gathers in Leonard's covered carport and may be similar to early Messiah. Chairs are carried in. Talented musicians lead familiar praise music (in French) using modern sound equipment and instruments. On a later day, it was here that we distributed clothing and health kits to people with eager, clutching hands. Dick will be present in March when the church is received into the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti.

With a Haitian doctor, Pastor John's brother Joel (a PA), and several of us in the medical field, we conducted a clinic housed in a metal shipping container at Pastor Thomas' church. About 185 patients were assessed and treated over the course of three days. There were a few heartrending cases. Access to medical care is quite limited, and the people were gracious and appreciative.

The library overlooking the sanctuary at Delmas 75 was painted with white vinyl paint, which was the consistency of Elmer's Glue. Further planning and assessment was done for an addition to the building. School classrooms were visited and children enjoyed making and receiving faith bracelets, along with coloring books and crayons. This became a springboard for assessing educational needs and challenges, providing information for future projects.

Our last full day in Haiti was a highlight. We joined people dressed in their very best to worship at Pastor Thomas' beautiful church for 3 hours, and that time just flew by. Much of the service was praise music by animated adult and children's choirs, and congregants singing from their hearts. Suddenly, Denise heard her name announced, and she graciously rose and shared a beautiful number. With Pastor Thomas translating, Pastor John preached a stirring sermon acknowledging our different cultures but focusing on our



commonalities as fellow Christians. Pastor John also introduced our team, with moving words about June's role. We even received Communion. It is an amazing feeling to share worship in a different culture and language and recognize tangibly that we are worshipping the same God.



Rita Overton,
Messiah Lutheran Church,
Lincoln, NE

A Day In The Life Of A Mission Team In Haiti

Feb. 10, 2014

by the Waller group, led by Kim & Keith

Monday thoughts from everyone:

We started with Isaiah 6:9 about going out and remembering to share God's Love and Word!

Today was labeled Crossfit day!! Everyone was used today. Some were used outside the gate of the school filling 5 gallon buckets with sand or rock. The buckets were then handed off to someone with a wheelbarrow (who could transport 3 buckets) or

someone walked with one bucket to the staircase where it was handed off to someone who wanted to get a good leg workout in going up a flight of stairs. The bucket then proceeded through a chain of hands until the second staircase where it was transported again and went up to the third floor. It was then picked up by another team member to be emptied in a pile to make mortar. This bucket was then thrown from the third floor down to a waiting team member and repeated over and over and over again. We did this for a few hours until we took a lunch break. Keith joined some jump roping during recess with some girls- impressive.

We then passed out rice, goodies and a tip to the Haitian workers that worked so hard during our time there and we prayed with them (with Leonard translating). We had lunch and then moved on to Lophane's for an afternoon of more hard labor. Cinder block here we come.

Daryl fixed a bucket with work gloves and duct tape! It held the water in, somewhat. We definitely hit a wall today. It was a great day but exhausting. When we returned home we packed the bus with 26 bags of rice that will be delivered at 6:30 am in the morning.



(continued from page 4- A Day in the Life . . .)

Our final visit on Sunday was to an orphanage run by a woman named Josie, who has a beautiful spirit and a heart for children. Twenty-one children were waving and eagerly anticipating our arrival. Like all of the children we worked with, we found these children to be enchanting. They were lovable and eager to be held, always melting into our arms and laps. The men roughhoused with the kids, hoisting them up on shoulders and eliciting excited giggles. We had provided 20-some large bags of rice and beans the day before and now brought socks, underwear, and health kits along with a cash gift. We toured the spotless building with gleaming tiles and spartan furnishings, eager to plan new ways to help.



On our final evening, a simple prayer was offered that spoke for all of us. “Lord, we don’t know why you picked us to live where we do, but we are grateful for your many blessings...” God is visible in Haiti—in the work of devoted pastors, in the many missionary teams, in the



Jesus Loves Me slogans on tap-taps, in the happiness of the people despite their lack of material means. Our trip was rewarding and fulfilling. We all left a part of our hearts in Haiti, joining the hearts of those who have gone before us, and those who will follow. As is commonly the case, for whatever blessing we offered, we felt blessed with a greater measure in return.

Letter From the President *(Continued from Page 2)*

Several groups from all over the U.S. have been, or are going, to Haiti this year. We are pleased that there is such a great willingness by many brothers and sisters in Christ here in the states to help with the work in Haiti. Of course this is all possible through the generosity of those who contribute so sacrificially.

I say once again how thankful we are for all of you who regularly and willingly support the work of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti through your offerings to the HLMS. The Holy Spirit has obviously touched your hearts in such a way that you cannot help but see the need among the people of Haiti and do what you can to reach them with the gospel of Jesus Christ. That gospel is a wonderful message that comes to the aid of people here on earth, but even more importantly, brings them the message of how they can live forever through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

God’s greatest blessings to each of you as we make our journey through the 40 days of Lent that will ultimately end in the glorious celebration of the resurrection of our Lord and Savior!

Pastor Robert Nowak, President

HAITI TRIP January 2014

DICK BUETHE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HLMS



I was fortunate to be invited on the first annual Messiah Lutheran Lincoln, NE trip to Haiti. The trip included members of Messiah plus a physician's assistant and a policeman from North Carolina. We brought with us 14 checked bags and 13 carry-on bags, plus money for food to be purchased in Haiti for school children. We were met at the airport by two buses, one driven by Leonard and the other by Pastor Thomas. After unloading bags and checking into our hotel, we were tired and ready for a nice meal together at the hotel.

During the next few days we made a trip to the lookout which provides a panoramic view of Port au Prince, a special treat for first time visitors. We then drove up to the Baptist Mission to do some sight seeing and have lunch. We spent almost every evening we were in Haiti attending prayer services, Bible studies and church services.

On Friday our group gave away over 50 dresses, shoes, health kits, socks, underwear and other clothing items. The Haitian people are so very happy and excited to receive these new items of clothing. We were blessed to have enough medical personnel in the group that we were able to hold a medical clinic, our team partnering with our salaried Haitian doctor and nurse treating many patients over a three day span.

We spent Sunday afternoon at Josie's orphanage where we donated 24 55-pound bags of rice for her children, as well as a suitcase full of socks and underwear. Another 13 bags of rice were purchased for an orphanage we support in Les Cayes.

Our Messiah team enjoyed the trip, meeting our brothers and sisters in Haiti and many look forward to returning to Haiti next year! **Thank you for your prayers for our team and for supporting us with material and monetary donations to support this trip; we couldn't do it without you!** Your support for us is truly a blessing.



PRAYERS FOR HAITI

Praise and Thank God:

1. That all our supported churches are now in pulpit fellowship with the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod.
2. For the safe travel, on-time flights, delivered bagged goods and work of 18 missionaries from Messiah Lutheran church who served in Haiti from Jan. 10-15.
3. That the Orphan Grain Train was able to deliver another container which included 368 boxes of mercy meals and 200 school desks.
4. For our growing churches and schools in Haiti
5. For the faithful leadership of the HLMS Board.
6. For the continued prayer and financial support of you, our faithful supporters.

Prayer Requests—Please PRAY:

1. That all of our Haiti Lutheran pastors, congregations, and school children will continue to grow in the faith & knowledge of Christ.
2. For the teams coming to help with our churches through the year--that God would prepare the way--that He would prepare the hearts of the teams, as well as the Haitians, so that much work will be accomplished for His glory.
3. That God would sustain & continue to grow the mission in Haiti and give continued enthusiasm, wisdom and strength to its leaders.
4. That God would give peace and faith to all of our flock in Haiti.
5. For continued prayer and financial support.
6. For God's wisdom and discernment for the board members as they lead the HLMS.

Thank you for your prayers

**The next meeting of the
Board of Directors of the HLMS
will be held on Saturday,
May 17th, 2014 at 9 AM
at the office of
Buethe And Associates
Insurance
Lincoln, Nebraska**



HLMS Call

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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.*

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