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## A Little Faith

Kris Costello, Messiah Lutheran Church, Lincoln, NE

In March I had the opportunity to travel to Haiti with my parents, Dick and Nancy Buethe, and take my youngest son Noah along for his first mission trip. Since my dad is the executive director of the HLMS it has always been a dream to have each of our boys travel to Haiti with him. As always, we had a large collection of items to bring along with us. Noah had a fun goal of sharing his love for building and learning how things work with students in Haiti, so on this trip our cargo included an impressive collection of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) related educational items collected from generous friends for Pastor Thomas' school. A total of nine large suitcases were filled to maximum weight, one with Noah's educational STEM collection, the other eight with an assortment of requested and donated items.

The greatest portion of these items was a huge collection of health kits consisting of soap, wash cloths and dental care items collected by school children and others from Messiah Lutheran Lincoln, NE. In the weeks before the trip as I sifted through the hundreds of health kit items and packaged them into individual collections for distribution. I considered where might be the best location for their delivery. Obviously the needs are great all over the country but I knew there were some areas in Haiti that mission teams were less likely to visit, most notably Cité Soleil.



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

If you were able to take something to heaven with you what would it be? A number of years ago a pastor friend officiated at a funeral for a man who was a motorcycle enthusiast. Believe it or not the man was buried with his motorcycle. I guess he wanted to take it with him to heaven.



What about you, if you could take anything to heaven what would it be? I know what I would say, my children. (I'm confident my wife will be there.) That is why we do everything possible to TEACH our children about Jesus as their Lord and Savior. We rely on the power of the Holy Spirit who works through the means of grace, the word and sacraments, to establish a long and lasting faith in the hearts of our loved ones so they will join us in heaven one day.

**Have you ever noticed how much importance the Word of God puts upon teaching?** The verses are numerous. Here are just a few:

God said to Moses: "Now therefore go and I will be with your mouth and TEACH you what you shall speak." (Ex. 4:12)

Paul's instructions to Timothy were: "Command and TEACH these things (I Tim. 4:11). Later he repeated himself: "TEACH and urge these things." (6:2b).

Our Lord spoke to the disciples about the Holy Spirit saying: "He will TEACH you all things." (John 14:26).

The early followers of our Lord longed to be taught. Take for instance Psalm 25:4: "Make me to know your ways, O Lord; TEACH me your paths." (See many other verses such as Psalm 27:11 and 143:10)

Who of us will ever forget the words of God in Deuteronomy 6:7: "You shall TEACH them diligently to your children..."

Our Church has long taken this command seriously. Not only have we established Sunday Schools in our churches, but in the early days of our church each new congregation was expected to start a parochial school as well. It is unfortunate that for a variety of reasons many of our parochial schools have fallen on hard times, many even closing. Such is not the case in Haiti.

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## 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

In Haiti our Lutheran schools are thriving. Pastor Bernard tells us he could take even more students if he had the resources to do so. Recently our mission society began assisting the teachers of a Lutheran school Pastor Louis started before his death. The teachers had not been paid in months so our society decided to begin paying them a stipend so that this important TEACHING of Jesus could continue. Why have we done this? Because we take with great seriousness the Lord's command to TEACH the children. This school is located in the poorest part of Haiti, Cité Soleil, where life is extremely difficult. **We have the wonderful opportunity to TEACH children about Jesus!**

Once again, this fall hundreds of Haitian children will be returning to our schools. Of course schools are expensive to operate. We depend upon your faithful offerings. Your gracious gifts, given to the HLMS, are passed on (100% of them) to our Haitian brothers and sisters who, among other things, are TEACHING the children. Your yearly tuition support of \$130 for one of the children is an incredibly impactful way you can make a life changing difference for one of these students. If you don't currently support a student with tuition assistance of \$130 per year, perhaps you would consider doing so. Many of our faithful sponsors support multiple students each year and our need for more sponsors is growing.

God's grace be upon each one of you and thank you for all you do to support the spread of the gospel in Haiti.

In Jesus precious name,  
Rev. Robert W. Nowak, president



**We will now be supporting these teachers from the school in Cite Soleil, pictured with Pastor Pierre and Leonard Isadore.**

## A Little Faith *(continued from cover)*

A quick Google search of Cité Soleil finds it described as "...the area generally regarded as one of the poorest and most dangerous areas of the Western Hemisphere and one of the biggest slums in the Northern Hemisphere...", and explains why mission teams wouldn't want to venture there, why I had explicitly avoided it on all previous trips. Yet as I packaged those health kits I couldn't get the thought of delivering them in Cité Soleil out of my mind.

Having been reassured by another mission team that had recently made a successful visit to the area, and also having discussed it with family and receiving their blessing, I decided that if I still felt led to enter the area while in Haiti, I would. Our friend and dedicated driver Leonard was also encouraging and excited to go, so on the third morning of our trip Noah and I were up at dawn, accompanied by Leonard and another good friend, Josue, ready for our delivery. (I had never intended for Noah to accompany me into the area but his desire to go was strong and on yet another leap of faith I decided to allow him.)



Leo had called ahead and made arrangements with a primary school in Cité Soleil to receive us. This was a perfect plan because it allowed for distribution of the items to children to take home to their families, out of sight of the general population so as to avoid a mob scene. To my surprise the area, just west of the Port Au Prince airport, didn't really look different from the other slum areas of Haiti we drove through daily. In fact I wondered if it has possibly received some additional attention after the earthquake as there were solar streetlights and paved roads through much of it.

After making our way into the community a few miles, passing shacks pieced together with corrugated metal, tents, animals and beautiful people of all ages going about their morning routines, our truck turned off a paved road onto a deserted gravel patch and approached a long cement building. Many small bodies lined up, crowding around openings in the wall and doorways, peering out with huge brown eyes and melting my heart. It was a much different reception than I was accustomed to receiving from children in Haiti; more tentative, more cautious.

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Teachers instructed the students to be seated at their long benches and common desks so that we could quickly distribute bags of rice, health kits, shoes and clothing items to each child to place in their backpack. At least four grade levels shared the same long one-room building, divided only by the direction of their desks. There was a current of nervous energy and no time spent lingering to play games or share stories, yet it will be one of the best memories I take with me from the trip. After brief good-byes and thank-yous, we were ushered quickly back to the truck and away from the school before any attention would be drawn by our presence.

Sometimes in life we never learn why we have inclinations to do something unordinary, to go somewhere we would formerly have considered off limits. Fortunately in the case of this desire to go to Cité Soleil, I believe I have. As we were leaving the school that morning, Leonard was informed by one of the teachers that the group formerly supporting this school had discontinued their work and financial support in the Fall of 2013. The teachers had continued to faithfully show up every day and educate the children with very limited resources for no salary since that time. I am beyond happy to report that upon learning this, the Board of Directors of the HLMS voted to adopt this precious school, named Faith School, and begin support of it.

**It is always a decision of faith when the HLMS decides to take on new ongoing financial commitments such as this. Thank you for your much needed support of the HLMS, for the faith you show through your prayers and financial support of this important work in Haiti.**



## HAITI TRIP June 20-26, 2014

DICK BUETHE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HLMS



I left Omaha at 5:30 AM with four checked bags and a carry-on, funds to pay the teachers at Cite Soleil, funds for the House of Hope and Love Orphanage, as well as salaries for our supported pastors and schools. I also carried 85 new pairs of flip flops and other miscellaneous items for donation.

I arrived in Port Au Prince a bit delayed because of a lightning storm in Florida and found Leonard patiently waiting at the airport. Saturday morning I met with Pastor Thomas to set our schedule for the rest of the trip. Leonard and I spent the rest of the day looking for computers and other school supplies, as well as purchasing forty 55 pound bags of rice and sixteen bags of beans. Since the board of directors of the HLMS recently voted to begin support of a primary school in Cite Soleil we called the five teachers from this school to set up a meeting for Monday.

On Sunday I attended Pastor Thomas' morning service. After dropping me off, Leonard left to fill the bus with people from his neighborhood to attend the service as well. It was a special celebratory service commemorating the 17th anniversary of the church. Representatives from all of Pastor Thomas' churches were present, including God Sheppard, Zion, Cite Soleil and Leogane. The service, running three and a half hours, was wonderful and the music was absolutely incredible. A lunch was served immediately afterwards, enjoyed by the hundreds in attendance.

I was invited to Leonard's house for dinner and the evening service. We divided nearly 300 pounds of rice into smaller bags to be distributed after church.

Monday morning Leonard drove to Cite Soleil to retrieve the school teachers we were to meet with. Pastor Maurice Pierre, Leonard and I joined the five teachers and we had a constructive two hour meeting together. These teachers were excited about our support of their school and happy to be paid for their very important job. We spent the remainder of Monday in a meeting with Pastor Thomas and delivering rice and beans to those in need.

We spent Tuesday in search of computers for Pastor Thomas' school; not an easy task in Haiti. We were eventually able to find a store with computers in stock and spent nearly \$800 each for two computers. We then delivered food supplies, flip flops and miscellaneous items to the orphanage, which is always a highlight of the trip. Tuesday evening included another wonderful service at the church that meets at Leo's home and the distribution of more rice to a thankful crowd.

I was thankful for the opportunity to spend these days with our hard working and loyal Christian friends in Haiti. Food is still a constant need with many of our friends going days with nothing to eat. Thank you for your support of our mission that allows us to feed both body and soul. I am so grateful for your prayers for my safety on this trip.



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## PRAYERS FOR HAITI

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### 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, 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,  
October 18th, 2014 at 9 AM  
at the office of  
Buethe And 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)*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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