

December 2009

The Haiti Lutheran
Mission Society, USA



The Call

www.haitilutheran.org

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web site at
www.haitilutheran.org
to see this newsletter in color!

The Gift of Christmas Freely GIVEN!



Rev. Charles Reimnitz, President HLMS

“Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given...”
Isaiah 9:6

Over seven hundred years before He appears, God’s Christmas Gift is announced by the prophet Isaiah! God’s gift is just that, a gift, freely given without any requirement placed on us, other than to receive Him!

How typical of God. A quick word study reveals well over one thousand statements about God’s generous gifts to mankind. What a glorious God!

The Father freely gives His Son, and the Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, gives Himself into death on the cross to win our forgiveness and eternal life. Unbelievable! As we sing in one of our Christian hymns: “Would He devote that sacred head for such a worm as I?” Yes He would and He did.

Christmas is traditionally a time of giving...and receiving! This wondrous time of the year which once was a worthy reflection of the selfless giving of Christ has become unbelievably commercialized and self serving. It is impossible to calculate how many billions of dollars will be spent on giving gifts during this season...knowing full well that we will be receiving gifts, usually from the very people to whom we have given gifts. Hardly selfless acts!

How deeply this giving, in hopes of receiving was demonstrated by on woman news anchor this morning. When one of her co-anchors asked, in view of the down turn of the economy whether she would be spending as much for gifts this Christmas as last year, she responded: “Well, I don’t have any less relatives than last year, so my spending will be about the same!”

*The true GIFT of God’s Son
is being buried under a
mountain of “gifts”,
tinsel and paper.*

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The Best is Yet to Come!

Rev. Charles Reimnitz, President HLMS



“Christ came, a High Priest of good things to come.....Hebrews 9:11.

“It just gets better and better!” and “The best is yet to come!” These are expressions we often use when the future looks rosy. That’s just how I feel about the future of the Haiti Lutheran Mission Society (HLMS).

What makes me feel so optimistic is the addition of two outstanding individuals to our HLMS Board of Directors: The Rev. Tom Brinkley pastor at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Esko, Minnesota and The Rev. Nathan Sherrill pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Council Bluffs, Iowa. Both of these men bring youth and enthusiasm for missions to our Society. Both have traveled to Haiti to teach and have a deep feeling for the poor children and other fellow Christians in Haiti, and Tom will be heading a team of builders traveling to Haiti early next year. Even as I write this Tom is returning from a mission trip to Africa where he helped establish a Lutheran Seminary.

Additionally I am delighted to introduce our incoming president, The Rev. Robert Nowak pastor of Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Prior Lake, Minnesota. Like Tom, Bob, who has been to Haiti a number of times teaching and leading building teams, will be taking another group to Haiti in 2010.

Time and tide wait for no man, and in my eightieth year I feel the need to turn leadership of our Society to a very capable and dedicated man, Bob Nowak, whom I have known for years. He was, in fact, a pastor at a neighboring parish when I was still at Christ Lutheran, Lincoln, Nebraska.

It is a joyful time for me in so many ways. I have never felt more confident about the future of our work in Haiti, especially with the additions and change noted above. Each of these men is truly dedicated to missions, and in particular our work in Haiti. They bring knowledge and experience which can only make the HLMS, under God’s blessings stronger than ever before!

Thanks to all of you who have given me your blessings and support over the past three decades!

The Call

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All board members of the HLMS are members of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.

Our three part mission plan:
 Saving Souls
 Healing Bodies

Providing accredited Christian education
 The Haiti Lutheran Mission Society, USA
 PO Box 22544
 Lincoln, NE 68542
 402-474-2063

“The mission of the Haiti Lutheran Mission Society 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

A Note From The New President...



May I take a moment of your time to introduce myself? I am Robert Nowak, the pastor of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Prior Lake, Minnesota. In case you have not heard, I am the newly elected president of the society. I am taking over for Pastor Reimnitz, who has been involved in the work in Haiti since the inception of the society. He has



done a remarkable job as president, and I hope you will take a moment to thank him for all his work over the years. God has used him mightily to carry out His mission in Haiti.

My first involvement with Haiti took place in 1990 when I accompanied Dick Buethe and his brother Bob on a short mission trip there. I had the privilege of preaching on Sunday morning at Delmas 89 and touring our mission sites. As anyone who has gone to Haiti will tell you, one is immediately overwhelmed by the needs of the people. First and foremost is the need for the gospel which is desperately needed among a people where voodoo is still practiced. Then there are the myriad of other needs—food, housing, education, health issues... the list could go on and on. Our society has set its sights on meeting those needs. Article II of our constitution reads like this, “The purpose of the society shall be 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.” That is an admirable statement of purpose, one that I shall always try to keep before me as long as I am president.

I also realize it is not I who will make the difference, but our God working through you and many others to accomplish His purposes. Thank you for all the hard and sacrificial work you have done over the years. I have watched the society continue to grow as time has gone by. It is amazing how generous God’s people have been, and still are, with their time, talent and treasure.

My daily prayers include the work in Haiti, the Haitian people, Pastor Louis and his staff, and the society as well. I hope you will pray for these things too, and I cherish your prayers on my behalf, that God will grant me the wisdom and insight to do what it takes to see that our work, God’s work, goes forward.

If you have need to contact me, my office number is 952-445-1779, and my email address is revrwn@juno.com. I welcome your comments and thoughts, and look forward to working with all of you as we seek to take the name of Jesus to the people of Haiti.

In His name,

Robert W. Nowak

“Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth; for I am God and there is no other.” (Isaiah 45:22)

Dick's Trip Report (August 27-29, 2009)

Dick Buethe, Executive Director, HLMS



My trip to Haiti began August 27th at 3:00 a.m. My first leg of the trip was to depart from Omaha at 5:50 a.m. This trip was originally to begin about a month later in October but due to pending knee replacement surgery on my right knee I decided to make the trip now. I checked two bags and carried aboard used clothing, shoes, health kits, bar soap and a new electric piano for our church at Pelerin. I also carried discussion questions from the Board of Directors for Pastor Louis. The trip to Dallas was without incident. In the Miami airport as I walked to my gate my left knee locked and I was immediately in intense pain. An airport cart picked me up and carried me to my gate. I was undecided whether to go on to Haiti or to return home. Because I had checked two bags and really needed to discuss several items with Pastor Louis I prayed and went on to Haiti.

My flight to Port au Prince arrived on time and after a painful walk down the stairs from the plane (no jet way in Haiti) I was met by a man with a wheelchair. He took me through security and I was met by Pastor Louis and delivered to my hotel.

That evening I spoke to Nancy by phone and requested that she try the next morning to re-book my flight home for as soon as possible.

Pastor Louis and I spent about 6 hours together the next day discussing the following items, which were brought to our next board meeting in October for resolution.

1. Dedication date for the orphanage is now set for January 10, 2010
2. Cost to complete the medical center approximately \$18,500.00
3. Increasing tuition cost per students in our schools - possibly effecting sponsorship donation amounts.
4. Costs to sponsor orphans at the orphanage beginning in 2010.
5. Pending work projects for groups going to Haiti in the months ahead.
6. Projected budgets to run the orphanage, medical center and grain storage building.

Because of the knee pain I was unable to attend a church service or to take any photos this trip.

Nancy was able to change my return schedule so I could depart Saturday morning early and with wheelchair assistance was back in Omaha at 8:30 p.m. She was there to meet me. What a joy to have a loving wife to meet you after this dreadful trip. On Wednesday I saw my doctor, was x-rayed and had a cortisone shot.

I'm feeling better now. Thank you to all who prayed for me during this trip.



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The *Gift* Of Christmas - Freely Given



It's pretty clear that most of our giving is self – family centered. Or as Jesus put it: “If you love those who love you, what have you done any more than the publicans?” Matthew 5:46.

How far many “Christians” have moved from the Christ of Christmas was demonstrated recently when a school principal and staff made the announcement that this year no pictures or statues of Santa, nor candy canes and red and green paper would be allowed on campus. Immediately this was taken up by many across the country and protested as being an attack on Christmas!

The true GIFT of God's Son is being buried under a mountain of “gifts”, tinsel and paper. To paraphrase Jesus' words in Mark 7:8: ‘Laying aside the Gift of God you hold on to the traditions of men!’

This Christmas we urge you to follow the lead of a Christian hymn which says; “Turn your eyes upon Jesus!” Refocus your heart and mind on true giving. We plead with you to be truly selfless as you consider a gift for the work of providing starving children in Haiti both with physical and spiritual food. The children who are fed will be unable to thank you personally. But you will remember the words of Jesus: “In as much as you have done it to one of the least of my brethren you have done it unto Me!” Matthew 25:40.

Please use the envelope included in this newsletter to send your gift of love.

Rev. Charles A. Reimnitz
President, The Haiti Lutheran Mission Society



Christmas Letter From Haiti

Dear Fiends in Christ,

I want to wish you God's richest blessings and peace at Christmas and throughout the New Year 2010. On behalf of the First Evangelical Lutheran Church and the daughter churches, her Christmas Christian Day Schools, Concordia Theological Seminary, Concordia Bible Institute, Concordia Medical Center and the coming soon orphanage Medical Center at Lilavois, I do express my words of thanks and great appreciation for your constant prayers and financial support.

Thank you for the school supplies, medicine for the clinic at Delmas 89 and for sending construction teams. Also a big thank you to all the school children sponsors. Many words of thanks and appreciation to Pastor Robert Nowak and the other donors for the new building for offices at Delmas 89 and the fittings of the old parsonage for the rebirth of our Kindergarten Department. Last but not least, we want to let all the members of the Haiti Lutheran Mission Society - USA know that their prayers on our behalf are very effective and their financial support is truly appreciated. Regarding Dick Buethe, we don't have enough words and expressions to thank him for coming down here four times a year to visit with us and bring us your support and some other necessary things!

Finally, may all of you friends and brothers and sisters in Christ know that we love you and that we pray for you constantly. Please continue to pray for us and for Haiti as a whole. May God grant all of you a blessed Christmas season and his peace throughout the new year! Amen. We remain,

Very truly yours in the Master's service,

Rév. Dr. Doris Jean Louis PhD., D. D.
1st. Evangelical Lutheran Church,
Daughter Churches, Christian Day Schools
Health Center and Orphanage

P.S. You are all cordially invited to the dedication ceremony of our orphanage, on January 10, 2010, at 2:00 PM in Lilavois, Haiti.

**The next meeting of
the HLMS will be 9:00
AM, Saturday, Jan. 30th,
2010 at the office of
Buethe And Associates
Insurance Agency,
Lincoln, NE.**

Pray For Haiti (December, 2009)



Praise and Thanksgiving:

1. Thank God for keeping Dick Buehe in His safe care. Dick had a knee lock up on his trip to Haiti, but had so many things to do in Haiti, he continued his work there for two days before returning home for a cortisone shot so he could walk again and eventual knee replacement surgery on his other knee!
2. Thank God for Pastor Charles Reimnitz who has faithfully served as the President of HLMS and who will be stepping down this fall. Thank God for raising up Bob Nowak, from Prior Lake, Minnesota, to serve in this role.
3. Thank God for groups who served in Haiti in the summer and for those who donated money for various needs including 1000 bags of beans and rice.
4. Thank God for all those who make the “child sponsorship” program possible through their detailed work. Also, thank God for the many individuals who sponsor the children.
5. Thank God for continued prayer and financial support for this Haitian ministry.

Prayer Requests:

1. Pray for the dedication of the new orphanage and 35 mattresses for beds needed at the orphanage. Also for God's wisdom as Pastor Louis prepares a strategic and tactical plan for oversight of the new orphanage.
2. Pray for Gods protection for the many work groups going to Haiti during January.
3. Pray for the medical group of 26 from Michigan going from Feb.9-19 and another group going from March 3-10 2010. Thank God for these groups willing to give of there time and treasure to work for the Lord.
4. Pray for all the teachers and students in Haiti as they continue in another school year.
4. Pray for Dick Buehe as he continues to recover from knee replacement surgery.
5. Continue to pray that God would protect all our staff, students and congregations.
6. Pray for wisdom regarding the child sponsorship program.
7. Pray for wisdom for the Board of Directors and Haiti Lutheran Mission Society, USA, whose purpose is to guide, encourage and support the work in Haiti.

Thank you for your prayers.

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 \$105 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: _____

(Contributions to the HLMS are tax deductible as allowed by law)