

August 2011



The Haiti Lutheran
Mission Society, USA

The Call

www.haitilutheran.org

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“ARE TOO!!!!”

Rev. Charles A. Reimnitz
President Emeritus, HLMS

“How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!” 1 John 3:1

You remember how it started, perhaps at recess on the school play ground. A friend you had trusted with a secret had shared it with someone, who shared it with someone, who shared it...

So you confronted your ‘friend’ with the words: “You are a blabber mouth!” “Are not!” “Are too!” “Are not!” “Are too...” and on and on.

Sometimes its great to be a blabber mouth. Members of your Haiti Lutheran Mission Society Board of Directors certainly are blabber mouths when it comes to telling the story of the crushing needs of Haitian brothers and sisters in Christ, and the overwhelming importance of blabbing to them the message that Christ came into the world to save sinners.

To which we say about you: “Are too!!!” Some of you give financial support, others join in praying, still others give of themselves by journeying to Haiti to train pastors and teachers, teach VBS, do medical work, or labor in construction tasks.

What brought this all to mind was a statement I saw in the LC-MS Nebraska District’s newsletter: “You are a member of the Nebraska District!” Immediately I thought of thousands of people like you

who would be reading this issue of The Call. You, too, by your efforts have joined those who are bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to Haiti.

Hanging around my neck is a thin orange colored cloth with a clip on the end to which I attach house keys. Inscribed in black on the cloth are these words: “A Johnnie family member”. Each time I slip this key holder over my head it evokes fond memories of my years at St. John Lutheran Academy and College in Winfield, Kansas where I met my wife of fifty eight years. The orange and black school colors run in our veins. We’ll always be Johnnies!

We want always to say of you; “Are too!”...praying that you will always be a member of the Haiti Lutheran Mission Society. We pray that the purpose of the Haiti Lutheran Mission Society expressed in its motto: “Healing bodies, saving souls, providing accredited Christian education” may run deep in your veins. Your support is so crucial to the continued success of holding the light of the Gospel high in Haiti.

One more thing: One of the reasons you are motivated to be an “Are tooer” is what John stated 1 John 3:1 “How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!” **Praise the Lord!**

Inside This Issue...

President's Report.....	2
Letter From Elucie Louis.....	3
Dick Buethe's Trip Reports.....	4-5
Relationships.....	6-7
First Timers In Haiti.....	8-9
Prayer Requests.....	11

Letter From The HLMS President Pastor Nowak



Dear Friends and Supporters of the HLMS,

I was blessed by God to have two wonderful parents. They raised four boys to have good morals, be honest, pray before meals, be responsible in all things, etc. All of us were baptized as infants and completed confirmation. But like all parents, they had their little quirks too. For instance my mother somehow, somehow believed a lot of old wives tales. We grew up thinking the white of watermelon rinds was poisonous. You don't know what trauma that caused me at picnics. Not only did I have to be sure I didn't eat any, but I had to watch other kids as they got desperately close to eating some of the villainous rind. I was sure we were going to lose some of them before the day was over. We learned the same thing about green tomatoes. Can't eat those, they're poison. Grinding teeth was a sign of worms. Here is another, once hummingbirds start flying they never stop. "Mom, how do they rest or sleep?" Mom's response, "I don't know, but they never stop."

There were several others, but you get the picture. My wife and I laugh at them now. I don't believe any real harm was done to any of us despite the fact that I developed a few phobias as a result, but at least no ulcers. Once you know the truth about such things, the fear goes away, and your behavior even changes.

Jesus said one of the most meaningful and important things when he said, **"You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free."** Knowing the truth about watermelon rinds, green tomatoes and grinding teeth cast off a lot of unnecessary worry and fear on my part.

There are far more serious myths that are believed by many people that have far more serious consequences. Some believe there is no God. Many, that all religions are the same. Others believe that Jesus was not God or that He didn't have to come and save us. Still others think that mankind can work his way to heaven. Some have even gone so far as to think that Satan is to be worshipped.

(continued on page 10)

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"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

LETTER FROM PASTOR LOUIS'S WIFE JEANNE (AKA ELUCIE)

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Delmas 89 #22, Port-au-Prince, HAITI



July 11, 2011

Dear Distinguished Board Members,

I would like to start off by thanking each and every one of you for the cards and letters that you sent to me last year. I appreciate them all and it meant a lot to me that you sent them. Thank you for all of the additional aid, help, and support that you have given us both after the earthquake and after the death of my beloved husband, Pastor Louis. I would like to also extend my thanks to all of the mission teams that have made the trip down to Haïti to assist us with disaster relief and rebuilding. Your self-sacrifice is greatly appreciated by all and we hope that we have impacted your lives as much as you have impacted ours.

And last, but most certainly not least, I would like to say a special thank you to Dick Buehe and his family. They have been with us since the beginning and through thick and thin they have stood by our sides, as well as by the country of Haïti. This country has seen a lot of dark days recently, but together we will continue to be the beacon of light that will inspire the people and give them hope. The monies that you have sent down to the mission, and continue to send, have been incredibly helpful. All of the repairs at the various sites are being done in accordance to the plans that the U.S. engineers have laid out. In the wake of the earthquake there is still a lot of work to be done at Delmas, the orphanage at Lilavois, and the clinic at Lilavois. Your continued support of each project is very much appreciated.

The ordained pastors and church staff continue to work diligently in our churches. Please continue to pray and support them. And please also keep praying for my sons Weslé, Lennie and Lutherson, as well as my extended family such as Leonard and David. They are all a great source of help to me and I would not be able to continue to do my part without them.

This past year has challenged us physically, mentally, and spiritually. The road ahead continues to bring new challenges each and every day, but together we must continue onward and with the help of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ we will prevail.

On behalf of all of us here in Haïti, thank you. May God's mercy and blessings be with each and every one of you and your loved ones now, and until his glorious return.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Jeanne Louis

Dick's Trip Reports - March and June

Dick Buethe, Executive Director, HLMS



(March 16-22, 2011)

I left Lincoln as usual at 3:30 a.m. for a 6:00 flight from Omaha. My trip through security is always an adventure as I now have an artificial knee. After going through the body scan with everything out of my pockets my billfold was nowhere to be found. I was forced to depart for Haiti minus credit cards and cash. (Thankfully it was later recovered and waiting for me State side.) I met my son Paul in the Miami airport and we together met Leonard in Port au Prince and were driven to our hotel.

The next day I met with Elucie and her son Lutherson to catch up on recent news and developments. I also delivered money for the purchase of rice and beans to be distributed to church members. She reported school was going well as the continued repairs on the building are ongoing. Classes are now being held in the new classrooms. We found that the medical team from St. Clair, Michigan has hired a full time Haitian Dr. to work with a nurse at Delmas 89. We spent several hours talking about the work groups that had come during the past several months as well as making plans for the work groups coming during the next several months. I invited Lutherson to attend our next Haiti Mission Society meeting in Lincoln on May 21st. He lives in Los Angeles but agreed to try to attend.

We attended church services on Thursday and Friday evenings as well as visiting Lilavois to see the work accomplished and the work still to do. Sunday morning we arrived at church early as the country was having a national election that day. Even though we arrived an hour early the service had begun. It was a fairly



short service but very well attended for an election day. Haitians are usually afraid to be out on the streets on these days as there is usually rioting and vandalism on election day. Also there were no evening services on Sunday for the same reason. Everyone just feels safer in their homes, with their families.

Pastor Louis and Elucie's youngest son Lutherson is taking on more responsibility for the church and school and is helping Elucie and the church board to do a good job. I am thankful for him and his willingness to serve the church in Haiti and the HLMS here in the states.

I believe the church and school there are in good hands and are operating smoothly. Thank you so much for your continued prayer support for the HLMS and for my safe travel!

New Cross Installed at Delmas 89

(June 23 - 28, 2011)

Upon arrival in Port au Prince, faithful friend Leonard picked me up. I carried lots of school supplies donated by Christ Lutheran, Falls City NE as well as a suitcase full of shoes and clothing.

Friday morning was very busy at Delmas 89 as there was a funeral and a wedding scheduled for the church the next day. Elucie, Lutherson and I met for about an hour and a half talking over the plans and problems currently facing them. We are spending all of our time with the needs at Delmas 89, impeding our progress at Lilavois. Elucie promised that beginning July 1st we would continue our work finishing the medical center at Lilavois. We have a group of 15 arriving July 2nd and staying until the 9th. A second group from the same church will arrive July 9th and work there until the 16th. My hope is that work on the medical center at Lilavois will continue and be completed soon.

The work being done at Delmas 89 is beautiful, with four stories of classrooms nearly finished where the school was destroyed. A new rooftop with a cross has been installed as well. We talked about planting gardens at Lilavois and Les Cayes. We have received funds for plants and seeds and Leonard will be in charge of this project.

We attended the regular services at Pellerin #3 and Carrideux in addition to the regular Sunday morning service at Delmas 89. Sr Pastor Maurice Pierre preached and a Haitian Father's Day was celebrated with all fathers given a pin to wear on their shirt. This service was well attended as were all the other services we visited. I believe things are going well at our churches.

Sincere thank you to all of you who kept me and the work groups in your prayers.

In Christ's Service,

Dick Buethe
Executive Director H.L.M.S.

Planning a trip to Haiti?

Please notify the HLMS of your travel plans to help with our mission work in Haiti at least 60 days prior to your trip.
You may contact

Dick Buethe at (402) 474-2063 or by
email at: rnnbuethe@yahoo.com



Pastor Louis's wife Elucie with son Lutherson

GIVING... SHARING... LOVING... RELATIONSHIPS

by Kim Waller Hope Lutheran Church, Warren, MI

Through Christ using many people we were able to Give Abundantly and Share Lovingly! A multitude of giving hearts helped us to continue to help in the relief efforts from the earthquake. We were able to help in purchasing needed supplies, hand out hand made pillow case dresses, bless Elucie with a hand made prayer shawl, quilts, clothes, much needed diapers, over the counter medications, shoes, lotions, clean water packets were purchased and liquid band aids were given as a gift... Wow... so much to give and share with God's Love!!! We were very humbled to be His Hands for so many supporters!

Even though the work we accomplished during this Feb. 2011 trip, through the strength of our Lord, surprised us, this time in Haiti seemed to be more about relationships! Our team enjoyed and relished in the new and old friendships we made and/or nourished. Our Father God is all about relationships and it's fulfilling and rewarding to be a part of His Plan and connected to His people. "Love one another deeply, from the heart." 1 Peter 1: 22. It's great to be joined together as friends with Christ as our common thread!

We were able to celebrate the lives of two close friends (Leonard and Keith's birthdays), continue to be a part of the growing children at Gertrude's orphanage, share a devotion with Nadine and George on their porch, be reunited with Haitian workers and pray with them, share God's Love with the families at Lilavois through VBS, share God's Love and physical contact with the men and women at Mother Teresa's Home of the Dying and worship together at Delmas 89. Relationships surrounded us each day, including the ones being strengthened within the team and those we prayed for at home each day. But, the most important time and relationship was spent each morning and evening when we came together as a team and let our Father God speak to us. We should never be Amazed at what can be achieved with His help!!

And, yes, with God's help (and some Haitian workers) we were able to physically accomplish some work too,... in fact, more than we thought possible! All Glory to God for the strength and perseverance He provided us!! We were able, with His strength, to clear out the grain storage building of all rubble (making it ready to rebuild), paint approximately 50 security bars for the windows at the orphanage in



Lilavois, put together 12 bunk beds for the rooms on the upper floor (you can just SEE children actually sleeping there!!) and chisel (most of the time using a cement saw) out many of the cracks around the orphanage to be re-mortared and strengthened!! We also were able to purchase and deliver rice and beans to so many in need!! Our efforts were also used to help out another Christian school that had to be relocated after the earthquake and needed some sprucing up. What a joy it was to bring in a team of 15 and repaint a whole education center. How uplifting to be a part of such a gift!

And, it's too bad this team didn't like each other very much!!! Ha! What a blessing each and everyone was to this experience. We had 15 all together... 9 from Hope, 2 Hope alumni (one from Nashville), one from Washington State, one from MSU, one from the Clinton Twp area, and one from Mayville, MI. It was beautiful how God meshed all these different ages and personality types together. He taught us so much about love, acceptance, patience and contentment! As Jess said, "I love looking back on the week and putting all the pieces of God's puzzle together...."



It is always difficult leaving Haiti and our many friends- we are already looking forward to next year (maybe even for 2 weeks!)

"Not to us, O Lord, not to us but to Your Name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness." Psalm 115: 1



Adult Bible Class taking place in a restored classroom

Trip Reports From Three “First Timers”

Reflections by Jenny McKenna

The Haiti Mission Trip is coming to the end of the fourth day tonight. To begin, this trip has been filled with extensive experiences and heartfelt moments. Even from the beginning as the plane was circling to land my stomach has lingered with butterflies and excitement. From the sky Haiti looks like another beautiful island with the ocean surrounding a wonderful mountainous landscape. Not until the plane was nearly a mile above the surface did I for the first time realize that Haiti was definitely something no one could prepare me for. All the structures I thought were houses ended up being tarps held up with sticks, and the green landscape is mounted with dirt and garbage. What I have realized this week is that, even though the environment and living conditions are like this, it is most important to not “judge the book by its cover,” because here in Haiti I have never seen such caring hearts, countless smiles, simple waves, and non wasteful people.

One of the most difficult experiences for me is to be passing out the rice and beans to the people and having another hundred hands reaching out to you, but you have nothing left to give them.

We are here as missionaries this week and I almost feel guilty that I am feeling so much compassion and love from the children. Through working in VBS, construction, and being one of the people to get the opportunity to pass out more food to the people in Lilavois your heart hurts for the people here. One of the most difficult experiences for me is to be passing out the rice and beans to the people and having another hundred hands reaching out to you, but you have nothing left to give them. Going into this I figured I couldn't help everyone but having to walk away from a huge group of Haitians that probably haven't eaten in days has made me break down and cry. Looking back at it I am more than happy I was able to feed the hundreds I did, and seeing their faces light up with a huge smile.



Today a young girl, right after receiving her bag of beans, had a cup and filled it with water and began to eat it. Other Haitians have come up and said thank you while others have walked out singing “Jesus Loves Me,” either of these occasions just shows how we have worked as God's disciples. This experience would not have impacted me or been as much of a joy to be on if it was not for the group of people this week. This whole mission trip has really taught me to open my heart up and to look beyond the appearance of things and let the true colors and love from people teach me who they are.

Haiti through the Eyes of Carley by Carley Serowoky

I can't even begin to express how enthralled I am to have the opportunity to be a part of the 2011 Haiti mission team. When I was younger, I remember sitting in the pews of the church while they introduced the group of brave people who were going to Haiti that summer. At about this time last year, I made up my mind. I was going to do it. On the plane ride to Haiti, nerves lingered throughout my body. The walk from the plane to the bus was quite the eye opening experience. People were everywhere. I was being approached by people from every direction. I remember looking out into the distance at the beautiful mountains that stood before me. Haiti looked like a gorgeous country. Looking closer into things, the country was broken. Homes were made of tarps and tents. The roads were not paved much less painted with lines. The insecurity and brokenness of the country was difficult for me to take in.



I couldn't stop staring out the window of the bus at the excruciatingly sad country that I was residing in for the week. My first touching experience in Haiti was the church service that we attended at Delmas 89 on Sunday. While we sat in church on Sunday, the kids gathered around me. They held my hands and taught me their songs and best of all, showed me the presence of the love of the Lord. Little did I know, that was only one of many difficult experiences that I was about to face. The best times that I have had down here in Haiti have been working with the Haitians in the Vacation Bible School. This trip has made me a better person. It has allowed me the chance to realize how blessed I truly am in America. The children down here have given me a great source of strength. They have done so by showing me that even at the worst of times, God's love is still active and prevalent. Throughout the last few days, my emotions have been a roller coaster ride. As I jumped up and down and chased around the kids on the soccer field, I was laughing uncontrollably with those kids. Seeing the deep love that is contained inside of the children down here through the look in their eyes gives me a warm feeling and a smile on my face. The goodbyes, the heartfelt hugs, and the strong appreciation that the Haitians have for a simple bag of rice has made me shed tears in the past few days. I consider these emotions to be a good thing though. I am looking forward to many more heartfelt experiences to come on this mission trip.

A Day at the Beach by Colleen McKenna

Yesterday we took a two hour bus trip to the beach. To see God's beautiful creation of the sea and the mountains was purely breathtaking. It provided a renewed sense of hope for a country in such dire state of need and chaos. Thanks to our "Boss Man", who can negotiate any deal, we were able to take a row boat out to the coral and snorkel. He was also able to get us fresh lobster grilled on the beach.

Our "Boss Man" takes good care of us! After the beach we ventured back to Leonard's house for homemade pizza. We were able to have wonderful Christian fellowship with Wesley and Leonard's family. Leonard even played the piano for us. Overall it was a day to always remember. It allowed our group to savor our time together and reflect on the week past. Thank you God!

Well we are at the end of our trip and we are filled with so much joy and love. God has taught us how a simple smile and wave can bring such happiness to others. He has shown us how to appreciate the simple things, open our hearts and come out of our comfort zone, but most of all He has taught us how love is the most important thing to give and receive. We have come together as a group and will forever be brothers and sisters in Christ.



Are you on FaceBook????

In 2010 we developed a new and exciting resource tool to keep you, our many HLMS supporters, engaged and informed about all of the exciting things going on in Haiti. Through our Facebook page you will find photos, videos and interesting, current information on projects, prayer requests and news flashes. The Facebook page is by far the most user-friendly method for getting up to the minute communication. If you visit our Facebook page and click on the “like” button you will become a fan and automatically receive all HLMS Facebook updates to your newsfeed. Next time you are online check us out, like us and become a fan of “The Haiti Lutheran Mission Society, USA”.

President’s Report

(continued from page 2)

Such has been the case in Haiti for many, many years. The truth about a loving God who earnestly cares for and loves all people is largely unknown to many Haitians (and many citizens of our country as well). The truth about a Savior who is God, a Savior who entered our world through birth by a virgin and lived a perfect, sinless life before going to the cross and suffering and dying for our sins so the Father could forgive us is a truth unknown, and therefore not believed by many Haitians. Our pastors and laypeople in Haiti are out to bring this truth to light among their fellow countrymen. It is a truth that desperately needs to be proclaimed so that the old myths and ignorance of the Haitian people can be destroyed and the joyful truth of forgiveness and life after death can be a part of their lives. This is a truth that will set them free.

The next meeting of the HLMS Board of Directors will be held on Saturday, October 15 9:00 AM at the office of Buethe and Associates Insurance 2337 S. 13th Street Lincoln, NE (402) 474-2063

You have been a part of dispelling myths and ignorance in Haiti, just by virtue of your support of the work there. Thank you once again for your kind and generous support. I hope you will pray for Haiti and our workers and churches there. As great as the 2010 earthquake was, there is an even greater need today among the people of Haiti, that the truth of the gospel, that truth that sets people free, be proclaimed and shared among them.

God’s blessings to each and every one of you,
Rev. Robert W. Nowak, president

Pray For Haiti (August 2011)



Praise and Thank God:

1. For safe travel for Dick Buethe & his son, Paul, on their March trip to Haiti.
2. For the donation of a new 2011 Toyota Land Cruiser (13 passenger) truck for the church and school & for the generous heart of Paul Buethe, who gave it.
3. For the generosity of the St. Clair, Michigan, medical team, who hired a full time Haitian doctor to work with a nurse at Delmas 89.
4. For the work teams who have traveled to Haiti to help with the mission.
5. That classes are now being held in the new classrooms of the school building damaged by the earthquake.
6. For the great amount of work done to restore buildings damaged in the earthquake.
7. For a peaceful national presidential election in Haiti in March
8. For Concordia University recognizing the HLMS and the leadership of Dick Buethe with the Crest of Christ Award for outstanding service over the past 30 years.
9. For Lutherson (Pastor Louis & Elucie's youngest son) who is taking on more responsibility for the church and school and is helping Elucie and the church board.
10. For the continued prayer and financial support.
11. That the church and school are in good hands and are operating smoothly.
12. For continued generous financial support for our work in Haiti.

Prayer Requests:

1. For God to sustain & grow the mission in Haiti and give wisdom and strength to it's leaders.
2. That God would give peace and faith to all of our flock in Haiti.
3. For continued prayer and financial support.
4. For the continued spiritual growth of the churches and schools in Haiti.
5. For God's wisdom and discernment for the board members of the HLMS.



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