

November 2011



The Haiti Lutheran
Mission Society, USA

The Call

www.haitilutheran.org

*Please see a tribute to an
amazing woman of faith,
Norma Fix, on page 5!*

Giving thanks for YOU! by Rev. Robert Nowak, President, HLMS

Do you remember your days of confirmation and memory work? Each night we met for class we were expected to have some portion of scripture and/or the Small Catechism memorized. To be perfectly honest with you it wasn't my favorite part of the class. Yet I must admit I am greatly thankful for it today. I have often gone back to those memory passages in life. One I particularly remember is the close to the explanation of the First Article of the Apostles' Creed: "...for all which it is my duty TO THANK and praise, to serve and obey Him." The reference is, of course, to God and our response to what He has done for us. We are obliged to thank and praise Him!

As Thanksgiving dawns upon us these words seem fitting and appropriate for another audience; you. God gets the first and foremost glory and praise, but I also want to say it is my duty to thank and praise you for your great generosity this past year. Your sacrificial gifts have enabled the work of reaching the lost for Christ in Haiti to continue. Without your generous support young and old alike would not be taught about Jesus and His love. Without your generous

support Haitian children would not hear of Jesus in the classroom each day, the sick would not be treated at our medical clinic, the hungry would not be fed, workers would not be paid, facilities would not be built and restored following the devastating earthquake, and pastors who preach the gospel would not be provided for. Your gifts of love have made it possible for people without hope to have hope, not only for this life, but for an everlasting life in the world to come.

Interest rates at banks are notoriously low right now. At best a person might receive one or two percent, but dividends paid on your donations are MUCH GREATER! They are used to help reach souls for eternity.

Thank you once again for your support, and blessings on your Thanksgiving celebration!



Inside This Issue...

President's Report.....	2
27 Future Pastors.....	3
Dick Buethe's Trip Report.....	4
Thrivent Information.....	4
Tribute to Norma Fix.....	5
Prayer Requests.....	7

Letter From The HLMS President Pastor Nowak



Dear friends of Christ Jesus,

The work in Haiti is not unlike the work that goes on in the United States; it is the work of saving souls for Jesus and eternity. The Bible tells us that God wants all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth (I Tim. 2:4). Sometimes it seems that there are people who are so opposed to Jesus that coming to faith in Him seems impossible. Perhaps you know someone like that. Yet the Word of God gives us hope and encouragement at such times, no matter who it is that seems far removed from ever believing in Jesus. The Bible gives us more than one example of that, i.e. St. Paul before his conversion on the Road to Damascus, but there are others. One of them is found in the Old Testament, and is one you might easily overlook unless you have studied God's Word diligently.

"In Haiti, in the United States, in Nebraska, Michigan, Kansas, Iowa, Minnesota, wherever you live, there are those who have fallen so far away from the Lord that it seems there is no way they could ever believe in Him, let alone love Him, but the marvelous news is this, we have a loving and forgiving God who genuinely desires that all men be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth."

His name is Manasseh, and you will find the bulk of his story in II Kings 21. He was the son of Hezekiah, a Godly king. But in this case the son was not like the father. Manasseh took over the throne from his father when he was 22 years old and ruled for 55 years. His reign was marked by all sorts of evil (Read II Kings 21:3-9). Among other things he worshipped the stars, sacrificed his son into a fire, and did much more. He was so evil that the writer of Kings says, "Manasseh led them (the people) astray, so that they did more evil than the nations the Lord had destroyed before the Israelites (II Kings 21:9). Many have considered him the worst of all the kings who ruled Judah.

Because of such wickedness God brought great destruction on his kingdom (See II Kings 21:10-15). But that is not the end of the story. One must go to II Chronicles 33:11-12.

(continued on page 6)

Board of Directors
Rev. Robert Nowak
President
Dale Oberle
Vice President
Dick Buethe
Executive Director
Lyle Middendorf
Treasurer
Gordon Quitmeyer
Assistant Treasurer
Anita Harms
Secretary
Rev. Tom Brinkley
VP Seminary Training
Tim Costello
VP Publications
Keith Waller
VP Construction Teams
Kim Waller
VP Church Contact Team
Rob Sweet
VP Teaching
Warren Viehl
VP Medical/Theological Education
Georg Williams
VP Seminary Instruction
Danielle Tietjen
VP Construction Teams
Rev. David Johnson
VP Seminary Instruction
Rev. David Mommens
Advisory Board Member
Dianne Ruprich
Congregation - LWML Contact
Dr. Michael Priebe
VP Medical Teams
Advisory Board Members
Rev. Dr. Charles Reimnitz
Mrs. Marge Dahlke
Rev. Clint Poppee

"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

Twenty-Seven Future Pastors

by Pastor Georg Williams, Zion Lutheran Church, Ainsworth, NE



Over a decade ago a much younger rural Nebraska pastor with a lot of doubts in his mind heeded the call of la Première Eglise Evangélique Luthérienne, de Pétion-Ville to be a part of the birthing of a new certificated Lutheran Seminary in Haiti. A seminary there would increase not only the level of scholarship of the pastors being trained for the Lutheran churches but also that of other churches which in many ways have come into greater contact with the biblically sound and wonderful Lutheran doctrine. A hurricane has been experienced, a political coup happened, horrendous devastation was seen in the aftermath of an earthquake. Much has changed and MUCH has stayed the same. It is still Haiti.

This past trip was still filled with the same fear and doubts even though I have done this many times. It's not as easy as I age. This time the Rose of Sharon blossomed and the Lily of the Valley trumpeted the glorious work our Lord has done through the HLMS. I am convinced that the decade of work has paid off. Not only have we done all that the government has demanded and the required paperwork of the Department of Education for certification, we now have a second generation of young men, being trained in the full doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran church. A decade ago no one but our sainted Dr. Louis sounded Lutheran but I am bold to confess with joy that many of the new students sound Lutheran. Our work in this educational endeavor has not been in vain and for that the Lord of the Church should be praised. Nous croyons en l'Évangile qui dit, devant Dieu à cause de le sange et corp de Jésus-Christ et par la foi, nous sommes juste. Ceci justice et la vie éternelle nous sont accordés. (AC IV).

The church except for one small repair inside and the final coat of stucco/painting is wonderfully repaired. Other church buildings still lie in devastation. Our Lord be praised for He has given to you the joyous desire of allowing our brothers and sisters in Haiti to display quickly the love of their fellow Lutherans in the US. This thanks more than once was verbalized to me. For the school buildings, I can report that the window tiles were being made, installed and the final ceiling and wall finishes were being troweled smooth. I was assured that it will be ready for school. The basketball courtyard has been lost to a third story small apartment.

The worship was liturgical, the Creed confessed, the Lord's Prayer spoken by all and the Holy Supper given properly. The lessons read were no different that yours except in French. The Divine Service, other than being hot, was just like home. I personally give thanks to the Society for the privilege of being a part, not only in a social ministry of food, clothing, medicine and education, but also in a ministry filled with the spiritual milk of the Word of the Gospel. In First Lutheran church we preach that Jesus has loved us all; given His life so that we are not only justified, but are accorded everlasting life. Amen.



Dick's Trip Reports - A Difficult Trip to Haiti

Dick Buethe, Executive Director, HLMS
(August 11 - 21, 2011)



The trip began as usual when I departed very early a.m. from Omaha. Things began falling apart as one of the interstate entrances was closed and a 30 mile detour slowed my progress considerably. After departure all segments of my flights were on time and I arrived in P.A.P. on time in the afternoon. I soon learned only one of my two checked bags arrived with me. I waited for the next scheduled American Airlines flight to arrive hoping my other bag would follow me. I was told to come back the next day to check again. This I did and also the day after that and so on. Finally on the fourth day my bag did arrive.

Sunday evening I was invited to Leonard Isador's home for supper and afterward I invited the family out for dessert - ice cream is always good on a the warm evening. This turned out to be a big mistake as the next day all of us were very sick. I can't remember ever being so ill and for so long. Monday was a lost day for me, as it was also for most all the guests I had "treated".

Tuesday morning Leonard picked me up at 6:00 a.m. for my return trip home. At the airport we learned that because of hurricane Irene no flights were leaving Haiti. When I called home my wife Nancy said American Airline had called our home to report no flights would be leaving Haiti until the next Sunday at noon.

During the time I remained in Haiti all was not lost. I recovered from the ice cream and was able to go to a Thursday evening prayer service at Pellerin as well as the Friday and Sunday morning church services at Delmas 89 Church and an evening service at Carrideux. The services were all well attended with Sunday morning at Delmas even the balcony was full. During my next five days I spent several days making plans with Elucie and Lutherson. I also went back to services at Delmas and Pellerin.

Meanwhile back at home. . . Our brand new Honda minivan was damaged badly while parked at the airport in Omaha by baseball to softball size hail on the very night I had departed. Thank you to all of you who prayed for me while I was in Haiti.

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

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Thrivent's charitable gift program, THRIVENT CHOICE, has an easy way to find out if you have Choice Dollars, and to direct those dollars to HAITI LUTHERAN MISSION SOCIETY, USA.

1. CALL 1-800-847-4836

...An automated system will answer the phone with a message that ends with the words, "briefly, how can I help you today?"

2. Speak the words: "CHOICE DOLLARS"

...The receptionist will come on the line and ask a few questions to verify your account information.

3. Please select HAITI LUTHERAN MISSION SOCIETY, USA.

...As your charitable organization.

Thank you for your past and present support!

Pastor Norma? by Rev. Dr. Charles Reimnitz

“...the sincere faith which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice, and now lives in you...” 2 Timothy 1:5



Don't you just hate it when someone calls you by phone and starts talking as if you know who they are, especially if you can't recognize their voice? Never a problem with Norma Fix, a member at Christ Lutheran in Lincoln. Since our retirement from Christ Lutheran some years ago Norma has kept in contact with my wife Betty. If I happen to answer the phone when Norma is calling I hear: "Pastor Norma"... No sound of a comma, no pause, just a straight forward "Pastor Norma!" She had done this even while we were still in Lincoln.

So much so that it became a standing joke between us. Whenever I saw her on the church property, whether taking care of the altar flowers (how many years? I lost count long ago!), going to sewing circle to make lap robes for people in nursing homes or for missions, setting up communion, attending a Ladies Bible Class or whatever, I would always say: "Hi, Pastor Norma!"

If ever the Missouri Synod would consider allowing women to be pastors I would nominate someone who would have Norma's passion for the Lord and her drive to make sure her family members knew the Lord. "Perish the thought of women pastors!" Norma would have said, having come from a very conservative Zion Lutheran Church in Pierce, Nebraska and being firmly Biblically oriented in her thinking and actions.

Recently we attended her funeral, her death resulting from a tragic fall down stairs as she, was busy as usual, was carrying items to be stowed as part of her unending service to others.

Mothers, what's the first question you ask a prospective daughter-in-law? Here's what you would do if you were a Norma. At the reception following Norma's funeral service I wandered over to the serving area to refill my cup of coffee. Cathy, one of her daughters-in-law approached me and said: "Pastor, there is something I'd like to share with you." "When Brad brought me home to visit his family for the first time Norma immediately took me to the side and asked; 'Are you baptized?'"

Wow, under the circumstances, or in any situation, who would have the nerve to ask a question like that? For Norma this was normal, this was the way it should be! Cathy with her parent's guidance had attended Sunday School regularly responded; "I really don't know!" She was instructed and baptized. How offended was she?



Norma Fix

Cathy went on to say; "Norma was always on top of our religious training. Every baptism, every confirmation, every marriage meant there was some reminder of our faith, whether a Bible with our names imprinted or some other faith reminder." Then Cathy added the clincher: "You know, I've always thought of Norma as my second mother!" The baptism question didn't bother her. *"The faith that was in your grandmother...mother...now in you!"* That was Pastor Norma's (as I'll continue to call her) life's goal.

Norma specified that in the event of her death memorials should be given to the HLMS. We challenge you to have the same passion and driving desire to share God's Word and we invite you to designate the HLMS to receive memorials at your death. But even if you choose not to do so, we ask you to help many more Haitians become baptized, taught and confirmed in the faith. Please use the enclosed envelope to share your money gift, and add your prayers for the success of the work of the HLMS... they will help achieve the goal of saving lost souls in Haiti.



Are you on FaceBook?

Find us on FaceBook to keep up with the latest photos, videos, prayer requests and events. Log into FaceBook and find us at "The Haiti Lutheran Mission Society USA" and 'like' us. See you there!

President's Report

(continued from page 2)

Manasseh, after being taken prisoner by the Assyrians, being bound in bronze shackles and a hook put in his nose, sought out the mercy of God. The words of II Chronicles are precious indeed: "In his distress he sought the favor of the Lord his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers. And when he prayed to Him, the Lord was moved by his entreaty and listened to his plea; so he brought him back to Jerusalem and to his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the Lord is God." If you read on in the chapter you will find that Manasseh got rid of the foreign gods he had worshiped and restored the altar of the Lord.

What an incredible story! In Haiti, in the United States, in Nebraska, Michigan, Kansas, Iowa, Minnesota, wherever you live, there are those who have fallen so far away from the Lord that it seems there is no way they could ever believe in Him, let alone love Him, but the marvelous news is this, we have a loving and forgiving God who genuinely desires that all men be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth. He gave His Son for all, and all who repent and believe in Him have forgiveness and eternal life.

It is for this reason that we should never give up on anyone, whether that person lives in Haiti or your neighborhood. If God could bring back Manasseh, He can bring back any and every person you and I know, no matter how far away from the Lord that person may be.
Blessings to all of you in Christ,
Rev. Robert W. Nowak, President



Pray For Haiti

(November/December 2011)



Praise and Thank God:

1. For safe travel of many teams that traveled to Haiti in 2011.
2. For the 13 teams that have booked trips to Haiti the first half of 2012.
3. For the many willing hands and the numerous work projects completed in 2011.
4. For the completion of the re-building of our school at Delmas 89.
5. For the continued prayers and financial support of our faithful HLMS supporters.
6. For the peaceful working conditions in the country of Haiti.
7. For the Orphan Grain Train's willingness to help the HLMS by sending a container to Haiti.
8. For the leadership of the HLMS board of directors.
9. For the pastors and staff serving 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.



The next meeting of the HLMS Board of Directors will be held on Saturday, January 28, 2012 9:00 AM at the office of Buethe and Associates Insurance 2337 S. 13th Street Lincoln, NE (402) 474-2063

HLMS Call

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



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

Return Service Requested



The HLMS Call is
a Publication of the Haiti
Lutheran Mission Society, USA
whose work is based in:
Carrideux
Citi Soleil
Delmas 89
Lilavois
Les Cayes
Petionville

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: _____

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