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Quick, Informational Trip to Cap Haitien

by Kim Waller

Bob Wingfield, Keith and Kim Waller traveled to Cap Haitien to gather information this past July! It was a quick trip but filled with all kinds of golden nuggets! Our main goal was to discuss future plans for a Seminary in this area of the country as it is safer for teaching and learning the Word of God!

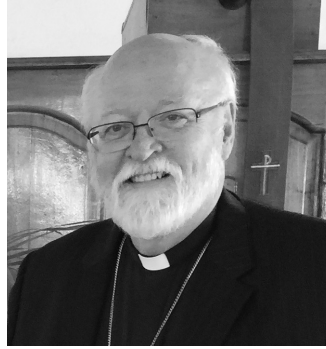
It was an exciting adventure we were all honored to be a part of! We were able to talk with Pastor Eliona Bernard for hours on each day we were there as he gave us answers to the many questions Bob had carefully put together! On our final day we had a meeting with the architect! Pastor Marky (who flew in from Jacmel) and Pastor Gergens (who we met last January) surprised us by joining the meeting, showing their great support for a desperately needed Seminary! A place to teach the next generation of Pastors in their own (continued on page 4)



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear friends in Christ and friends of Haiti,

Genesis 15, vs. 5-6 - "He took him outside and said, 'Look up at the heavens and count the stars - if indeed you can count them'. Then He said to him, 'so shall your offspring be'. Abraham believed the Lord, and He credited it to him as righteousness."



Pastor Jim Dahlke

This incident with Abram reminded me of a few things - the hymn "Earth and All Stars"; the old ditty - star light, star bright, first star I see tonight, I wish I may, I wish I might, have the wish I wish tonight; Jiminy Cricket - "when you wish upon a star, makes no difference who you are, when you wish upon a star, your dreams come true".

I'm not sure Abram was wishing, but he certainly could have been wondering. God promised that He would bring forth from Abram a great nation. God has promised that in him, all the nations of the world would be blessed through his Seed. The problem - no offspring, no son to be found, no chance of a barren wife to bear that son. And the biological clocks were ticking. Time was running out and no heir to inherit anything.

Twice in this section we read - "The Word of the Lord came to Abram". That's all Abram got - no special sign, no outward proof - just an invitation to look at the stars, followed by a sure promise in God's Word. In a seemingly impossible situation, with fear controlling his thoughts, Abram hears God's promise - "this one shall not be your heir, but one that will come from your own body"

Impossible situations. God asks us to trust and believe. In our limited human perspective, lots of what God's Word says seems impossible - creating the
(continued page 3)

THE CALL

Published by the Haiti
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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

universe in six, ordinary days; a worldwide flood and an ark that preserved animals, Noah, and his family; the all-powerful God stooping down to put on our flesh and blood, entering our dying world to die for the world's sins; faith given and new life given to one dead in trespasses and sin; Jesus rising from the dead and our resurrection on the last day.

Fearful situations. God asks us to trust and believe. God knows what plagues us, what fears and questions we have, what hurts and haunts us. The devil, the world, and our flesh would like us to see our situation with our earthly eyes and mind and take our eyes off of Jesus. There is nothing God has not dealt with in Christ. God has promised to be with us, to never leave us or forsake us. Fear is not of God.

We may have only a sense of what our Haitian brothers and sisters are experiencing. We know the daily temptations and challenges of our own life. We all may see our situation as one with no solution. Fear is brought on as we use logic and reason, senses and emotions to figure things out. God already has things figured out. So, with Abram and all the saints, we hear, "Fear not, I am with you."

It's not about wishing on a star or wishing things were better or different or less stressful. It's about a Word from God that promises He is the God of the impossible in which there is no fear. "Be still and know that I am God."

Rev. Jim Dahlke, President

P.S. Currently, I am teaching an on-line course in Early Church History to about 60-70 Haitian seminarians, pastors and other interested folks. They meet on Saturdays in the Central Plateau for two hours with others "zooming in" from Jeremie, PAP, and other locations. Pastor Josue Diendonnie is translating into French as I teach. Interesting, but so far, so good.



Quick, Informational Trip to Cap Haitien...(continued from cover)

language! May God Bless all these efforts and may His glory always be seen! We want God's Will not ours!

During this quick trip we were also able to do some exploring and planning of this new area for our next trip in January 2024! We explored Cap Haitien (finding new markets and places to purchase food), also the neighborhood close to the Guesthouse (which has a lot of need) and our biggest golden nugget was our trip to Ouanamanthe (Wanamith- where Bob has served in the past)! Upon arrival in Ouanamanthe we were greeted by hugs and kisses by many children, given a tour of their orphanage, saw Pastor Daniel Paul's church, met Pastor Yves and went to his church! Pastor's wife served us lunch and the children sang for us- Oh, what a Glorious day!

Another golden nugget was that Hudson came up from Port Au Prince to get supplies from Keith and ended up staying the 3 days we were there! What a very special time for all of us!



Hudsen was a great help in translating and even met some of his cousins for the first time in Ouanamanthe! Of course he did! We Thank the Lord for this time of learning and refreshment and seeing some of our Haitian brothers and sisters! To God be the Glory Always!!



Pastor Thomas - letter - August 31, 2023

Brothers, Sisters and Friends in Christ,

Hearty greetings in the name of the King of kings, Jesus Christ whose blood cleanses us from all sins and iniquities! We give thanks unto the Lord for all the blessings received from Him and most importantly for the forgiveness of our sins.

I pray this letter finds you well as our Heavenly Father continues to preserve and keep us in true faith so that in all circumstances we continue to praise and give thanks to Him. We always feel disturbed to mention in each letter we send out the crucial situation of the country. We would prefer to share things that motivate us to give thanks to God. Unfortunately, that is not the case. Most of the time our letters break your heart and make you sad. Sometimes we might even think that God forgets His promises. But God always knows what He is doing; He never forgets his promises. His loving concern for his people moves him to take appropriate action at the right time.

As you may learn in the news, the current situation is very complex, but no matter what, God is in control. In this time of distress, we focus on God's Word and his promises. As we are battling with this socio-politico situation, we know that God will step in and put all things under his feet. As Christian leaders, we encourage our members to remain faithful in times of suffering and hardships because through suffering we may be equipped to comfort others. Even in a time of suffering, God is still our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in time of trouble (psalm 46 : 1). Our God still reigns. Alleluia. We gave thanks to God that **(continued page 6)**

Pastor Thomas - Letter (continued from page 5)

despite the socio-politico situation that has impacted the Haitian Community, we can worship regularly. However, we often need to shorten our evening services just to one hour on Wednesday for prayer meetings and Friday for Bible study. Most of the activities such as business meetings, choir rehearsal, and visitation take place on Sunday. Some Sundays we even eat at the church. Because of the current situation, a few family members from our church left the country to go and live overseas which affects church attendance and our congregation.



As for our school, we are getting ready for the reopening on September 11, 2023. We have a pleasant number of students, and it seems the number of students may increase from 500 to 550 for this academic school year (2023-2024). This increase is mainly due to the relocation of families in surrounding neighborhoods as the social conditions and cost of living continue to escalate.

What a privilege and opportunity to be able to share the good news of salvation and teach all these students in the Luther's Small Catechism! By doing so, we are not only building character for the future generation but also the Kingdom of God. As always, our consecrating and thanksgiving ceremony will be held on the first Monday of October 2023, to dedicate the school year to God.

We thank each of you for your continuous prayers and support. By doing so, you help us to better serve the community and carry out the mission entrusted to us which is to go and make disciples...(Matthew 28 : 19-20).

In Him, Pastor Thomas Bernard.

Tribute and Thanks to Gordon Quitmeyer, Servant of the Lord on Behalf of the people of Haiti, In Response to His Retirement as HLMS Assistant Treasurer and BOD member.



Even before the conception of the Haiti Lutheran Mission Society (HLMS) in 1990, as part of the ministerial outreach of Christ Lutheran Church, Lincoln, Nebraska dating back to the early 1980s, Gordon Quitmeyer has poured his heart into the ministry and service to the people of Haiti. Coming from an accounting background, including a CPA license, university academic teaching, and industrial CFO experience, Gordon has combined his vocational skills with Godly wisdom regarding the direction of the HLMS. Over the years many events, both joyful and sorrowful, have filled the efforts of the HLMS, including the use of capital expenditures and on-going budget support to joyfully recognize God's hand in this ministry, along with the untimely and sorrowful physical deaths of several of God's Haiti Lutheran servants as they were used by God to impact the eternal lives of the individuals they served. Gordon has been alongside of them, in prayer and support, including traveling to Haiti. God is now leading Gordon to 'retire' from his position as HLMS Assistant Treasurer and Member of the HLMS Board of Directors in October, although we know his heart will always be 'working' before God on behalf of the Haitian students, families, schools, and churches. Soli Deo gloria.

PRAYERS FOR HAITI

Fall 2023

Prayers of Thanksgiving:

- For the safety of the Waller lead group who went down in July to Cap-Haitien gathering information for a future Seminary in the area.
- For the leadership, teachers, and students who continue on in the face of fear, violence and unrest because they understand the need to know God's Word and Christian values.
- For the wisdom and fortitude of dear Haitian workers in our churches, schools and orphanages & for the opportunity to minister to physical & spiritual needs of those they serve.
- For your continued prayers and financial support for the HLMS Mission so that both bodies and souls are fed.
- For the loyal, self-sacrificing, competent service of Gordon Quitmeyer on the board of directors, and helping the organization for almost 40 years and the truly special person God made him to be. May his influence on God's Kingdom continue on.

Prayer Requests—Please PRAY:

- For ourselves and the Haitian people to never lose Hope remembering if God is with us, who can be against us. Changes may not happen according to our timeline, but they will happen according to God's will.
- For additional donations to help us support these mission outreaches at one hundred percent when the needs are so great.
- For new support so that we can be more prepared to help when crisis occurs.
- For the continued safety of those in Haiti, for their health and for the stability of the nation.
- That God would prepare the way for volunteer teams traveling to Haiti this coming winter so that God's love can be seen and felt through their work.
- That God would sustain & continue to grow the mission in Haiti and give continued enthusiasm,
- wisdom and strength to its leaders, loyal contributors and board members. For God's wisdom and discernment for the board members as they lead the HLMS.

**The next meeting of the
Board of Directors of the HLMS
will be held on
Saturday, October 28th, 2023
at 9 AM
at Messiah Lutheran Church
1800 S 84th St
Lincoln, Nebraska**



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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 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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