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HLMS President Rev. Robert Nowak's September Trip to Haiti

Jack Hunter and I, Rev. Robert Nowak, left Minneapolis on September 30 for a short trip to Haiti. The main purpose of our trip was to examine a building that our mission society purchased. It is situated adjacent to the church in Cite Soliel. The challenge that we are confronted with is how to join the two buildings together to form a larger church.

Presently the church there is out of space, filled to capacity on Sunday mornings. What a blessed problem to have!!

We are greatly blessed to have Jack Hunter on our board. He is an engineer who has a great deal of experience with major building and remodeling projects. On our first day we traveled to the site with Pastor Bernard. We took careful measurements of the two buildings, then Jack made a rough drawing on what would be needed to make the two buildings one. His plan is a great improvement to the current facility and will look beautiful when complete. We presented the plans to Pastor Bernard the following morning and he was thoroughly supportive and very excited.

On Tuesday evening Leonard invited us to his house for supper, then we worshipped at his home where the new church, Zion Lutheran, is currently meeting. Once again, the entire area where they worship was completely filled with worshippers. Leonard has made significant improvements to the area—a steel roof overhead, chairs, an altar, etc.—but the need for additional space is acute. Pastor Maurice Pierre delivered the sermon that evening, and the people responded with great joy.

Wednesday found us meeting with Pastor Bernard in the morning, then Pastor Louidor and Pastor Pierre in the afternoon. We discussed various issues with the two Haitian pastors and encouraged them to seek the help and guidance of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti to find solutions to some of the challenges they face in a growing and dynamic church.

(continued on next page)

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(continued from cover)

We also took the opportunity to meet with Elucie Louis on Wednesday morning. We had not seen or talked with her in some time and felt it would be a good idea to make contact with her once again. We had a wonderful visit with her. She continues to struggle with the death of her beloved husband, a fact which all of us can easily understand. I always had the impression that they operated as a team with Pastor Louis seeing to the spiritual side of things and Elucie attending to the building projects. We had a prayer with her and gave and received warm hugs. I have known Pastor and Elucie for almost 25 years. They have stayed at our home in the past and preached at my former congregation. I was always warmly received and cordially treated by both of them when I traveled to Haiti, so it was an emotional moment for me to see her once again and see the pain that is still there at the loss of her dear husband.



On a different note, as we traveled about Port-Au-Prince it was heartwarming to see the improvements that are being made. For the first time ever in all my trips to Haiti I actually saw asphalt being laid on some of the residential streets. Those of you who have traveled to Haiti know how deplorable the city streets are, so to actually see such improvements being made was thrilling. Other improvements were also evident—less pollution, a much improved airport, new buildings, etc.

As we packed up for home on Wednesday evening I felt that this was one of the most productive trips I have made to Haiti in some time, even though it was a short one.

Rev. Robert Nowak

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



President's Annual Report - 2013

This past year we have seen great blessings in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti. I was part of a mission team that was in Haiti in January of this year. We were able to visit Rev. Thomas Bernard and his church in Petionville. On the Sunday we were there I had the privilege of delivering the sermon. The church was filled to capacity and the parishioners sung their hearts out. It was a most uplifting experience.

We also saw the condition of the roof on the church. The wooden trusses were rotting and some were actually collapsing. Pastor Bernard told us that he could not conduct any weddings during the rainy season because the roof leaked. The mission society, with the help and support of all our donors, took it upon ourselves to finance a new roof. That was accomplished this year. I had the opportunity to see the new roof this October when I was down there on a short mission trip and I can tell you the facility is beautiful. What a difference the roof made. We can't thank our donors enough for their generosity to make such projects possible.

Progress has also been made on the new church in Leogane. It is not yet complete, but it is almost there. A pastor is working down there (it is south of Port-Au-Prince) and services are being held in a portion of the building. Praise God for that!

More important than buildings however, are people, and we can report that the numbers of people in worship and school are increasing. The church at Cite Soliel has outgrown its facility. We purchased a small building next door to that church and are currently evaluating how we might expand our current facility to provide more room for worship.

A new church has formed, Sion (we would probably spell it Zion) which worships at Leonard Isador's home. We worshipped there on Tuesday night October 1 for a prayer service. Even though it was Tuesday evening and it was raining, there was a near capacity crowd, about 75 people in attendance. There is little space for more worshippers so a solution will have to be found. We ask God to provide one for us.

These blessings, and more, present our mission society with a challenge, how do we fund these numerous building and remodeling projects? Add to this the fact that we now support the ELCH which encompasses all of Haiti and you can see the enormous opportunities that God has put before us.

Another challenge that confronts us is to assist in providing a sound theological education for current and future pastors. Rev. Dr. Georg Williams has led the way in theological training and provided a great help by teaching a class this year in Cape Haitian. Teaching there is a first for us. Sound theological training is absolutely critical to the advancement of the Lutheran church in Haiti and is something we can not overlook. It is an area that we need to continue to support.

We thank God that He has placed all of these challenges before us. They are tremendous opportunities which lead to the salvation of souls. Our need is to expand our donor base by helping God's people catch the vision and hope that is in Haiti. The opportunities are nearly endless. To me, that is exciting!
Respectfully submitted,



Rev. Robert Nowak

Haiti The First Time

John Kalusniak

The people of Haiti are making huge strides since the earthquake a few short years ago. This trip was special for me in a lot of ways. I have been to Haiti now 5 times, lead the team 4 times but for me this was a year of a lot of “firsts”.

- It was the first time Pastor Bernard asked me to sit in the place of honor on the Alter on Sunday. I enjoyed seeing the faces of the people worshipping the lord with unrestrained joy.
- First time I attended church at Leonard’s car port. They let us distribute mangos. It was difficult for me to understand how a simple task could bring hope and encouragement to a group of people. I guess Jesus works in His own way and sometimes in the simplest tasks.
- First time I purchased food for Leonard’s church. He has a policy if he gets something he has to share with other churches too. He shared the food we purchased with Cite Soliel and Lilavois. I only wish we could have purchased more.
- First time I experienced a tropical depression (Chantel).....well almost.
- Tuesday tropical depression Chantel was bearing down on the Island and UN troops were being mobilized to keep the peace. The storm was supposed to hit just short of hurricane strength, 70 mph winds and dump 8 inches of rain. My church prayed for our safety. At the last minute the storm turned out to sea and died. We did not even get a good rain. I will never doubt the power of prayer again. He said we can move mountains with the faith of a mustard seed. I saw a tropical depression diverted.
- First time I saw someone get taken out in an emergency flight home. Thanking God it was not someone from my team. Susan from Palm Presbyterian in Jacksonville Florida was fine in the end
- First time Uncle Leo took me to City de Soliel to do a food drop. I was a little worried but knew Leonard would never put me in a position that was not safe. I was glad I was able to share the experience and fellowship with Allie.
- First time we did a no cell phone trip. Was nice to not have things in the way of people.
- The first time I have ever met two people that knew all the words to Queen’s Bohemian Rhapsody... nicely done Austin and Callie. Christian songs on the bus ride home were really nice too.



Gods Blessings

John Kalusniak



Thank You From Pastor Thomas in Haiti

October 10, 2013

Dear Members of the Haiti Lutheran Mission Society (HLMS) and all the Supporters of the Lord's ministry in Haiti,

Grace and Peace be unto you from God our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

On behalf of the Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church and School I am pleased to write you this letter in which I want to thank you so much for all the blessings received from each one of you from the beginning of January 2013 up to now. Words and expressions are not sufficient to really express our thankfulness to you for your Christian love and commitment to the ministry that the Lord has entrusted to us.

We have started the academic school year 2013-2014 with joy and excitement. 265 students have yet come for the second week of school. We are expecting to receive the 35 others who do not come yet in the coming weeks. Uniforms have been distributed to them. We pray that backpacks are coming soon. (*Editor's note - the HLMS has recently sent funds to purchase backpacks for the students!) As you know, the uniforms and backpacks have made a positive impact on the lives of our students and also on our school. That is a tremendous blessing for the parents whose living conditions are really chaotic.

Once again, thank you for your constant prayers, your love, your commitment and your financial support. May our Master continue to bless you and your ministry!

Brotherly yours in the resurrected One,
Pastor Thomas Bernard.



HAITI TRIP September, 2013

DICK BUETHE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HLMS



I departed from Omaha on my regular schedule early morning connection. I carried two large checked bags containing children's clothing and shoes, a movie screen for the church, auto jumper cables and other miscellaneous requested items. Pastor Maurice Pieré's church requested the movie screen to show Christian movies after church services. I arrived in Miami an hour late due to take off problems in Omaha. I was met by Leonard Isadore, my good and faithful friend and driver. This was my first trip to Haiti since my good Haitian friend and helper of 33 years, John, was shot and killed just three weeks before.

I called Pastor Thomas Bernard and made an appointment for the next day. At our meeting we worked on his proposed budget for 2014 and checked the new construction on the library at the church and school at Delmas 73.

I was visited by three of my friend John's good friends asking for assistance in paying for his funeral. I was happy and honored to help his very poor family with this debt. With funds I had taken down from the HLMS for food, I bought forty 55 pound bags of rice to deliver to homes. Leonard also helped bag rice into smaller 10 pound bags to deliver to parishioners of Pastor Maurice's church.

During my trip I was able to attend three beautiful church services and two bible studies. I also met with our three Pastors assembling ideas of their needs and helping to strategize with them on ideas for the growth of their churches.

Thank you for your prayers on my behalf for safety during my travels to Haiti!

Sincerely, Dick Buethe



PRAYERS FOR HAITI

Praise and Thank God:

- for safe travel to the US for Pastor Thomas this October.
- for those who donated funds to sponsor several members of Messiah Lutheran Church to travel to Haiti.
- for our growing Lutheran churches in Haiti.
- for the repair of the well at The House Of Hope And Love orphanage.
- for the donated shoes, clothing, diapers and miscellaneous items delivered to Haiti in March.
- for another container from Orphan Grain Train that arrived safely.
- for the faithful leadership of the HLMS Board.
- for the continued prayer and financial support for the HLMS Mission.

Prayer Requests:

- for financial donations for our mission so we can purchase food and other necessities to help meet the basic needs of individuals in Haiti.
- for all of our Haiti Lutheran pastors, congregations, school children - that they will continue to grow in the faith & knowledge of Christ.
- for the teams coming to help with our churches this fall and winter, 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. --that God would sustain & continue to grow the mission in Haiti and give continued enthusiasm, wisdom and strength to its leaders.
- that God would give peace and faith to all of our flock in Haiti.
- for continued prayer and financial support.
- 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, January 25, 2014 at 9 AM at the office of Buethe And Associates Insurance Lincoln, Nebraska



HLMS Call

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_____ 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.

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HLMS brochure. I need ___ copies.

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