



The Call

February 2013

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! If you haven't visted our **Facebook** page, you don't know what you're missing! You will find a mission trip video, an interview with a sponsored student, numerous photos and updates. Find us at "Haiti Lutheran Mission Society, USA" and "like" us today!



A message from the Editor-

On January 14th I returned from my fifth trip to Haiti. I was so thankful for the opportunity to travel with my father on his approximately 160th journey and my 16-year-old son Jackson's first. Memories from my first trip to Haiti at the age of 13 will forever be with me, and I loved witnessing the awe in Jackson's eyes as he experienced the beauty of the Haitian people, culture and country.

As the editor of the HLMS newsletter and social media outreach, I was looking forward to capturing images of new mission sites supported by the organization to better communicate this outreach with you. **I came away with a renewed appreciation for the work of the HLMS and its powerful impact on the lives of so many people.** That an organization completely run by volunteers and supported by faithful donors can make the impact we are making, it is truly miraculous. *(continued on page 4)*



Dick Buethe and Jackson Costello at The House of Hope and Love Orphanage

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus,

The mission team from Prior Lake, Minnesota, plus one from Milwaukee, left the US for Haiti on Thursday, January 3. Our trip began with the arrival at the Minneapolis airport around 5 AM and did not end until we had seated



ourselves in the Palm Inn Hotel in Port-Au-Prince about 6 PM. We had concerns about airport security since news reports had talked of robberies and kidnappings at that location, but we had no problems. In fact, the airport has been remodeled since we were there last January, and everything, including customs and picking up our baggage, went smoother than ever.

Our first days were spent in visiting with Pastor Thomas Bernard at his church and school, visiting an orphanage, and worshipping at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Carradeux. This is Pastor Bernard's church. We were more than impressed with the joy and excitement that poured forth from the mouths and hearts of the Haitian worshippers. The church was filled to capacity. The choir sang several songs, and I had the genuine privilege of delivering the sermon that day. We are always impressed at how well dressed the Haitian people are when they come to church. Here in the USA it seems there is a great trend toward dressing casually for worship, but in Haiti it is apparent that everyone wears the very best they have.

We also had the opportunity to drive out to Leogane and visit the church that is being built there. Many thanks to the Wallers and their teams for the great work they have done there. It is a beautiful location, quite removed from the sights and sounds of Port-Au-Prince. Finishing work such as plastering still needs to be completed on the church. When it is done, it will provide a wonderful place of worship for God's people.

(continued on next page)

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

“It is your contributions that help fill the classrooms and provide the leaders at the church and school the opportunity to share the message of salvation with children who might otherwise never come to know the Savior.”

While in Leogane we also visited the compound built by the Missouri Synod. There is a seminary building, a home for visiting professors to stay at when teaching, a new church, and several homes that will provide

housing for needy families. It is our understanding that this will shortly be turned over to the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti. **We were once again reminded of the nearness of Satan as we stood on the front porch of the seminary and looked directly east to see a voodoo temple right next door.** It is a visual reminder of how the Church is always under the attack of Satan who is never far away.

Monday found us visiting the school at Pastor Bernard’s church where we found many students and teachers. We are so thankful for your support of Haitian children in the school. **It is your contributions that help fill the classrooms and provide the leaders at the church and school the opportunity to share the message of salvation with children who might otherwise never come to know the Savior.**

Everyone on our team agreed that it was a successful and blessed trip. When our plane finally took off—an hour and a half late on Thursday--we did so with a lump in our throats, convinced that the Holy Spirit is still working in this country chained in poverty, but free to worship, praise and thank our gracious Lord and God.

Rev., Robert Nowak



Pastors Gee, Loudior, Bernard, Nowak and Pierre



Message from the Editor *continued from cover*

One of the sermons we heard during our visit shared a message about the story of Jesus' first miracle, turning the water to wine at a wedding in Cana. The pastor asked the congregation to consider how often we limit, through lack of faith, what Jesus can do in our circumstances. How often do we settle for water when he wants to work miracles for us? **Many people will ask, "Why Haiti? That country has so many problems. It is so unstable, so unsafe, so unhealthy. Why go? Why keep trying?" If you ask any individual with the HLMS who has traveled to Haiti the answer will be a resounding "because miracles still exist and God is doing amazing work in Haiti."**

Your donation dollars are currently funding the work of five pastors, investing in the future of this country by sponsoring children to attend school, providing for orphans and funding a much needed medical clinic. **I wish I could take you**



each with me to Haiti to witness the miracles that come from this support first hand, but the images we captured and the stories we share will have to suffice for now. Thank you for allowing this work to continue. It is amazing work and we could not do it without you.

– Kris Costello, Messiah Lutheran Church, Lincoln, Nebraska

(Feel free to contact me at any time about the print or social media outreach of the HLMS through our Facebook page, as featured on the cover.)



Jackson Costello with friends in Port-au-Prince



Kris Costello at The House of Hope and Love Orphanage



A TRIP TO REMEMBER January 3rd ~ January 10th, 2012

This was my sixth trip to Haiti, and I didn't realize how this trip would impact me. I definitely enjoyed seeing Pastor Thomas Bernard's churches and his school. I believe it's safe to say that we were all impressed with Pastor Bernard's warm personality and his servant heart.

All three of Pastor Bernard's churches are called Good Shepherd, differentiated by adding their location, Carradeux, Leogane and Cite Soleil. We visited the Carradeux church where the men inspected and took pictures of the roof. The supports were made of untreated wood which had begun to warp and pull apart. Time for a new roof! I was pleased to meet the two principals of the school. As the Sponsorship Coordinator for the HLMS, I appreciate the student pictures that I receive from them.

Pastor Bernard accompanied us to the Good Shepherd Church in Leogane. The church there had been destroyed in the earthquake and a new one is being built. While in Leogane we visited the new seminary and guest house that is finished but needs furniture and textbooks. Those of us who had already experienced Cite Soleil didn't find it necessary to have a repeat visit! Pastor Bernard goes there about once a month and only during the day.

The highlight of the trip was our day at the House of Love and Hope or, as we call it, Josie's Orphanage. The children were very curious about us. The younger ones had big eyes and no smiles. Our first pictures show very serious faces. As we moved into crafts (and lunch & candy!), they slowly blossomed and their personalities started to show. They loved having their pictures taken and seeing themselves. Finally, smiles! We were never able to get one very solemn little girl to smile. She had arrived malnourished and anemic and still is not well. I couldn't help but wonder what she was thinking. It was very difficult when it came time to leave.



Chapel time Friday morning at school



Getting ready for lunch at the orphanage

It gets harder each trip to say goodbye to our Haitian friends. In the morning we're in Haiti and later that night we're in Minnesota with nice homes, dependable electricity, clean water, food, more clothes than we need, and on and on. The contrast between our countries is glaring and unsettling.

The faces of Haiti never leave me; they are in my prayers.

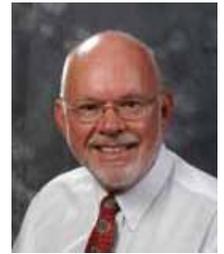
~Pamela Hunter, member of the Holy Cross mission team,

Prior Lake, MN

***Editors Note - The Board of Directors of the HLMS would like to extend a special note of gratitude to Pam Hunter for her excellent organization of the HLMS Child Sponsorship Program! Thank you Pam, for sharing your gifts!**

HAITI TRIP JANUARY 9 - 14, 2013

DICK BUETHE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HLMS



On this trip I was accompanied by our daughter Kristin and her son Jackson. It was Kris' fifth trip to Haiti and Jackson's first. We carried over 100 pillowcase dresses for little girls and 30 pairs of shorts for little boys, also 60 pairs of shoes, new underwear and other assorted clothing for children and adults.

I was very happily surprised when we arrived to see how nice the remodeled airport is now. The damage from the earthquake has been repaired and makes the trip much easier.

When we arrived we were picked up by our friend and driver Leonard. The HLMS sent with me \$500.00 to purchase chairs for a new church that has begun meeting at Leonard's house. We purchased 40 used chairs before attending the first-ever service at this location. Pastors Pierre, Loudor and Gee led the service and over 50 parishoners were in attendance. It became apparent immediately that we needed more chairs!

On Thursday morning we had a meeting at the Palm Inn Hotel with our Haitian Pastors; Thomas Bernard, Pastor Pierre, Pastor Loudor and Pastor Gee. They were given the option of applying for membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti. We are happy that with Thomas Bernard's help they will all begin the one-year application process. Being a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church gives a pastor pulpit fellowship with the Missouri Synod.

Our group went with Pastor Thomas Bernard to rural Leogane. We gave away dresses, and other clothing items as well as shoes to individuals near the church and left another large suitcase full of items to be distributed on Sunday. We stopped along the way to give away clothing and shoes to children.

During our stay in Haiti we attended four well attended church services in five days and enjoyed every one of them. Thank you to each of you who prayed for our trip and for our safety while we were gone.

Sincerely, in His service,

Dick Bueche

Executive Director, HLMS USA



Our friend Leo making us laugh



PRAYERS FOR HAITI

Praise and Thank God:

1. For safe travel for Dick Buethe, daughter Kris and grandson Jackson during their January trip to Haiti.
2. That all of our HLMS sponsored Pastors in Haiti (Pastors Bernard, Pierre, Loudor and Gee) have made application to the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti which is in pulpit fellowship with the LCMS.
3. For our growing Lutheran churches in Haiti.
4. Those who sewed and gathered all the clothes, underwear and shoes sent to share with Haitians.
5. That we were able to purchase used chairs for Leonard Isadore's "outdoor" church and that we have ordained pastors to preach there.
6. That Orphan Grain Train is sending another 40 ft. container full of food for distribution in Haiti.
7. For the faithful leadership of the HLMS Board.
8. For the continued prayer and financial support for the HLMS Mission.

Prayer Requests:

1. That all of our Haiti Lutheran pastors, congregations and school children will continue to grow in the faith & knowledge of Christ.
2. For a member of Pastor Thomas's church who has uterine cancer and needs surgery.
3. That God would sustain & continue to grow the mission in Haiti and give wisdom and strength to its leaders.
4. That God would give peace and faith to all of our flock in Haiti.
5. For continued prayer and financial support.
6. 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,
May 18th, 9 AM
at the office of
Buethe And Associates
Insurance
Lincoln, Nebraska.



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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