

# Newsletter

## Theological Education

Advanced theological education, the training of pastors and evangelists, is critical to any mission effort. Every new church body needs to develop its own theologians to become genuinely self-sufficient and mature. This has been a goal in Haiti for years, but for the most part, a goal deferred. That has finally changed.

This last Spring, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed on by representatives of Lutheran Church-Canada, The Haiti Lutheran Church and the Haiti Lutheran Mission Society to begin this process.

The agreement, in brief, is that LC-C will provide the teaching pastors, the Haiti Church will provide the instructors transportation, food and lodging while in Haiti, and our Mission Society will cover air travel of the teachers.

HLMS is also sending down French and Creole theological materials to build a seminary library in Gonaives, as well as hundreds of Creole New Testaments and Catechisms for the use of church workers.

An entire seminary curriculum is planned over the course of the next 2 or 3 years, with two courses already completed. Pastor Robert Munoz taught a course on Luther's Catechism and the Augsburg Confession in April, and Pastor Gary Kuenzel taught a course on the Gospel of Luke in May. We thank God that this is now in motion.

## Some 2014-15 Container Highlights:

Hundreds of dresses and hygiene articles were made by women in LC-C churches all over Canada. It was truly a gift of love that you spent so many hours and resources on getting these ready for 3 container shipments to Haiti.

## A Few Manifest Items....

20 USED SEWING MACHINES  
 602 BOXES OR BAGS OF USED CLOTHES  
 85 BAGS OF USED SHOES  
 154 BOXES OF KITCHEN SUPPLIES  
 81 BAGS OF BEDDING / TOWELS ETC.  
 206 SLEEPING MATS ( PLASTIC )  
 26 GARDEN TOOLS, SHOVELS, AXES, HAND SAWS ETC.  
 100 BOXES OF SEWING SUPPLIES  
 19 BOXES OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES ( NO MEDICATIONS )  
 28 BOXES OF SCHOOL SUPPLIES  
 26 BOXES OF TOILETRIES  
 9 BAGS OF TOYS  
 6 BAGS/ PURSES  
 32 BOXES of RADIOS  
 4 WALKERS / WHEEL CHAIR  
 18 STACKING TABLES  
 16 BOXES of TOOLS  
 11 BOXES of BOOKS  
 18 CHAIRS  
 26 GARDEN TOOLS, AXES ETC  
 13 SETS of CRUTCHES  
 12 MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS LADDER, TYPEWRITER, SHELVES, ETC

**Total = 1512 pieces**

*Note: As of writing, the container awaits clearance through customs in Haiti. Contact Howard for updated information.*

## Update on the Spring 2015 Container:

Yet again it is a hi-cube packed with some 2800 cubic feet of goods. All week the forecast was for rain on both days but we dodged it completely. The Lord looks after our cause for sure. I believe we have been really rained upon only one day despite the fact that we set the timing at least two weeks ahead of time. We got over  $\frac{3}{4}$  packed on Friday already and at 4:30 everyone was done in so we quit. At 4:50 it started pouring. We could have used one or two more people on Sat. but when it gets near the end one needs fewer and fewer bodies. We finished by 3:30 but it was not without its difficulties. The store owner was not able to help us with the tow motor, so we had to get creative in order to pack the top. I backed my truck up and we put a sturdy ladder on it and struggled a bit more, but got the job done. Thank you for every ones help especially the Kitchener gang with their cube van of goods.

## Highlights from Our Spring Container Manifest 2014:

1855 pieces, which included.....

Sewing machines, clothes, shoes, truck tires, garden tools, medical supplies, 25 French books, toys, crutches, walkers, chairs, typewriters, woodworking supplies and of course, the hope, help and goodwill of the HLMS.

Thank you to all who saved, searched out and purchased this abundance for your brothers and sisters in the Lutheran Church of Haiti. Continued blessings to all....Howard.

**At the November 2014 Board of Directors** meeting it was our pleasure to host Rev. R. Benoit, President of the Lutheran Church of Haiti. He explained that the marble mining project is under way. The LCH obtained a personal loan to secure the tools to cut the marble. Blocks of marble will be sold to finishing firms in either Puerto Rico or the Dominican Republic.

## Mission Realities

### ***"Planning is important; flexibility is more important."***

Mission trips require planning, lots of it, starting months or even years beforehand. There are hundreds of details, large and small, that need to be worked out in advance by team leaders. It's common to spend more time preparing for your mission trip than time spent on the trip itself. This is effort well spent; careful planning is the key to productive mission trips, ***provided you understand that it's not necessarily going to come off the way you planned.***

Mission plans are made nearly always produced by North Americans in North America comfortable with North American conditions. We are used to modern infrastructure and reliable transportation. Our society is, by world standards, peaceful and prosperous; vehicles and other equipment are in good repair and can usually be counted on to do what they are designed to do. Travel is typically uneventful, arrival times predictable. An organized person can be assured that if they have planned well and are just a bit flexible, there is a very good chance their schedule will go as planned.

That's not going to happen in Haiti. Things will NOT go "just the way you planned," and no amount of bargaining, shouting or bribing will get this country to submit to our wills. Of course, our Christian brothers and sisters there may well do their best to make things go as we wish, but it won't be enough. Haiti is Haiti, and runs on its own schedule and by its own rules- as it should. The norm there is crisis; things DON'T often go as expected. The over-worked engine finally dies, the bald tire blows when it hits its 10,000th pot hole, the power goes out when you need it most, and all you can do is wait.. and ..wait.. and wait some more. That's why very many people only take one 3rd world mission trip; they just can't deal with the frustration, with "crisis as the norm".

If, on the other hand, you can put aside expectations and use that "flat tire time" for building relationship with your Haitian hosts, you can still have a wonderful day, very rich and fulfilling. That might just be the best use of your time there, anyway.

## B L E S S I N G S

The year 2014 has had many blessings, especially in Haiti. It is heart-warming to see the growth of the Christian message. Again this year Haiti has had no major damage from nature. The people of Haiti have been blessed by the goods we shipped in the three 40 ft. containers so far of 2014-2015.

Because of the DVD picture of the stick frame church in Jubilee, a couple from the USA came up with \$8,000 to pay for most of a new block church building. This new church is a real blessing for the people to worship in and also a place being used for sewing classes with machines we shipped.

A girl's orphanage was opened in May, giving 16 girls a place to call home. What a blessing for these former homeless girls of all ages. This work was done by the Haiti Mission Society in Florida. 300 Creole New Testaments with Psalms were sent in one of the containers. Additional copies were sent with the Spring container along with catechisms. This will be a blessing for them to read God's word in their own language. More Creole books are wanted.

Funds were sent to purchase more water filters to help prevent cholera breakouts. During 2014, \$14,000 was sent for pastoral support. The ground work has been done for educating the lay pastors in Haiti. What is needed now is for pastors to go to Haiti and teach for 1 week. This teaching is very much needed for continued Christian growth in Haiti. A house has been purchased and converted for use as a seminary.

We were to have a Haiti Mission Festival in the spring which was canceled due to Revenel becoming very sick. Revenel now knows that he cannot work as hard as previously and must eat more regular meals. In November he looked healthy, but will need an assistant to help with the work load, which means extra costs. A new English speaking secretary was hired March 2015.

The hydro project (for the TV / radio station and quarry) has been worked on during the year and is close to being ready for use. The TV/radio station was not broadcasting for part of the year due to lack of funds but is up and broadcasting now. When the hydro becomes available, the costs will be reduced substantially allowing for year round broadcasting. Upgrades were recently completed for the LCH at both the tower and studio sites.

A year ago our society was made aware that we are the beneficiaries of an estate. Most of the funds were received right at Christmas. How to best use this gift as it was intended, will be decided in 2015. The most pressing issue now will likely be equipment upgrades at the quarry.

An account was set up at the office of RBC in St. Catharines, Ont. for the purpose of receiving stock or mutual funds donations for Haiti. This is an excellent way to save taxes on gains, save taxes with your donation and help the mission in Haiti—win-win. Please speak with our Treasurer if you have questions about these kinds of gifts or as part of your estate planning. (Note: We now have a Donation Policy you can read on the website.)

Much has been accomplished in 2014 and with the help of our faithful Lord and all of you, blessings and growth will continue to abound in 2015 for our brothers and sisters in the Lutheran Church of Haiti.

A BIG blessing is having supporters in any way—prayer--financial--or your thoughts.

Haiti Lutheran Mission Society  
Chairman, Wally Bogusat

**LETTER FROM REV. REVENEL BENOIT, Pres., Haiti Lutheran Church. (MAY 2015)**

“Greetings to all of you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! The LCH is pleased to inform the Haiti Lutheran Mission Society that we have had a successful two weeks repair with the crews from the Dominican Republic that came to fix the 345 B Cat Excavator, the D8K Dozer and the Mitsubishi Montero. I am very glad to have the Montero back again to be used to visit many LCH Churches.

This morning I have had the joy to go over at the quarry and see that our 345 Cat excavator is loading our dump truck that will bring aggregate to the rock crusher. We are glad also to inform you, that in about a week from today we'll be making blocks. The plan is to make over 10,000 good quality blocs to be sold to the public.

We are waiting for the tires to come to fix 4 out of the quarry five dump trucks. Three of them will be for sale and we will keep only one which will take aggregate from the mountain to take to the rock crusher at the bottom of the mountain. We are also putting on sale our D8K Dozer as well as 314 CAT Excavator. We are also advertizing the sale of our old equipment at the FM and TV stations.

Currently we have a very good manager at the quarry. His name is Luthers Luxe. He is a very good Leader and can take the initiative when needed. He is also the manager of the guest house and has done a wonderful job keeping the guest a good place to stay.

The new quarry manager have recently got a maintenance book that Vince had sent to the Quarry ....

....via Willi Werner. He will be using this maintenance book to keep track of daily, weekly and monthly maintenance of the equipment. Also a separate account for the quarry will be set up on Wednesday June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 so that all transactions concerning the quarry will be in that account.

From HLMS funds, there will be a second well in the area where five dome houses will be built at the end of June by Herb Nordmeyer from Texas. As soon as Herb helps get these dome houses built, there will be five new latrines available to the public there as well which will be a blessing to the people.

Currently Food for the Poor is working to clear customs for the 40 foot container that the HLMS has sent to the LCH. I am sure we'll get the container in about a week and half from today. A huge distribution has been planned by the distribution committee once the container get down here.

We are all still waiting for both the engines and the tires container to come down. I have been making a request to Howard asking him whom to contact in Port-au-Prince as local shipping agency so that the latter can get us all the necessary document to start clearing Haitian custom.

*Thanks a lot to all of you for your continuous support to the LCH so that the quarry can get back working again. Special thanks for my UN truck. It's now running good!*

**MEDICAL SCHOOL NEWS! (Dated April 2015)**

Dear Sponsors,

Greetings to all of you in the name of Our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! This is to inform you I am in good health and doing very well at school. I am very sorry for not having the chance to write you before Easter. I did not have Easter break and I am still at school being very busy. Two weeks from tomorrow I will have a break during which I will go to Gonaives to visit friends and family.

I am very happy to hear that two of my medical school sponsors Gebhart and Sabine will be coming down to Haiti next year to visit me. What a joy for me to have them visiting me, my school, my friends and family. This will be a Great joy for me.

Thanks a lot to all of you for your continuous support to me and my studies. I am praying so that the Lord Almighty keep all of you in good health and I will be glad, one day, to invite you in my medical school graduation.

God bless you all.

Rose Myrtha Augustin

## WITH SPECIAL THANKS FROM the LCH and HLMS!

**Erna McBride** is especially interested in helping the women and children of Haiti. Life is not easy for them, but they find a joy of life that inspires her too! Two school feeding programs have been planted by Erna as a lasting legacy in memory of her daughter, Erin McBride – at Mixte Nazareth School, and in memory of her husband Jack, in a new school in Jubilee, this March 2015. The school feeding program in LCH schools are administered by Trinity Hope (a LCMS group). Our society sends your feeding program donations directly to Trinity Hope and specifically instructs that they are to support these two schools. The government of Haiti now requires that church supported schools no longer operate on church grounds. That has been a very difficult transition for the LCH, but much has been accomplished. For more in depth information please visit their website at [www.trinityhope.org](http://www.trinityhope.org).

**DONATIONS OVER \$1000:** we would like to publicly recognize your gift by publishing your name in the Newsletter or on-line. If this applies or will apply to you, please send your permission to [jwhittar@vaxxine.com](mailto:jwhittar@vaxxine.com) and when space permits we will publish this list in thanks to you. We will NOT publish any information in the Newsletter about you or your donation without your permission in writing.

**DVD COPIES:** Please contact Wally Bogusat to order copies of the HAITI: A David and Goliath Story DVD OR order on-line at [www.cubecity.org](http://www.cubecity.org).

**ONLINE** donations made from the HLMS website are made through **CanadaHelps.org**....if you click the red donation button you will be sent to their secure site to make your donation. Treasurer Mac Sherman can explain in more detail if you inquire.

**CHARITABLE** receipts are issued for gifts over \$10 or more.

**HAITI MISSION FESTIVAL news:** Plans are under way. More to follow.

**ANNUAL MEETING:** Tentatively, this January 2016.

**HLMS has a FACEBOOK page!** Drop by as we post bits of news there from time to time. Also, from it you can easily follow Trinity Hope in the Newsfeed, or 'Add' and 'Like' the page for news to come into your own 'Timeline'.

**The Lutheran Foundation:** The HLMS has gratefully received a donation from the Lutheran Foundation: “The LK Lechelt Fund” and the “Paul J. Engel Endowment Fund”. As always, these funds will be used for the benefit of Haiti through the LCH. You can visit their website at [www.lutheranfoundation.ca/](http://www.lutheranfoundation.ca/) for details of their work.

**For your information,** the internet has a lot of information about Haiti. In searching, consider visiting the following websites:

**Canadian Red Cross – Haiti** - <http://www.redcross.ca/haiti2010/>

**World Health Organization – Haiti** - <http://www.who.int/> and type Haiti into the search box.

**Find a helpful resource** from Industry Canada - 'Little Black Book of Scams'. As a legitimate charitable organization, we know educating ourselves is important. Some of you have already had to deal with some of these problems by phone and mail, but the internet is riddled with scammers. Protect yourself by learning more!

**Help us reduce postage and paper costs! Sign up for an e-mailed version of the Newsletter:**

YES, I WOULD LIKE TO RECIEVE THE HAITI LUTHERAN MISSION SOCIETY NEWSLETTER AND UPDATES BY PROVIDING MY EMAIL ADDRESS:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return to:**

E. McBride  
 c/o Haiti Lutheran Mission Society  
 400 Glenridge Ave., St Catharines ON, Canada.  
 L2T 3L2

**Current Board of Directors 2015:**

<p><b>President</b>, Wally Bogusat -            wbogusat@cogeco.ca  <b>Treasurer</b>, Mac Sherman –            mac.sherman@gmail.com  <b>Secretary</b>, Erna McBride –  <a href="mailto:erna.m@bell.net">erna.m@bell.net</a>  <b>Head of Shipping</b>:            Howard Bogusat - hobo@cogeco.ca</p>	<p><b>Rev. Gary Kuenzel</b> –            gwkuenzel@yahoo.ca  <b>Ron Dagg</b>  <b>Jim Huntingdon</b>  <b>Doug Crowther</b>  <b>Raija Alexander</b>  <b>Willi Werner</b>  <b>Ron Wills</b></p>
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**Notes from Julie:** We now have a NEWSLETTER TEAM! Send notes or articles to Julie Whittard at [jwhittar@vaxxine.com](mailto:jwhittar@vaxxine.com) if you would like the information used on-line or in the next Newsletter. *Be aware that all print copies will no longer include photos. We are trying to further reduce costs for mailing!* I will be collaborating with the Board members who have news to share to get items into the next Newsletter. Various people have offered to help proofread and verify details. Inge will re-format for our digital version and generally make the newsletter more appealing!

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