



DONATIONS

Your gifts make a difference to children and families. Some schools have feeding programs: free lunch is provided each school day to each student for about 26 cents per meal. Improving nutrition helps children learn and also helps them fight infections. Pray that more people are moved to help fund this wonderful program in Haiti!



For more Feeding Program info, contact Erna McBride through the church office at Christ:905 – 685 – 8294.

SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAM FUNDRAISER

Thanks to Christ Lutheran St. Catharines for welcoming us again this year! The annual 'Irish Dinner' fundraiser was well attended. Including a \$500 matching grant from Faith Life Financial, \$3,100 was raised through sharing this delicious meal!

This event was organized by Erna McBride, a member at Christ and HLMS board member. Special thanks to Chef James Betts and his cooking students, who donated their talents and to Wally Knash and Winston James for donating time and skills for our musical entertainment.

Also, thank you to all the willing volunteers who helped make this event a success!

COINTAINER SHIPMENTS:

The HLMS sends two Containers per year for pick-up by the LCH. The cost is high to send these containers full of donated clothing and goods from Canada, but the LCH distributes these items to families in Gonaives and area where incomes are extremely low and needs are extremely high. Many of the items sent cannot be purchased there.



From Wally Bogusat, Chairman

For further information please contact Wally at wbogusat@cogeco.ca

The HLMS started over 30 years ago to help facilitate the Lutheran Church in Haiti (LCH). The main focus in early years was pastoral support. If this was our only focus, we would be doing this forever and requiring more and more funds as the church grew.

In 2004 the Lutheran Church of Haiti purchased a quarry to create jobs and generate income, working towards being self supporting as a church body. Our society purchased most of the equipment to operate the quarry. With quarry operations and rental income of some equipment, the LCH became almost self-sufficient until 2014. Very little pastoral support from HLMS was needed until 2015....(Continue reading on pg.2)



Rev. Benoit at the Quarry.

(Continued...) equipment. During 2015 the HLMS was made aware of the equipment situation and supplied some parts, including engines and tires. In December, we purchased a large bulldozer in the USA, which after many delays should arrive in Haiti soon! With the bulldozer, engines, tires and repairs completed, the quarry will be operating by end of April, bringing in some badly needed income for LCH.

Part of the quarry income will now be set aside for repairs and future equipment purchases. The need for funds in Haiti is so great that in the past all church generated income was used, leaving no provisions for future problems. **"Save for a rainy day, because it will rain."**

Before 2015 the LCH increased the number of churches planted every year. In 2015 they could not afford these churches. With the quarry starting again, along with financial support from our society, church growth can continue and should be more sustainable.

During 2015 our society helped financially in many ways:

- 250 Creole New Testaments with Psalms and 150 Creole catechisms were sent.
- Two 40 foot containers of goods were shipped. These goods are very much appreciated. (More shoes are needed).
- Paid travel expenses for 3 pastors to teach at the Haitian seminary.
- \$15,000.00 US funds was sent for school roof repairs damaged by tropical storm.
- \$10,000.00 US funds for LCH pastoral support.
- \$30,090.00 CD funds for school feeding programs.
- 55 Serviced sewing machines along with large quantity of fabric.

Because of our Canadian \$\$ value, costs to us have increased a lot. Thankfully, at the end of 2014 our society received a large estate bequest which has allowed our society to help financially. As of Feb. 2016 most of this money has been used as above. The year 2015 turned out to be a very difficult year for the LCH because of the quarry situation. Your donations, and especially your prayers for the LCH and our society board members are needed so we can continue to effectively do our part for the church in Haiti.

CRAFT AND SEWING NEWS **(By Erna McBride)**



In May 2016, a six person HLMS Team travelled to Haiti to assess how projects were going with the assistance of Rev. Benoit. My main interest was in speaking directly with women of the LCH and evaluating needs to support a sewing school. As usual, repairs to sewing machines are difficult with very few useable parts and the weather attacking metal with rust. In spite of these challenges, sewing instruction is proceeding but not in the way we had envisioned. That may take much more time. Speaking through an interpreter and watching responses to what we had brought to try out (some craft items to learn), we could see the enjoyment of the participants.

Elizabeth Kuenzel and Phyllis Dagg taught knitting and I taught board weaving, crotchet and corking! Since our trip, two women have come forward to say they will help with teaching ongoing crafts! The next container will contain, crotchet hooks, knitting needles, yarn and crotchet cotton which have been donated for this purpose by women here in the Niagara area. The ladies at Christ Lutheran have also helped me put together some knitting kits for making little 'comfort dolls'. Many completed examples will also be sent. Thank You! To the dedicated helpers who have made these items possible. My hope is that these craft items will help individuals fill in time and provide some pleasure in learning something new. As always we ask God to bless the people of Haiti through your donations.

Have Joy in the Lord Always!



School in Jubilee.



Market day alongside a road into St. Marc.



Inside a dome house.



They loved receiving their photos!



A street in Jubilee.



A shelter, similar to rancheros in Nicaragua.

A special thank you to Wendy Hyatt for all her work making Irish Soda bread available for sale at the Irish dinner and to those who contributed door prizes and penny items and who volunteered. We are thankful for all your help!

So many people in Canada help make life a little easier for the people of Gonaives and area through the Haiti Lutheran Mission Society. You make a difference!

Your Donations at Work in Jubilee!

The Jubilee district of Gonaives is arguably one of the poorest areas in Haiti, however, Lutheran funded projects are improving life for residents. Just four short years ago, Jubilee remained isolated, receiving no aid and was even ignored by the police. While the need for aid in Jubilee remains high, Lutheran focused donations are making a difference.

A number of earthquake and less flood prone 'Igloo' homes are being constructed by our American friends that stand out among the tin clad sheds. The new homeowners proudly offer to provide visitors with a tour.

HLMS donations are funding the operation of 2 school feeding programs that provide a nutritional daily meal to all students in addition to meeting their educational needs.

A recently drilled freshwater well, also funded by the HLMS, provides clean water to thousands of residents and was in constant use for filling containers.

At the centre of the community stands a modest recently constructed LCH church funded by your donations. The church continues to spread the Christian message and is building hope and pride within the community. We understand that the teenage pregnancy rate has dropped substantially since the church opened. The church also serves as a community centre and houses a number of donated sewing machines. The local women are proud that they can make their own clothes which helps support their families.

Not far from the church, several men are seen reconstructing mattress springs by hand, re-stuffing mattresses, all re-using the stripped wood frames. These rebuilt mattresses are then sold and bring in much needed revenue to the Jubilee community.

While much of Jubilee remains impoverished, there are bright signs that life for the residents is slowly improving with the help of your donations.

(Pictured below: Outside mattress factory: Newly stripped frames ready to be reworked and the recently installed community well in Jubilee.)



MORE NEWS: The Orphanage for Boys

The main orphanage building which is sleeping quarters for the boys was built some 14 years ago. It is a block building with a concrete roof typical of their culture. This past year pieces of the concrete ceiling began falling in, one time injuring one of the boys. This is a recurring theme in all of Gonaives, because unwittingly they were using slightly saline water which then reacted on the concrete and the steel re-bar. Since January, boys have been grouped in part of the building and in another smaller building. Currently 16 boys are housed there. In March a concrete expert from Texas made an assessment of the situation.

He said the roof was not repairable and would have to be totally removed and replaced. However, he cautioned about doing that since the walls are also not in great condition either. Herb said he had made them aware of this some 2 years ago. What do you do if you have no money? The saline water and the poor quality cement (ie sand) blocks is the main reason that there was so much damage during the earthquake. The question to be decided at our annual meeting is how to address this situation. Likely we will have to begin totally anew although a sheet metal roof could replace the concrete one for much less money as a temporary fix. If built from scratch do we go with a large dome style or traditional block construction?

Also we must work in concert with the Mission Haiti group in Florida. They have been tasked with funding all the boy's meals for several years now and started the Girl's orphanage just over 1 year ago behind the boy's section. Mission Haiti is currently building a proper building to accommodate the girls and also a common kitchen facility to keep them all separated. Funding for any venture is always an issue and so it remains incomplete. Nevertheless, many girls are now safe and secure. Our Society recently sent US \$8,000.00 to pay for fixing the boy's roof, but in light of Herb's assessment we will have to re-direct these funds as per the wishes of the upcoming annual meeting.



The sections of the roof above clearly illustrate the problem with this building construction. Even a small section dropping could have been a major disaster. This building is no longer being used for the children.

NEW (old) BULLDOZER ARRIVING SOON ! !

(By Howard Bogusat)

After the flood in 2008 we sent a huge D8K bulldozer down which arrived a year later. That machine performed so well that it brought between **\$300,000 and \$400,000.00** into the LCH church coffers. This paid for a lot of pastoral salaries, but 6 years on and this machine is now pretty much finished. If a ripper can be found it is still worth perhaps \$20,000.00 but it is not strong enough to rent out.

A replacement was bought in Florida at a government auction and generally they keep their machines in good running order. We arranged for delivery to the port people and the auction administration were great to deal with. The port people...well that is another story! In all my years of business I have never dealt with a more bewildering group of people. It appears they hate doing what they do and yet they are the only game in town going to the small ports of Haiti.

Problems such as not returned phone calls and E-mails, sending of paperwork requirements in dribs and drabs, export papers needed to be made up and notarized, personal identity had to be checked in case machine was stolen, serial # not matching because they were looking in the wrong place, sailing date not kept, and money order payment went missing. Each of these items resulted in a 1 or 2 week delay because there is only one boat a week. That was not the worst, however. Because the machine came from a military base they treated us as if this was a "Humvee" with a gun turret on top. They are trying to keep technology from getting into the wrong hands but this machine is a 1976 unit. Again notarization was required.

The Best Part of This Story:

Specifications

1976 D8K with a tilting 12' blade

only 1,041 hours on the odometer – like new!

Costs: To date including purchase, buyers fee, land transfer, and shipping to Haiti **\$78,951 Canadian**. Duty in Haiti is expected to be about **\$5,000.00 US** and start up maintenance will be approximately **\$3,000.00**.

While this seems like a lot of money spent they have a contract with a quarry for 6 – 8 months at **US \$ 800.00 per day**. That translates into over **\$100,000.00 US** within the first year. Like the previous machine it is our hope that this will pay many more pastoral salaries ! ! This purchase was made possible by money which came from the Fred Kech estate. We pray it will help operations in the quarry for many years!



Lutheran Theological Education in Haiti:

After too many years of inaction, a program for Lutheran theological education has finally been put into place in Haiti. In the past year, three pastors (LC-C or LCMS) have each gone to Haiti for a week to teach a course of their choosing from a curriculum set up and approved by our LC-C Committee on Theology and Church Relations. At this writing, 2 more pastoral instructors are preparing to go in the very near future.

At the direction of President Bugbee, an agreement was signed between the Haiti Lutheran Church, the Lutheran Church- Canada, and the Haiti Lutheran Mission Society with the specific goal of training Haitian pastors, deacons, and lay-missionaries in the fundamentals of Lutheran doctrine. As HLC growth has been explosive in the past few years, all involved in this cooperative effort agree that a solid theological grounding for these new church leaders is critically urgent.

The plan, as agreed to, states (in general terms) that LC-C will provide the curriculum and arrange for teachers, the LCH will provide transportation in Haiti for guest instructors, arrange for translators and students to gather in Gonaives, and also will make sure the Guest House is staffed and available for instructors and translators. Our Mission Society pays for instructors' travel and lodging and has also sent Bibles and catechisms in French and Creole for seminary use and pastoral care.

So far, we have had favourable feedback from all parties involved. A resident seminary system like we have in North America would obviously be much better, but that is not practical in Haiti right now due to the shortage of funds and large number of pastors, lay missionaries and deacons who need to be educated quickly. This program is by no means the final solution to Haiti theological education, but I believe it is a good first step.

For more information contact Rev. Kuenzel at 905-646-5980 or the LC-C administration office at 1-800-588-4226. Applications to help the LCH as guest Instructors are welcome.



BIBLE STUDY

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:

Name _____

Email: _____

Please mail to:

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

**CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE,
we would like to hear from you!**

haitilutheranmissionsociety.ca

UPDATE: Current Situation in Haiti

The problems at the quarry in 2015 are starting to pass. Some of the equipment has been fixed and the quarry is selling raw aggregate. The crusher is being fixed and should be working soon and sell crushed product. Having crushed product and a equipment part replaced means that the cement block operation can also start shortly. The bulldozer is arriving early April and after servicing, it will be used and rented out for extra income. Other equipment at the quarry can be fixed pending funding. Plans are in place.

The other situation is the boys orphanage which is mentioned as a separate item in the newsletter. At this time there is some unrest (no pay) and some workers are not showing up for work. As some funds come from the quarry partial pay can again start. Right now your donations are needed for many reasons.

Our CD about the Lutheran Church of Haiti can be ordered there and through 'Canada Helps', we have a link to donate safely from the website.

Remember all the people of Haiti in your prayers, many already pray for you!