

Haiti Lutheran Mission Society Newsletter

Containers

For more than thirty years the Haiti Lutheran Mission Society has been working to help the people of Haiti. The Lutheran Church of Haiti has grown, with thousands of members who have joyfully received God's gift of faith through holy baptism. They proclaim in their beloved country,

“He Lives!”

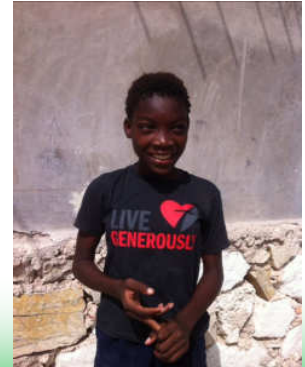
Jezi, Emannwèl
(Jesus Christ, God With Us)

www.haitilutheranmissionsociety.org

*The orphanage(s) have received goods from past container shipments. These goods vary from year to year and range from kitchen utensils and garden tools, to clothing for all ages and hygiene items. **Your donations have a practical impact as soon as they are received!***



Your Support



Brings Smiles!

The Lutheran Church of Haiti: Meeting the Challenges

Sometimes life is not easy, but in Haiti you can say that life is never easy! For many years, both the number of LCH churches and memberships were increasing, but for the last while it has been difficult to start more churches due to a lack of funds.

Donations help some, but the **main source of income** for the Lutheran Church in Haiti has been from the quarry and the renting out of the first large bulldozer we sent. In 2016 that bulldozer broke down after years of heavy use. Other pieces of old equipment at the quarry also broke down. As a result, both pastors and teachers have had very little or no income. Rev. Benoit was seriously ill for 2 months. Hurricane Matthew did major damage in the southwest and the northwest. These areas are the main farming regions in Haiti. The Gonaives area also sustained some damage. The main building for the boy's section of the orphanage became unsafe to live in...But now, we seem to have turned the corner and the immediate future is much brighter. Rev. Benoit's health has improved a lot, but he is still weak and his recovery will take some time.

The quarry is operating again with the equipment having been repaired by a good mechanic. We had shipped some of the parts needed for repairs. Our society has sent another large bulldozer which is now being rented out, generating a good income, which will help to pay the pastors. Revenel has found an assistant who speaks English and who is also studying to be a pastor. This assistant is very good in responding to e-mails, answering questions and getting us other information needed so we can help them with Society funds.

I went to Haiti in April along with Pastor Mark Smith, who taught at the seminary. We are planning to go again in February. This teaching by Canadian pastors is very much needed and appreciated. Our society has also helped the LCH with hurricane relief. Thank you to those supporters who have agreed to serve as HLMS Board Members. Your work is very much appreciated both here and in Haiti. Please continue to keep the Lutheran Church of Haiti in your prayers.

In His Service,
Mr. Wally Bogusat, Chairman



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Container packing list, Fall 2016:

(1524 Pieces)

- 16 sewing machines
- 534 boxes used clothing
- 156 boxes used shoes
- 102 boxes kitchen supplies
- 111 bags of bedding, towels etc.
- 80 plastic sleeping mats
- 62 garden tools, shovels, axes, hand saws
- 141 boxes of sewing supplies
- 11 boxes medical supplies (no meds)
- 14 boxes school supplies
- 46 boxes toiletries
- 6 tents and tarps
- 11 bags toys
- 19 devices: crutches, wheelchairs, canes
- 13 bags/purses
- 6 tables
- 175 used chairs
- 4 cases clock radios
- 13 miscellaneous: pails, umbrellas, sm. compressor, wheelbarrows, shop vac, ladders.



Sorting and repacking is a big job!

Things to send:

Household goods, clothing and the basics for a very warm climate. Think of people of all ages who live in small spaces or even outdoors. New items like underwear and socks are always needed somewhere. Just like at home!

Containers for Haiti

The King will reply. I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me. (Matthew 25:40)

Our Haiti Lutheran Mission Society has shipped 22 forty foot containers of goods to Haiti. This is a lot of goods that have helped the very poor people in Haiti with clothes and shoes to wear plus many other items. The need is still great, especially after the last hurricane. A lot of the goods from the last container will be shipped to the hurricane damaged area by HLC workers.

Clothing represents close to half the volume of each container and is comprised of over 36,000 individual items. The net cost of half a container for shipping and duty is around \$4,500, which means that each piece of clothing costs only 13 cents. This is certainly a good value for your donated dollars.

Our total cost for shipping one container is about \$12,000 US, which includes the container, shipping and duty. The container gets sold for \$2,500 US and this money is used by the LCH. The net cost for goods is \$9,000 Cdn. The cost to our Society for 2 containers a year is \$24,000 which make your continued financial donations crucial.

A great deal of effort goes into gathering, sorting and packing into boxes or bags ready for shipping. All the items are very much appreciated by those receiving them. Check the shipping list for different items delivered. Every container has something different!

Mr. Howard Bogusat, Shipping Director HLMS

A special thanks to Loblaws and Phil's Valumart for the free use of the warehouse space!



Find current news about the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew at www.trinityhope.org They are on the ground and up to date on progress so far.



What a Legacy!

Yes, what a legacy one man can leave. John started with one school feeding the children and he ended up with 113 schools providing student lunches before his work was done!

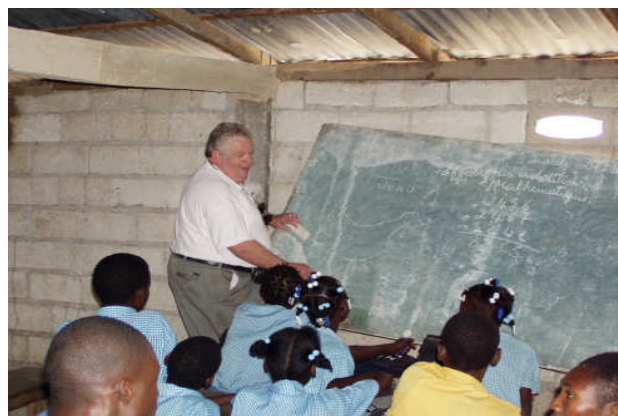
John was on a mission trip in 1999 and wondered why all the kids in school were so listless. He was told that they likely did not eat that morning because the parents are so poor. He inquired what it would take to feed them each day of the school year and the rest is history.

That school was costing 40 cents a day per meal, and now, even after years of inflation and because the program is so well run, they are costing 22 cents US. per meal. The total number of meals being fed to school children in 2016 is 22,500 meals, every school day in 113 schools. In total over 26,000,000 meals were provided in his lifetime!

Keith Logan has been the chairman of Trinity Hope for 4 years and so John saw to it that things would continue without him. What a legacy indeed! I, Howard Bogusat, visited that first school some 10 years ago. One has to park the car and walk over 4 or 5 hills and valleys to get there. The closest water supply is two valleys removed from the school and women get up at 4 in the morning to go fetch it in time to cook the noon meal. They use a small bowl to fill the pail because water flows out of the spring so slow.

HLMS here in Canada provides funds for 2 schools in the Artibonite county where Pastor Benoit is based. One of them has close to 400 kids attending and the other feeds over 100 in the slum area of Gonaives, called Jubilee. Donors through HLMS can designate their feeding program funds towards this program, administered through Trinity Hope.

Keith Logan writes, "We all lost a great friend and brother in Christ, and that temporarily makes us sad. However, that sadness weakens when we picture John meeting Jesus face to face and hearing his Lord say, "Well done, good and faithful servant.....". Those words in Matthew could not be more fitting!



Your Gifts At Work!



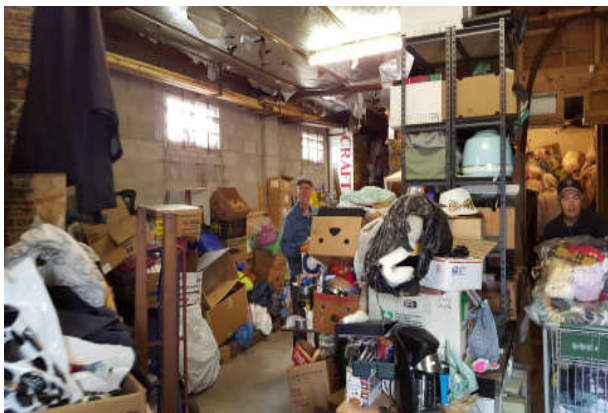
Donated lumber creates seating for Worship.

Hurricane Matthew By Wally Bogusat

On Oct. 4th, 2016, this hurricane caused major damage in the southwest and northwest part of Haiti. The area in the southwest produces 60% of the national crops. It hit at the height of harvest season. An estimated 76% of the ecosystem was damaged, 90% of the trees were damaged or uprooted. The banana plantations need 16 months to begin producing again and mango trees will need 10 years for a decent yield. Over 1600 schools in these areas were damaged or destroyed, as well as homes and churches. Many schools may re-open in Jan. 2017. This is only some of the damage done by Hurricane Matthew.

How Our Society Helped:

Some of the items from the container received in Haiti Dec. 15, will be delivered to the devastated area by HLC workers. These will be much needed. From your donations, \$10,000 US (incl duty) of metal roofing sheets was purchased from the Dominican Republic and delivered. We got a great price, about 1/3 the price in Canada. We also sent another \$10,000 US to help supply food and for church rebuilding. Keep these people in your prayers, that they be given time and future help to get back into normal Haitian life.



Your gifts bring hope!

Your Gifts At Work!



LCH SEMINARY

Until this past September, LCH had only one ordained pastors. The rest of the pastors for over 200 churches were lay pastors.

These students graduated after having studied for 2 years at the seminary in Gonaives. Our society has helped with this by sending a few pastors to teach for 1 week each. The Lutheran Church in Haiti is a very young church group and needs more help for pastoral training.

There is an urgent need for continued LCC training support in Haiti. We realize the issues are complex and require collaboration between LC-C and the LCH. We understand some of the issues facing this young church as it sends lay Pastors into the harvest fields, and with language, geography and scarce resources, these issues continue.



Sewing and needlework groups are proud of their work.



Donated sewing machine helps mother support children.

Please note these coming events:

HLMS ANNUAL MEETING: Christ Lutheran Church, 140 Russell Ave, St. Catharines ON. February 5rd, 2017 at 3pm. Soup supper to follow. All welcome!

St. Patrick Day Fundraiser: March 17th, 2017 at 5:30 pm. To benefit the school feeding program. Christ Lutheran Church, 140 Russell Ave, St. Catharines ON. Join us! Please contact secretary@christlutheransc.ca for tickets or an HLMS Board member.

NEWS BYTES from Wesner Petit-Frere, LCH:

(Excerpts from an email to HLMS)

Our two sewing schools at Jubilee and Bayonnais are doing very well in terms of good sewing teaching and student attendance. Some more sewing supplies are needed, but we are not worried as I know there is a container coming down that has lots of sewing supplies. Our 4 sewing teachers are paid by the LCH.

Seminary education got started last November at our LCH Concordia Seminary. This year we have an enrollment of 20 student LCH Lay pastors. The seminary has a staff of 10 people: teachers and administration. All of them are being paid locally through LCH local income. We also pay 10 people at the LCH headquarters.

Administration officers: Wesner Petit-Frere assistant to Pastor Benoit, Cedline Petit-Homme secretary, Wanbley John Petit-Homme third English speaking assistant in the office, Madame Abel Etienne assistant to Pastor Benoit (A member of the container distribution committee), Mrs. Josiane Ocard Maid (A member of the container distribution committee), James Thomas, security, Valery Pierre and Edgard Jean Baptiste, watchmen. We also pay 10 people at both orphanages to care for the boys and girls and hundreds of teachers and Pastors are supported on a monthly basis.

The quarry is doing very well. We have been increasing our production of blocks, finished sand and brute sand. 2017 looks like a very promising year for the LCH, with income from the quarry to meet our obligations. All our equipment has been well maintained by our mechanic Jos, and we have had no new equipment breakdowns so far.

Thank both you and HLMS Board for providing a motorcycle for my transportation needs and a laptop computer. These will help me be more efficient on behalf of both the Lutheran church of Haiti and the HLMS.

NOTE: Bulldozer Progress

Not quite a year ago we purchased and sent down a large D7 bulldozer. Initially, they did work on their own quarry and for the marble project. This fall they have finally gotten some good contracts for rental of \$10,000.00 and \$12,000.00 US. Should these contracts continue to materialize, they will in one year, surpass the original cost of \$92,000.00 CDN.

That is our hope and direction we strive for, self-sufficiency in the Haiti Lutheran Church. A church body needs to stand on its own !



Thankyou Mac Sherman for your many years of service as Treasurer of the HLMS. You will be missed in this role, but we look forward to seeing you! So many projects have benefited from your support and advice.

Sewing News

For many years the HLMS container shipments have included sewing machines. Many areas of Haiti still do not have any electricity service. Some areas in Haiti only have sporadic power service and as you know, coping with one disaster after another causes problems with what does work. Change comes very slowly to rural areas.

Here in Canada, we have many women willing to support the basic needs of women and girls in Haiti. They find donations of fabric, sewing supplies and hand-sewing tools to be sent along with the sewing machines. Currently, sewing circles here have again been busy in 2016 making hundreds of personal hygiene items for women and girls and some special friends of Haiti in Welland have again made many of those and many little girl's dresses.

We hear progress is being made in setting up sewing centres for women to gather and use the sewing resources we send. It remains informal, but the women have shown their interest in learning more. Many have hand-sewing skills to build on. Please continue to pray that God provides them with what they need!



A sewing group meets at Christ Lutheran St. Catharines for work and fellowship.

We are often asked how sewing circles can deliver their sewing gifts for Haiti. Please leave your contact information through the email address below and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

It is encouraging to see these gifts keep growing every year! You sewing ladies are an inspiration. Bless you as you help fill the HLMS container for the needy in Haiti.

For further information contact Erna or Gloria through the secretary@christlutheransc.ca



From the sewing group:

We received this photo from Wesner Petit-Frere on Jan. 10th showing the delivery of sewing machines from the container, along with some crochet materials. Good to see, and we hope their confidence and expertise grow over the coming year! Much needed sewing machine oil was part of our last shipment.