

Haiti Lutheran Mission Society Update

November 2021

Hymn 745-Verse 1: In God, My Faithful God

In God my faithful God. I trust when dark my road. Great woes may overtake me. Yet He will not forsake me. My troubles He can alter; His hand lets nothing falter.

With all the troubles in Haiti it must be difficult to be faithful. We are trying to increase their faith with the teaching classes and showing our love for them by helping them in various ways.

The pandemic has impacted many of our activities such as the 2020 Annual General Meeting and the increased safety issues have also impacted our progress. We have not been able to hold regular teaching classes but plan to have the next class as soon as possible. Here are some updates from this year:

Covid Relief--

In late 2020 and through the beginning of 2021 we were able to send funds for COVID relief, benefiting over 470 people at 9 different churches. Among the items purchased were rice, water, and soap.

Solar Power---

We started a solar project in Poteau for 3,000 people with no electricity. The solar system was installed on an existing church which we had funded in 2009. The total cost was \$16,000.00 USD. *See separate article for benefits.

Earthquake and Hurricane--

Major damage was done by the earthquake on August 14, 2021 and more devastation came afterward with a hurricane. We received generous donations which had been allocated for relief help allowing us to help people



in Haiti in their recovery efforts. \$26,000.00 USD was sent which purchased quantities of rice, water, and sheet metal panels. The people in the area of Jérémie were very grateful to receive these items which is a great blessing because they often do not receive much

help due to how remote the location is.

Helen Roenfeld—

Helen, who had overseen *Mission Haiti* out of Florida, died from COVID this year. Helen would travel to Haiti at least 6 times a year taking teams to execute different projects. Paul Klenner is Helen's successor and will be taking on the leadership role for *Mission Haiti*. We will continue to work closely with Paul and the mission. Please remember Paul in your prayers!

Erna McBride--

Long-time supporter and board member- Erna McBride passed away in August. Erna was a founding member of Haiti Lutheran Mission Society and was acting as secretary until her death. Her enthusiasm to help people in Haiti has made a significant impact and she will be dearly missed.

Feeding program---

Although the small school we sponsored in Jubilee has been closed we continue to sponsor the school in Mixte Nazareth with 400 students at a cost of \$21,000.00 US a year.

We are fortunate to have another organization help arrange for goods to be shipped to Haiti. Earlier this year we sent 3 cases containing New Testaments with Psalms and 1 case of Bibles in Creole. In October we purchased 120 heavy duty 8' x 10' tarps and 400 large size bars of soap that were shipped along with 2 cases of Luther's Small Catechism. Lophane Laurent, a trusted Haitian we work with, will pick them up and distribute where they are most needed. Lophane is now a paid employee of *Mission Haiti* and will help us with any project at no extra cost to our society. Pray that we can soon have a teaching class and that our efforts are successful.

Wally Bogusat, Chairman HLMS

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Theological Formation in Haiti--

Due to the high threat of kidnapping of visitors to Haiti, HLMS has decided to postpone any on-site theological education for our 30 lay leaders/students. Instead, we will attempt to put in place the technology so that the students can receive 1 week intensive courses virtually, as they gather together in one location. We have tentatively scheduled a course on Lutheran doctrine for January, to be taught by both Rev. Blaise Marin and Rev. Dr. David Somers. Please pray that our Heavenly Father would remove any obstacles to students receiving this indispensable education to help them faithfully lead and nourish His precious people.

Pastor Harold Ristau, HLMS board member

WE HAVE LIGHT!--

"I greet you in the precious name of Jesus Christ and on behalf of the people of Poteau. Today, it is a great pleasure for me to personally say thank you for this immense gift that you have given to the inhabitants of Poteau. Now our children can study with electrical light and the church can benefit from the evening services. All this is possible thanks to the wonderful project where you sent Brother Lophane Laurent and his team to us. In the past we couldn't charge our phones, but now the population has electricity 24 hours a day. They no longer need to travel far away, and thereby also spend money unnecessarily.

I want say a big thank you to HLMS Canada for helping to better facilitate the delivery of the Gospel. When a person comes to us to recharge their phone, we take the opportunity to talk to them about the word of God. In the past, on Sundays we only had one service; the morning one. But now we have one in the morning and another in the evening (as well as) Wednesday and Friday evenings. On behalf of Poteau, a population of 3000, I say thank you and the church committee here says thank you too. May God bless you because we never thought that it would be possible to have an election in Poteau (feeling like) the Haitian state has forgotten us. Thank you very much my brother Wally for this last visit to Poteau and understanding our needs. I want to take this opportunity to ask your society to consider (funding) a sewing and cooking school for our young

people in the area. Thank you in advance because with God nothing is impossible."

Pastor Charles, Pastor in Poteau, Haiti



The solar system has helped with getting the gospel message to more people. The average attendance at the church in Poteau was 80 – 90 people at one service a week. The attendance is now 140 – 150 people. They have 4 services a week, one of them being a bible study. Voodoo has been quite strong in Poteau but is starting to change. The Voodoo religion takes from the people and now with people being able to get their phones charged (at no cost) at the church, they are open to listen. When the people are waiting to get their phones charged, the pastor and members are talking to the people about Christianity.

The children come to study under the light. This must make them feel good about the church.

My brother, Howard, and I visited their church in January 2010 for the dedication of the building. They had power from a small generator, until it stopped, (plus the noise). I can see why they are very happy with having electricity.

The area of Culminy has around the same number of people as Poteau and has a church that is a little larger with a school next door. It is a 5 minute further drive for the people of Culminy to get their phones charged and access power for other things. This church, school and

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people -like Poteau could benefit from having a solar power system and may have a similar experience of drawing people to the church.

A project like this spreads the gospel while servicing the people. It is our prayer to increase their church attendance by 70%, while helping the school and the people.

Wally Bogusat, Chairman HLMS

Psalms 103:1

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name



Thank you brothers and sisters in Christ—

Greetings everyone from our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. In the name of the people of Jérémie who were affected by the big earthquake that registered 7.2. In the name of the poor people who leave by themselves who are very vulnerable I want to present our thanks to all of the members of the board of HLMS and our donors and sponsors for this big gift. We don't have anything to pay you back because we are poor but one thing we can do for you and your families is to continue praying for you all. You always stand (up) with us in

Jérémie at any occasion and bad situations. We remember after the hurricane Mathew how you supported us with two big containers full with different kind of stuff and thanks again for your support that helped us reducing the covid in Jérémie with the hygiene kits in our schools our churches and our communities. We don't know what to do without your help and one thing I want you to know it is not you who choose Jérémie it is God who is choosing you to work in Jérémie to support his people. Mathew 25 v 25 to 35. We can't finish our letter without thanks to Mr. Wally Bogusat and Pastor Hamp who helped a group of pastors and lay pastors to receive the Bible seminar where we learned a lot and bring back those learnings to our communities to teach others who couldn't make it. Thanks for that and thanks to Pastor Blaise and Mr. Lophane also who never leave us. Like we said before thanking you is not enough but thanks so much and now some of our people can survive and have a place to sleep. If it is raining we do not worry and have some food to keep our stomachs full. May God bless all of you and your families and your ministries in the name of the Father the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Have a great day in God's hands!

Lophane Laurent

Background information on Jérémie Jérémie and area--

Several lay workers (pastors) attended two different teaching classes 1 year apart. They rented a bus to come to the classes and picked up other people on the way to attend the classes. These lay workers receive almost no help to become a pastor and are preaching. After 2 one-week classes they have a better understanding of what the bible says. After the last classes they took back with them a supply of goods from our last and second to last shipments to hand out at the different churches. Normally these kind of supplies do not reach the remote places where they live.

Jérémie and the south were hit with the earthquake and then the hurricane this fall, leaving much destruction. The HLMS was blessed with some large donations for earthquake relief, so we were able to help these people with items mentioned by them in their thank you letter.

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MCBRIDE, Erna Hillevi--
(founding member of HLMS)

Never one to miss a party, Erna McBride passed on from this earth on August 2, 2021, shortly after planning and celebrating her 90th birthday.



Erna was the social convener of the family and ensured a busy life with just enough mayhem thrown in to make things interesting. Erna was guided by the notions that you can never have enough friends, you can never spend enough time with those you hold dear and there is always more that can be done to help those in need. She possessed a remarkable energy and enthusiasm that she directed to her family, friends, and numerous causes.

Her Christian faith was important to her, and she was an active member of Christ Lutheran Church for more than 65 years. She was a regular participant at LWML–C meetings, she strove to demonstrate God's love for his people. The Haiti Lutheran Mission Society, and Mixte Nazareth Feeding program were very dear to her heart and she spent countless hours raising funds and support for projects and programs. The latest of her committee work was to welcome a refugee family.

Trinity Hope is the organization that runs the children's feeding program in Haiti in 241 Christian schools. 52,000 meals a day are supplied during the school year at a cost of only 27 cents per meal. That totals an astounding 9.6 million meals a year. Smaller kids get 2 cups of rice and beans, and the larger kids get 4 cups.

The extra benefit of the program is that the children can then concentrate on their studies. They also take home the Gospel message resulting in a large percentage of the parents also joining their local Church. Our Society sponsors one of those schools called Mixte Nazareth which has some 400 children attending. Several board members have visited the site and can attest to how well it is run. This school feeding was started in honour of the passing of Erna McBride's daughter.

Wally Bogusat, Chairman HLMS



Proverbs 11:24-25

One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.

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November 2021

LOOKING AHEAD--

There is always much need in Haiti. We will be working closely with the mission out of Florida called "Mission Haiti".

- **Teaching**

HLMS plans to have sponsor a class for around 30 laymen early in the new year when it is safe to travel. A second teaching class may happen in the fall. Our society is the only one giving these men this kind of education to help them lead their communities in good spiritual care.

- **More Solar Power**

The solar project in Poteau is a great benefit for the church and their people. The same benefits are possible in Culminy. The church is a little larger and they have a school beside the church that could also benefit from having electricity.

- **Sewing Machines**

The church in Poteau has asked if we could help with supplying sewing machines for a sewing school. The equipment would allow members of the church and community to repair clothing and sew new clothes, helping themselves.

- **Church Building Support**

The church in Tomassique is partially built and needs funds to continue. Several churches were damaged by the earthquake and hurricane and are in need of repairs. Please consider donating to our general fund which would provide us with funds to send for relief and support when the next weather issue which Haiti is known for.

- **Pastor Transportation**

There is a need for motor bikes for the pastors (lay workers) so they can get around to their people. the cost for the current students is \$1,500 US.

- **Goats**

Purchase a family of goats and have them reproduce to sell. Fencing is required for this to function.

Any donation is welcome. You can donate stocks or mutual funds which avoids capital gains tax, while also benefiting from a charitable donation receipt. For information on this send an email to

wbogusat@cogeco.ca

Donations can be made out to Haiti Lutheran Mission Society.

Local transportation—

Called "TAP TAP" You get on, TAP, get off and pay!



Collecting your Contact Information—

As we continue to grow our donor list, we are wishing to also record email addresses and/or phone numbers.

Email addresses would be used to issue electronic copies of donation receipts and can also be used to send electronic copies of newsletters! You can help us update our records by emailing

treasurer@haitilutheranmissionsociety.ca

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