



# NEWSLETTER

LUTHERAN MISSION ASSOCIATION – MnN

Volume 14 Issue 1 Spring, 2014

## CHICKEN PROJECT

The “Lutheran Farm”, as it is now called in the North District of Haiti, has a very successful broiler chicken project in place. When we visited in February, there were 1100 chickens which will be ready to butcher in a couple of weeks. When ready, they are sold alive to vendors who sell them on the street or deliver them to folks to butcher. The farm cannot keep up with the demand, and the chickens are coveted by the buyers. The profits are used to replace the chickens, buy feed, increase the number of birds they raise, and help pay the teachers’ and pastors’ salaries. They hope to eventually raise some of their own feed, but a wall is needed to be built around the 1 ½ acre of property adjacent to the chicken part of the farm.



1100 chickens almost ready to sell – two pens of them!

Additionally, another 1000 new chicks have been purchased and are being kept warm and dry in another building. Two buildings are being cleaned and disinfected in preparation for the next batch. The man and his sons who take care of the chicken project are doing a wonderful job!



New baby chicks

## THE GLORIA DEI CHURCH/SCHOOL

There is a church and school in the midst of the poorest part of Cap Haitien, Haiti, where there are about 80 students and a congregation worshipping in a rented below-street-level building. LMA has purchased a lot for a new school and church, but doesn’t have enough funds for a building. The estimated cost will be \$40-\$50,000 to build a basic two story concrete block building to be used for church services and for a school. This year’s rent was \$3500, up \$1200 from last year to rent the poor dark building. LMA started a fund to try to raise money to build, but only have about \$3050 in it so far. Any donations you send will be put into that fund at LCEF, and when there is enough money, it will be sent to Cap Haitien with LMA members to be used to buy materials and hire laborers.



Children in a Gloria Dei classroom

## 2014 TRIP TO CAP HAITIEN, HAITI

Two of us traveled to Cap Haitien on Friday, January 31, 2014. I, Lil Spilde, was accompanied by Laraye Rehfeldt from our church in Hartford, SD. We traveled from Sioux Falls, SD to Miami, then on to Port au Prince the following morning. The last leg of the trip was on TourteqAir, from Port au Prince to Cap Haitien.

Sunday we attended church at First Lutheran Church in Madeline, and though the service was in Creole, we knew we were worshipping with Lutherans who espoused the same doctrine as we. We celebrated Holy Communion with our Haitien brothers and sisters.

**(2014 Trip, Con't)**

Monday and Tuesday were spent with students and faculty at the compound at Madeline , a southern suburb of Cap Haitien. I helped with the framing of a metal roof on the shipping container they were using for storage, which had rust and holes in the roof. Emmanuel, one of the elders is a carpenter, and when I showed up on the roof, he handed me a hammer and nail – he apparently wanted to see if I could drive a nail. I passed the test, so was allowed to help. For the most part, I did measuring and holding boards. The man cutting the lumber was using a hacksaw, but got disgusted with that and took a machete. He was amazing! He could cut a board straight with a few blows; he hit the same spot every time he swung!

Before the roof was finished, Laraye and I cleaned out the inside of the storage container and made it ready to again store supplies in a dry place. There is black water pipe hose, a toilet and three sinks in there, plus various other things.



**Helping with the new roof**

Three young men of the North District Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti have been ordained this past fall. Each now has a clergy cross from LMA. They are Luc Belizaire, serving in DonDon, Lucson Joseph, serving in St. Raphael, and Lefaite Louis, serving in Cap Haitien.

The Bibles that LMA purchased for all the fifth graders in the District have been ordered, but have not yet arrived. Three days a week, Pastor Eliona has confirmation classes in the meeting area with different groups of students.

We also packaged packets of food for the church members at the Gloria Dei Church in Cap Haitien. It was to have been distributed the following Sunday at church. We purchased seven100# bags of rice and two bags of beans. We put six measures of rice in a bag, then two measures of beans in a separate bag, within the rice bags. When finished, we had packaged 72 packets. The remaining beans and rice went to the other Lutheran churches.



**Laraye and Lil packing beans and rice for Gloria Dei church**

One day we visited the Gloria Dei (airport) school; there were 63 students there that day. Their rooms are crowded and dark: I don't know how they can see their books. The students were very well-behaved and polite. The new land for the church/school is across the street from the rented building. I met with a man who would design the new

building and we discussed possibilities.

Laraye and I put together a wheelbarrow and cart that we had sent earlier. The bolts and parts were missing the last time we were there, so we brought new ones.

The Madeline school is grossly overcrowded. There are more than 500 students there now. Temporary classrooms were built along the east wall – seven of them. One of the problems with all the new students is that some of them are at school for the first time and are just learning to read at ages 9-14. It makes teaching difficult; several of the teachers stay after school with those students to teach reading. During noon hour the students don't really have anything to do; it would be nice to clean up areas & put up basketball hoops and tether ball areas, plus some play areas for the younger children and outdoor seating. The bathrooms are in very bad shape and need to be reworked – more built and more sanitary measures taken.

The "Lutheran farm," near Madeline, is very successful. There were two pens of 1100 half-grown broilers, and another pen surrounded with tarps, with 1000 new chicks in it. The pens were very clean and the caretaker is doing an excellent job! On the grounds, there was also a pen with some goats and a steer in it. They need to start a fruit/vegetable farm also, but there isn't a wall around that part, so it can't be developed.

On our way to St. Raphael (40+ miles over mountains), we stopped at DonDon (Pastor Luc) and visited the school in session there. The students were very quiet and polite – they stood when we entered their class area. They all meet in the church room, and curtains separate some of the classes.



**Students in classes in the Lutheran School in DonDon**

The DonDon school is in need of repair; some of the concrete blocks on their building are crumbling. Also they need windows, finished floors, and of course, a second floor.



**Pastors Luc and Lucson with the new motorbikes purchased by LWML MN North**

At St. Raphael (Pastor Lucson), a chain link fence that we had sent in the last container was made into pens, and there were 18 goats in them. That is the start of their congregational goat project. The nanny goats will have

their first kid at the church, and then their second kid, which will be born after the nanny goat is given to a family, will also belong to the church. Then the nanny goat and all subsequent kids will belong to the family. The church board met while we were there (Pastor Eliona translated for me), as they worked out the details. They are VERY excited about the project! And they thanked LMA profusely for the fences and money for the goats.



**On the road to Ounaminthe, chickens & charcoal for sale**

On Saturday we traveled to the orphanage in Ounaminthe (near the Dominican Republic border). There are now 55 girls there and another boys' orphanage has been started at another site nearby, with 15 boys. They have also started a school off-site for all the orphanage kids and some neighborhood kids. Pastor Paul and his wife are giving their lives in dedication to those kids!

The second Sunday we attended church at Grande Riviere du Nord (about 15 miles away). It was a full church with some of the choirs and other North District ELCH pastors attending in celebration of their church/school building. It was a wonderful three hour service!

This was Laraye's first trip to Haiti. She enjoyed it – and was quite amazed at many things (like hanging newly washed clothes on cactus fences!)

Tuesday, we were back in cold Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Lil Spilde and Laraye Rehfeldt

## GOAT PROJECT

**Finally!** St. Raphael church has goats!

Two years ago we sent chain link fencing for two pens for the goat project at St. Raphael. One year ago when we went there, we found that they had not put up pens, but had tried to fence in their entire two acres. Of course, they did not have enough fencing! So we said at that time that the fencing needed to be in the form of pens, and we would send money for the goat project when the pens were done.



Sometime later, Pastor Eliona sent Emmanuel Joseph to go there from Cap Haitian and help them with the pens. He did, and we sent \$1074 we had designated for goats. When we arrived there in February, there were 18 goats in the pen! Read more about the project in our trip report in this newsletter.

## MEET NATIE

Natie is in sixth grade at the Madeline school. She is 15 years old.



She was born and still lives in LaRue and has two brothers and two sisters. Her mom sells vegetables and rice at a market. Her father helps with the selling; he has no other job.

Natie loves soccer and music. Her favorite subjects in school are Mathematics and Science. She hopes to go into medicine when she finishes High School.

Her after-school chores include washing clothes and dishes, cleaning and sometimes cooking. Natie knows a little English and would like to learn more.

## LETTER FROM PASTOR ELIONA BERNARD:



Dear brothers and sisters in the Lord!

I am so happy to share with you the ordination service of three of our seminarians whose names are: Lucson Joseph (St Raphael), Luc Belizaire (Dondon) and Lefait Louis (Madeline) and the confirmation of my two first sons Elioth Keynes and Bryan Christopher Bernard and another young girl of the Airport Church, Gloria Dei.

We are thankful to God for His mercy toward us. I ask you to keep these three pastors in your prayers as they are working in a very difficult situation so that God keep them straight in His Word, pray also for those three young confirmed.

"The work is plentiful but workers are few"

In His name,

Pastor Eliona Bernard  
North District of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Haiti

## ADOPT A STUDENT

**It's time to adopt students from our brothers and sister schools/congregations in the North District of Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti. Jenny Higgins will be contacting you who have adopted in the past, and we would really appreciate it if you would continue with your generous support. If you have not adopted students before, please contact Jenny at 218-766-4562, and she will be happy to send you information. The cost continues to be \$250 per student, and that money helps pay for teachers, school expenses and uniforms.**

**LMA's Website: [Imamnn.org](http://Imamnn.org)**

## What LMA does . . .

Lutheran Mission Association promotes mission activities among the congregations of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod in northern Minnesota and other locations in the USA. LMA promotes and maintains relationships in a substantive and “hands-on” way for support in the work of bringing the Gospel to the World. The work is done between LCMS members and Lutheran churches around the world which are in altar and pulpit fellowship with LCMS. Our current project is to help with the churches and schools of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti in the North District of Haiti.

### LMA Organization Status . . .

LMA is a 501c3 non-profit organization. LMA has virtually no overhead and all proceeds go directly to the mission in Haiti. We visit Haiti at least once a year, and find our brothers and sisters in the ELCH have been very accountable for the money sent; trips are funded by individuals who travel.



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