



NEWSLETTER

LUTHERAN MISSION ASSOCIATION – MnN

Volume 15 Issue 1 Spring, 2015

THE LUTHERAN FARM

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 about \$820 from each time broilers are sold, and that money is used to help pay pastors and teachers in the North District of the ELCH. There are five buildings on the grounds, and they could handle another 1200 chickens rotating them to allow them enough room as they grow. But the startup cost would be about \$5000, including chicks, feed, transportation of feed, salaries for workers and other expenses. Also, the purchase of a feed grinder would cut expenses, but the cost of such a grinder is quite high. The corn and other grains could not be raised on the Lutheran Farm’s property, as there is no wall around most of the land, so grains would need to be purchased locally.



The boys who help their dad take care of the Lutheran Farm

Another 1100 new chicks have been ordered. There was discussion of buying 100 layer chicks and start a egg business. That might also require another part-time employee. The church board will look into that possibility.

On the unfenced (unwalled) land, a number of goats are staked out, and many sweet potatoes and cassavas are raised. Both are sold for profit when mature.

THE GLORIA DEI CHURCH/SCHOOL

The school and church in the poorest part of Cap Haitien may eventually become a reality. When the group from Hartford, SD was there in February, the land was being prepared for the building. However, as the land in that part of the city is “reclaimed” from the Atlantic Ocean the water table is very high, and that is a serious problem. The contractor met with our group and he says we will likely need a 5-6” thick concrete pad laid down before any foundation work is done. That would help in preventing the building from sinking, and would cost an additional \$7500.



Gloria Dei construction meeting & the land

Since our visit, a contractor has been hired to clean up the land, pump the water, and are prepared to haul gravel in to build up the land. The process will take longer than expected, but we hope to have a building by the beginning of the school year next fall. We have received two donations of \$20,000 each, one from the MN North LWML and the other from an individual, and have an additional \$3400 saved for it. We estimate the total cost to be between \$55,000 and \$60,000.

Because of the large amount spent to prepare the land, they may not be able to complete the entire two stories before September school starts, but we should be able to finish the wall and one floor and put a temporary metal roof over it so it can be used, as we continue to fundraise for the completion of the entire structure.

On the next page are plans for the building. Note, the outside wall of the building also acts as a security wall. The lot is quite small, so no windows are on the outside of the building; the only light comes from the small inside court and “tube lights” from the roof.

PLANS FOR GLORIA DEI CHURCH AND SCHOOL



2015 TRIP TO HAITI REPORT

Three of us traveled to Cap Haitien on Friday, January 31, 2014, Laraye Rehfeldt and Talis Johnson and I from our church in Hartford, SD. We flew from Sioux Falls, SD to Miami, then directly to Cap Haitien via American Airlines. The new service directly to CH was started last fall, and saves us time and money.

Sunday we attended church at First Lutheran Church in Madeline, and though the service was in Creole, Pastor Eliona translated for us as Pastor Lafaute Louis preached.

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, Talis (an electrician) did wiring at the compound, working with a Haitien electrician and a young man learning wiring. Much of his work was repairing problems in the old wiring that was there. He used all the supplies he had brought and even purchased a few more items to finish the job. It was a wonderful work, as the Haitien workers were constantly learning from Talis, and will be better equipped to do their work there.

LaRaye and I cleaned the grounds at the school and interacted with the students. The clinic is still operating with a doctor there two days a week, and a nurse who fills in the other days. The number of patients varies from 5 to 20 each day.

There is need for more Bibles that LMA purchases for all the fifth graders in the District but we do not know the number yet. There are weekly confirmation classes in the meeting area with different groups of students.

We visited the Gloria Dei (airport) school; there were more than 200 students there that day. Their rooms are crowded and dark. We took pictures of those students for our Adopt A Student program.

The Madeline school has about 500 students. New classrooms were built along the east wall – seven of them now have concrete floors and new chalkboards. 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.

A video will soon be available on the website of the children all gathered on the compound, singing their National Anthem, another song and "How Great Thou Art". It was great!

There are four pieces of playground equipment on the grounds, but only the slide and teeter-totter were functional. We hired a welder to repair the swing set, and cemented in the merry-go-round so they would be usable. On Friday we painted the pieces, and came back to see them used on Monday. (There were about 40 little kids on the merry-go-round when we got there!)

We were not able to visit the St. Raphael school/church because the recent heavy rains have compromised a bridge. The road that used to take us through the river is no longer there, so we couldn't even use that!

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
(Continued on next page)

SELF SUFFICIENCY PROJECTS

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 DonDon (about 22 miles away). It was a full church with a wonderful a capella choir directed by Pastor Luc. We celebrated Holy Communion with them. It was a wonderful 2 ½ hour service! An individual gave \$500 for them to use to finish the plastering on the outside of their church/school.

This was Laraye's second trip to Haiti and Talis' first. They enjoyed it – and were quite amazed at many things AND, Talis couldn't believe the traffic in the city and the poor living conditions everywhere.

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

MORE ON THE TRIP IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER!!

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.

The "Lutheran Farm" near Cap Haitien, was the District's first self-sufficiency project, and the chicken growing part of it has been successful. However, there is still a piece of land that is more than three acres that has not been developed because there is no security wall around it. If there is no wall, neighborhood animals are wandering on the land destroying crops. Also the fruit and vegetables are likely to "disappear" when they are ready to harvest. The cost of additional wall is quite cost-prohibitive at this point.

Of course, the goat project in St. Raphael is already in operation, and we should soon get a report on how it is working.

One new possibility is the sewing of uniforms for school children, not only for the Lutherans, but also to sell to other schools. Almost all the children who go to school in Cap Haitien are required to wear uniforms, each with their own colors and styles. There are four good Jenome treadle machines in Cap Haitien, but there is a need for someone to teach a few people to sew and also a need for start-up costs.

Another possibility is that of a bakery. Pastor Eliona and the three pastors from outlying areas have been discussing this possibility, and will come up with a start-up cost and strategy of establishing such a business.



Sellers going home at the end of the day on the streets

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE GLORIA DEI SCHOOL

Cap-Haitien, le 27 Mars 2015

A : LMA (Lutherian Mission Association)

Objet : Demande d'accompagnement financier

Mes frères et sœurs,

Que la paix et la grâce de Dieu vous soient multipliées de la part de notre seigneur et sauveur Jésus-Christ.

« La reconnaissance est la mémoire du cœur » sur cette pensée, mes chers amis je me fais interprète de toute l'équipe, afin de vous adresser nos plus chaleureux remerciements pour la visite rendue à notre établissement à Bas-Aviation, votre présence nous était très estimable, nous en sommes très reconnaissant ! Et nous vous remercions aussi pour les démarches entreprises, en accueillant des prises de vue regroupant : les élèves et le personnel de l'école. Nous espérons que ces démarches nous seront très fructueuses à l'avenir.

Dans cette même ordre d'idées, qu'il me soit permis de vous présenter les composants de l'institution pour l'année académique 2014-2015 ; Nous avons débuté avec un effectif de deux cent cinquante (250) élèves.

- Un (1) surveillant général : qui assure la discipline à l'école.
- un corps professoral de dix (10) enseignants : qui sont là comme orientateurs, pour la transmission du savoir.
- . Service du petit personnel.
- Un gardien : qui surveille l'établissement et les matériels qui s'y trouvent.
- Deux (2) ménagères : qui s'occupent des élèves préscolaires et le nettoyage des salles de classes
- Trois(3) cuisinières : qui préparent la nourriture.

N.B. Nous avons une obligation salariale chaque mois envers eux.

Cependant, l'heure est venue de m'interroger : où étions-nous ? Où sommes-nous ? Où serons-nous ? Quelle est notre espérance ?

Situation mise à nue par la moindre, malgré nos faibles moyens.

Chaque année le nombre des élèves ne cesse d'accroître et malgré le problème d'espace, mais nous ne pouvons pas les stopper, car le besoin de l'éducation se fait sentir au jour le jour dans notre société. Nous n'avons pas d'autre moyen pouvant nous faire sortir de cette situation misérable que l'Education. Mes chers amis, il est clair que

l'Education est d'une suprême importance. Elle est une nécessité vitale pour les individus comme pour les sociétés. Sans elle, pas de production des richesses matérielles, pas de morale, pas de progrès dans les sciences. En un mot pas de civilisation sans l'Education. Cela nous fait sentir que l'Education est l'épine dorsale d'une société ; elle est la clef du développement de toute société. Or, chez nous, elle très négligée.

Tenant compte de la situation chaotique dans laquelle nous vivons en Haïti ; pour faire fonctionner un établissement scolaire convenablement, ce n'est pas une chose facile. Il y a tant d'obstacles, tant d'embûches qui nous dressent sur le chemin. Par exemple :
Manque de matériels didactiques, faibles moyens économiques pour répondre aux besoins qu'engendre l'environnement des Professeurs.
Manque de matériels pouvant faciliter l'apprentissage des élèves. Nous avons remarqué que la situation est aussi malheureuse chez les parents, ils ne peuvent même pas répondre aux exigences faites par l'institution, même pour les ouvrages demandés, c'est un casse-tête.

Donc, sans vous rappeler mes chers amis, comme peuple civilisé, je sais que je ne me dupe pas, que vous sachiez le rôle primordial de l'Education dans une nation. Vous aimeriez que nos enfants soient bien éduqués, pour sortir de la barbarie, pour avancer vers la civilisation, n'est-ce pas ? C'est la raison pour laquelle moi, le directeur, par la présente aimerait bien vouloir solliciter votre aide financière, et surtout vos prières, qui nous permettrait d'avancer avec notre programme d'enseignement.

Nous sommes ravis que nous aurons une nouvelle école et l'église, et nous sommes reconnaissants à la LMA pour aider à le construire.

Nous savons que Dieu seul peut changer la situation en Haïti, comme Il nous conduit dans notre tentative à l'éducation de nos enfants. Nous vous remercions à l'avance de l'attention que vous accordez à notre demande et nous vous prions d'agréer nos sincères salutations.

ANDRE, Kerlantz; Directeur de
L'Ecole Ev. Le Luthérien Gloria Dei
Cap-Haitien, Haïti

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.



Meeting in Haiti with Rev Nowak and Jack Hunter of Nebraska's Haiti Mission Society

Motorcycle "taxi"



GOOGLE HANGOUT MEETINGS

If you would like to listen to or take part in our monthly meetings on Google Hangouts, please email Lori Salvhus at l.salvhus@arvig.net with your gmail address and she will invite you. The meetings are usually held on the first Saturday of the month at 9:30 a.m. In May and October they will be face-to-face meetings held in Bemidji,



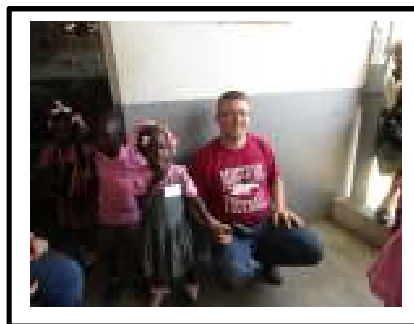
Seller of chairs



One of LaRaye's least favorite things



New Sanctuary at First Lutheran Church of Cap Haitien (main compound)



Talis with school kids



Woman carrying eggs to sell

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 with the exception of money transfers, state fees and membership in an LCMS mission organization. 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.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT: Imamn.org



Lutheran Mission Association
1324 9th Street
International Falls, MN 56649