



NEWSLETTER

LUTHERAN MISSION ASSOCIATION – MnN
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FEBRUARY 2012 HAITI TRIP

by Lil Spilde

Susan Martin, Carmen Martin and I traveled to Cap Haitien via Port au Prince in February 2012. We went to visit the complex at Madeline, look for progress on projects, and connect with our fellow Lutherans in Haiti. We also went to visit the new seminary building in Leogane, near Port au Prince, and visit with the pastors about the progress of the mission of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti.

For the first time, we traveled to Port au Prince via American Airlines, and saw some of the devastation still remaining from the 2010 earthquake. Pastor Thomas Bernard met us at the airport and took us to an in-country airport to continue our trip to Cap Haitien. It was interesting to fly over the country for the first time. The trip was only about forty five minutes in duration.

There is some progress in the compound in Cap Haitien. The long concrete building in the NE corner of the compound is near completion – there are now three classrooms and another larger room which serves as housing for the caretaker and his family. (A short article about that family is in another part of this newsletter.) Concrete blocks are being formed for an addition to the school, a project being facilitated by a group from Ohio.



The Self-Sufficiency Project to the south of Cap Haitien is also showing progress. Chickens have been purchased and being

housed in one of the two completed buildings, with two more buildings started for more chickens. The folks are having trouble getting the chickens to produce. We suggested that the chickens are crowded and that they be separated and given roosts. (Since our visit, they decided to only raise butcher chickens and have finished the other two buildings and divided the chickens. There is a 10' concrete wall around the chicken part of the land for security. We walked over the part of the land that will be a vegetable and fruit garden. There are a number of trees there: avocado, lemon, mango, banana and orange. There are plans to plant vegetables and cassava to sell for income for the North District, and provide jobs for workers and sellers from the churches. Not much is being done on it now, as there is no security. The picture below shows some of the land with the chicken project wall on the left.



We leased a vehicle to travel to Port au Prince, leaving on a Friday and returning the next day. While there, we went to Leogane (just southeast of Port au Prince) to see the new seminary building and other buildings being built by the LCMS. There are also homes being constructed by LCMS to be rented to families.

New ELCH
seminary
building in
Leogane,
Haiti



There are still quite a few tents in and around the city of Port au Prince, left over from the earthquake destruction of January 2010. Below are a few of the tents in which folks are still living.

A tent city in Port au Prince



Rice fields between Gonaives & Port au Prince

"LCMS built" Lutheran Village at Leogane



Back in Cap Haitien, we purchased 600 lbs of rice (@ \$78/100 lbs) and 200 lbs beans (@ \$95/100 lbs) with LMA funds. Half of the food went to DonDon and the rest was packaged up for the families and children of the airport area (Gloria Dei school/church) in Cap Haitien. (By the way, the beans were imported to Haiti from Cavalier, ND.) We also had a chance to visit the orphanage at Ounaminthe, which houses 53 Haitien girls and operates a school of about 120 children.

Profile of a Caretaker's family

Markenson Cleophard, his wife Sulfira, and his family and brother moved from Port au Prince after the earthquake in January 2010. They had lost everything in PaP, and saw the situation getting worse and worse. They found transportation to Cap Haitien, and as they had been members of Rev. Thomas Bernard's church, they came to Rev. Eliona Bernard's church seeking help. Some the help they received in Cap Haitien originated with LMA. When a job came up for a caretaker at the compound in Cap Haitien suburb of Madeline, Markenson obtained that job and the family moved into a room on the property. They immediately enrolled four of their children in the school. They have three sons, Edenson 12, Clefson 7, Wesly 4, and two daughters, Markensia 10 and Naphtalie 2. Markenson speaks English quite well, which he learned in High School. He has also done some teaching. When our LMA group was there in February, we purchased a queen size mattress and box spring and a shelf unit for the family. They were very happy about the furniture as they had been sleeping on the floor in their room. They are still cooking outdoors on a charcoal stove and Sulfira washes all their clothes by hand.



THE WEBSITE

LMA-MnN's website can be accessed by going to: <http://lmamn.org/> Rev. Nathan Higgins, an LMA member from Long Prairie, is our webmaster. He can be contacted at fr_nhiggins@yahoo.com

ADOPT A CHURCH

Each month LMA sends support to each of the churches in Haiti's North District. Below (in bold) are the amounts we send, money received from various churches and individuals for the purpose of helping these churches. The salaries of the pastors range from about \$75 to \$150 per month. There are also other expenses: musical instruments, diesel generator fuel, Sunday School supplies, Holy Communion supplies, not to mention the costs of construction and repair of buildings.

\$30 – Premier Ev Lutheran Church, Cap Haitian

Rev. Eliona Bernard, Pastor

\$65.84 – Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Cap Haitian

Rev. Valery Marulius, Pastor

\$150 – Evangelical Lutheran church, Dondon

Vicar Luc Belizaire, leader

\$25 - Faith Lutheran Church, Grande Riviere

Du Nord, Rev. Gergens Edouard, Pastor

\$75 – Grace Lutheran Church, St. Raphael

Vicar Lucson Joseph, leader

\$1500 for school support

\$100 for Bibles for 5th & 6th graders

Each congregation has between 40 and 150 people

attending each Sunday, and each has a Sunday School class before the service.

If your group, or you, as an individual, is willing to help support a church, please fill in the form below and mail it to us. We will keep you posted through the newsletters of things going on in those congregations. Remember, we are a 501c3 Non-Profit entity, so your donation is tax deductible.

Any amount you can give will be a real blessing because it will be combined with donations from others and become a constant support for the fledgling congregations in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti's North District.

Please tear off the form below and send it with your donation to LMA's Financial Secretary:

Mrs. Karen Lueth, 33879 Co 4, Park Rapids, MN 56470



Church service at Evangelical Lutheran Church at Dondon, Haiti (approx.. 75 in attendance)



LUTHERAN MISSION ASSOCIATION

ADOPT-A-CHURCH/PASTOR PROGRAM

Name _____

____ Congregation

Address _____

____ Group

____ Individual

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Intended duration of support _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Financial Support \$ _____ (Check one) ____ per month ____ per quarter ____ per year

I/We will support the Church/Pastor of _____

Supporter's Signature _____ Date _____

Make checks payable to Lutheran Mission Association AAC Program, and send to Karen Lueth, Financial Secretary, 33879 Co. 4, Park Rapids, MN 56470



Completed:
three
classrooms
and
caretaker's
quarters at
Cap Haitien
- Madeline

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.

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

Organization Status . . .

LMA is a 501c3 non-profit organization. There is 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 very accountable for the money sent.

LMA Officers . . .

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Adopt A Church: Lil Spilde, 605-446-3266

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Intended duration of support _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Financial support \$ _____ (Check one) _____ per month _____ per quarter _____ per year

I will support the Christ/Pastor of _____

Supporter's Signature _____ Date _____

Make checks payable to Lutheran Mission Association AAC Program, and send to Karen Lueth, Financial Secretary, 33879 Co. 4, Park Rapids, MN 56470