



# NEWSLETTER

LUTHERAN MISSION ASSOCIATION – MnN

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## THE GLORIA DEI CHURCH/SCHOOL NEEDS A BUILDING!

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 does not have funds to build 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. Next year's rent will be \$3500, up \$1200 from last year for rent for poor dark buildings. LMA started a fund to try to raise money to build, but only have about \$1900 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.



This is the land lot which LMA purchased for the Gloria Dei church – school. It is in a very depressed area of Cap Haitien

## 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.

## Meet Antoine



Antoine is 14 years old and was born in Limonde, a small town about 6 miles from the Madeline Lutheran school. She has lived in Cap Haitien about six years. There are two children in her family; she is the younger. Her brother is still in Limonde, and is 17 and in the ninth grade. Her parents are farmers.

Antoine is in fifth grade at the school. Her favorite subject is French and her least favorite is science. She plans to graduate from high school, but isn't sure what she wants to do in the future.

Her home is with her aunt and uncle in Cap Haitien so she can go to the Lutheran School. After school she helps with the chores at her aunt's home, and on Saturdays she helps wash clothes by hand. She only comes to church at First Lutheran Church about once a month, and does not see her family often. Antoine hopes that someday she will be married and have children.



Gloria Dei Lutheran School students in their classroom

## 2013 TRIP TO CAP HAITIEN, HAITI

Three of us embarked on a 2013 trip to Cap Haitien, Haiti on April 5th,. Deb Larson and I left from Minneapolis/St. Paul and Cassie Lester left from Seattle. We arrived at Port au Prince on April 6<sup>th</sup>, and were met by Pastor Thomas Bernard's workers and escorted from the American Airlines airport to the TortugAir airport. We arrived at Cap Haitien about noon on Saturday. It was hot and muggy, and, because it was market day, there were many people on the streets.

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.

Monday and Tuesday were spent with students and faculty at the compound at Madeline, a southern suburb of Cap Haitien. Deb worked at the clinic and assessed the situation there. Cassie took pictures of students and Lil worked with Emmanuel and others to assemble the wheelbarrow and water cart we had sent in the container in August of 2012. We also visited the chicken and fruit/vegetable farm, purchased about 12 seedling trees (grapefruit, orange, breadfruit, lemon, cinnamon, acacia palm trees and passion fruit plants) and helped plant them at the farm. We also left funds for the purchase of more trees, which Pastor Bernard will purchase when they become available and see that they are planted.

The chicken farm is successful. The workers there purchase about 2000 baby chicks and raise them to butchering age and then sell them live to vendors. They can't keep up with the demand. The workers and vendors are members of our Lutheran church in Madeline. Some of the profits have been used to help pay teachers and pastors, and some has been reinvested into producing an increasing number of chickens. Most of the feed is purchased from the Dominican Republic, but they are planning to raise a portion of the feed when the garden project is in operation.

Wednesday brought an unexpected occurrence: Cassie got sick with dysentery and vomiting. As she was becoming increasingly dehydrated, we decided to bring her to the St. Justin Hospital in Cap Haitien. She was immediately sent to the infectious disease ward, where she got IVs and injections for pain. It was an amazing experience: she was in a ward with about 12 others, both men and women, and there was virtually no privacy. Family members needed to bring bedding and food for the patients, so there were many people milling around her "bed" (which was a lounge chair – most patients got a long piece of plywood as a bed.) The hospital employees work very hard to stop infectious diseases from spreading, and spend an inordinate amount of time washing beds, floors, hands and shoes with bleach water. We were impressed with their work in that area.

Cassie was released from the hospital the same evening and went home with an IV in her arm and another bag of IV solution to take with us, and lots of pills. The next day

I stayed home with her and spent the day washing clothes (by hand, after pulling the cold water up from the well in buckets) and shelling a gunny sack of congo beans. That day we rented a car in anticipation of traveling to the outlying churches during the weekend.

Friday I went back to the compound and interviewed three students (one interview is on page 1 of this newsletter), and spent a lot of time discussing the priority list that we had presented to the church leaders in the North District. We also visited the Gloria Dei School in the very poor district of Cap Haitien. It was crowded and the classrooms were dark. The gate is locked during school hours, and when the children were dismissed, there was a gang of young men outside the gate ready to attack the kids – I even saw one using his belt to try to hit a student.

Deb brought a gift of \$20 for each teacher and attendant at all the schools, a gift from the Batdorfs. She presented them with certificates of appreciation at each school. We left six bags (600 lbs) of rice and two (200 lbs) bags of beans with the church leaders.

Sunday we drove over mountains to St. Raphael for their church service. It was very nice – with several singing groups participating. We brought them six bags of rice and two of beans (incidentally, the beans were from Cavalier, ND), to be distributed by the church leaders. They promised to finish the pens with the chain link fencing we sent so we can help them purchase goats for their self-sufficiency project. From there, we visited the churches in DonDon and Grande Riviere du Nord. There is now a school in GRN: the pastor canvassed the neighborhood last fall and found there would likely be 15 students who would attend a Lutheran school if it were opened. The first day of school, 80 children showed up! They are very busy trying to repair their small lot and build a new building to accommodate all those students. Of course, money is short, so the progress is very slow.

Monday morning we boarded a plane to come back to the USA. We feel it was a worthwhile trip, but are very concerned about the congregations that have so many needs, and wonder how we can garner funds to help them with buildings, salaries, teacher and pastor training, and supplies and equipment.

Lil Spilde



Deb presents teachers and pastor at Gloria Dei with certificates and gifts



The bad condition of the ceiling/roof at the Grande Riviere du Nord church and school



Pastor Jerome Papito, the new leader of the church at Gloria Dei Lutheran church

Deb presents gifts and certificates to teachers and pastors at DonDon



Cassie at the well at the compound

## PRIORITY LIST OF PROJECTS

When LMA members traveled to Cap Haitien in April of 2013, they brought a list of projects for the North District of ELCH with them. The purpose of that was to ask the district leaders for their input as to which projects are the most important to them and to list them (and others they have) as their priorities. LMA members came back with this list of priorities and the cost of each:

### 2013 Meetings of LMA & ELCH North District

1. School Support (monthly) \$ 1,500.00 per month
2. Batteries and installation (16) \$ 3,060.00
3. Rent for Jerome Papito (pastor at Gloria Dei) \$ 1,000.00 per yr
4. Gloria Dei Church/school building \$ 45,000.00
5. Grande Riviere du Nord building/wall completion \$ 50,000.00
6. Completion of clinic in Madeline \$ 30,000.00
7. Rebuild/replace gate at Madeline \$ 2,500.00
8. Cyber café at Madeline (in "cafe" building) \$ 10,000.00
9. DonDon building: floor, windows, plastering, completion
10. Wall around garden project \$ 60,000.00
11. Continued education of school teachers (Summer classes) \$ 2,000.00
12. New flush toilets for Madeline School \$ 1,200.00
13. Church leaders Summer classes \$ 1,000.00 per yr
14. Completion of east wing \$ 35,000.00
15. Purchase of text books for all students \$ 3,000.00
16. St. Raphael building: floor, plastering \$ 5,000.00
17. Water piping from good well to Madeline clinic \$ 3,500.00
18. Parsonages for DonDon, St. Raphael, GRN \$ 60,000.00 (Note: only St. Raphael has land/lot available)
19. Caretaker's house at Madeline \$ 5,000.00
20. Summer vocational training (nursing aid, teaching aid, generator repair, etc.) \$ 2,500.00 per yr
21. DonDon building – 2nd floor ??
22. Building for garden project \$ 3,200.00

(Note: Church building at Madeline is not included as it is already being built)

## 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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