

June 2007
Report on the Lutheran Church of Haiti
By Pastor Revenel Benoit

Greetings to all of you in the name of our risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

My home town, the city of Gonaives, has been known as the revolutionary city of Haiti since 1920. Evil forces have had a stronghold on it and Gonaives residents have come to expect a major overthrow of the local government every five or ten years. There are 8 places in Gonaives that are dedicated to Satan worship; people come from all across the country to participate in pagan Mardi gras and rara (popular carnival) festivals here. Many of these people are possessed by evil spirits.

Many gangs have operated all over town and have been above the law, often protected by corrupt government officials. Armed with sophisticated weapons, even the police feared them. Home break-ins, robbery and rape were commonplace. People lived in terror of these violent gang members. They were considered untouchable.

About six weeks ago a Lutheran pastor, Jim Glynn, came to Gonaives to teach on spiritual revival at a three-day pastoral conference. 45 to 50 pastors attended. We were so blessed by Reverend Glynn's presentation that, after the conference, we decided to form a network of pastors who would come together regularly to pray for spiritual revival in the City of Gonaives. We began coming together right after the conference ended, uniting our hearts and minds in prayer for peace in the City of Gonaives, and claiming authority over all of these gangs and evil spirits.

The Lord heard our intercessory prayers, and in only about three weeks we began seeing miraculous answers to our prayers. A powerful gang leader by the name of Willfort was arrested and put in jail. The police found lots of sophisticated weapons and cocaine in his house. He told the police about other gang members in town, and the police arrested all of them in their homes and confiscated huge quantities of cocaine, hundreds of cellular phones, many weapons and lots of U.S. money. They are now awaiting trial.

The people are rejoicing at what the Lord has done. They are no longer living in fear. I believe this is a clear sign that the Lord desires to bring spiritual revival to the City of Gonaives. We continue to have weekly pastoral prayer meetings and more and more pastors are joining us in the fight against Satan's kingdom. As the leader of this group, Satan wants to destroy me because his strongholds are under attack. He tried to kill me on I-95 in Florida very recently.

On June 20th, I traveled to the U.S. for three purposes. The first was to bring three of my children to Boynton Beach, Florida where they will spend two months vacationing with my in-laws (who were kind enough to pay for their airfare). The second reason was to buy parts for repairing quarry equipment, and the third was to meet an executive from

Caterpillar Tractor Company by the name of Marty Rudin who is a member of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Davie, Florida.

When I arrived at the Miami airport I went to Enterprise Rent-A-Car. I found out my credit card was maxed out from purchasing quarry equipment parts, and I was therefore unable to use it to rent a car. I had some cash on me, but they would not let me rent a car with cash. I then called my brother Paul Klenner to help me, but he couldn't because the Enterprise Manager would not accept his credit card # over the phone, he had to physically have the card. I had no choice then but to go back to the Miami airport with three kids and four heavy bags. When we got back to the airport we found a Haitian lady who said she would be willing to drive us to Boynton Beach for \$125, which I accepted. After 45 minutes of driving, we heard a loud noise and the right rear truck tire blew out. The truck spun around several times across all of the freeway lanes. The Lord was with us, protecting us, because the truck didn't roll over and all of the cars behind us were able to stop and not hit our truck. No one was hurt. I praise the Lord for working such a great miracle to save my life and the lives of my children.

We are also up against evil forces at Haitian Customs in Port-au-Prince, trying to get the 40-foot container, that HLMS in Canada sent us, released. A week and a half ago a team of three people from Faith Lutheran Church went up to Port-au-Prince to be present while Haitian Customs inspected the container contents prior to it being released to the LCH. I was not able to be there because I was on my way to U.S. The Customs official mistakenly inspected another container from the U.S. and only realized his mistake at the last minute. An inspection of the correct container had to be re-scheduled, which meant waiting another two weeks! Very frustrating!

On July 4th, the LCH will be blessed with the visit of two technicians from the U.S.; Fred Goetze and John Gebhur. They will come to Gonaives for about a week to repair the LCH quarry equipment. They will be staying in my house and I am sure we'll have a good time together. It is a great blessing that Fred Goetze is back working with the LCH. Fred is such a good mechanic that I praise God for his skills that he is going to use on behalf of the Lord's kingdom in Haiti.

May the Lord richly bless all of you. Please pray for the pastoral prayer meeting group in Gonaives. We claim spiritual authority over all evil forces and every stronghold in the City that keeps the people in spiritual bondage.

Pastor Revenel Benoit
President, the Lutheran Church of Haiti