

June 2008  
Report on the Lutheran Church of Haiti  
By Pastor Revenel Benoit

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

For people in the city of Gonaives and surrounding areas, cyclone season usually means fear, stress and sadness. Every time there are heavy rains, all the people in town, including me, are worried and we do not know what is going to happen next. Gonaives has become so fragile, after experiencing two floods, that any heavy rain can bring lots of water into town. As we are entering the cyclone season, there is a sense that all people need to get ready and prepare to find shelter in the event of a hurricane. Only God who can spare us. The government has done very little to prevent flooding in the City of Gonaives.

First, we have many environmental problems in this area. Many people have built their homes near rivers that are not big enough to carry heavy flood waters to the ocean. There are few trees on the mountains surrounding Gonaives, about 90% have been cut down by the people to make charcoal, the only fuel they have for cooking. The government hasn't offered any alternatives. Agricultural land that can grow crops is becoming less and less because the last two floods have washed more good soil away. This situation has, of course, increased poverty and dependency on non-government organizations to provide daily needs. The Haitian economy is based on agriculture. We have no industry whatsoever. All we have is the land. Now that most of the good soil is gone around Gonaives, business people and the government are talking about encouraging industries to come and invest in the City of Gonaives

While everyone in town is worried about what is going to happen if a strong hurricane strikes Gonaives again in this season, in the Lutheran Church of Haiti we have taken five steps to help prevent loss of life.

First, we have started a prayer movement; every Friday night over 300 people come from all over town to the Faith Lutheran Church sanctuary to pray the Lord that He spares our town from another disastrous flood. The cry of the people in Gonaives to God has been:

“Lord please forgive our sins and spare us from a third flood. If we get another flood this will be the end of us in Gonaives. Please Lord, have mercy on us.”

We also have an FM radio program every day from 8:PM through 10 PM which is about intercessory prayers for the City of Gonaives and surrounding areas. We have about 2 millions listeners.

Second, we have been using both our TV and FM ministry stations to instruct the people on how to protect the environment and how to protect themselves when there is hurricane coming:

- We instruct them about what kinds of things they need to have in preparation for a hurricane
- Where to find shelter if their home is not a two-story concrete block building

- We give them the names and addresses of government agencies that can assist them with emergency food and water
- We give them a hotline phone number to a prayer chain
- They are instructed on how to take care of infants to avoid infection, dehydration and other health problems

We thank and Praise the Lord for both our FM and TV stations which have been so helpful in assisting the people to get ready for this hurricane season. Please pray for all of us in the City of Gonaives as we face this rainy season.

August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009 a team of 7 people will come to Gonaives, Haiti. There will be 4 Americans, 1 Japanese, 1 Pilipino, and 1 African. They are coming to share a vision the Lord has given them...that there needs to be a Christian church in every village where the Lord Jesus can be worshiped and glorified – not just in the larger cities.. This church planting movement is call CMC – Church Multiplication Coalition. It is meeting with great success in the Philippines and in Africa.

The team will spend a week here, and will meet with hundreds of pastors to set up pastor networks. We would appreciate your prayers that the Haitian pastors catch this vision and begin to work together to plant churches all over the nation. For our part, we intend to plant as many Lutheran churches as we have qualified pastors to minister in.

The LCH has recently purchased a guest house building northeast of Gonaives that can host 50 people. We'll soon start some repairs and then furnish the guest house so it will be ready for occupancy by the first week of December 2009.

As most of you know, the bakery is not back in business yet. All the other ministries and fund raising operations of the LCH were repaired and reopened after the September 2008 flood; they are doing great. We need an investment of \$20,000 to get the bakery up running again. If any of you would like to help in this matter, please contact Brother Paul Klenner, the HLMCC Treasurer, by email – [PaulsEmailBox@yahoo.com](mailto:PaulsEmailBox@yahoo.com)

We do have 4 Churches in the south where their roofs are currently under repair. The needed funds were donated by the LWML of Canada, and we express our thanks to these dear ladies for their contribution to the Lord's work in Haiti. Also Thanks to Willy Whistall in Canada for donating \$5,000 to complete the construction of the church building in Opoto, Gonaives. That church should be open for worship by October 2009.

Thanks to all of you for your prayers and support.

Reverend Revenel  
President, the Lutheran Church of Haiti.