

November 2009
Report on the Lutheran Church of Haiti
By Pastor Revenel Benoit

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

Our American and Canadian Lutheran friends have supported Lutheran mission work in Haiti for the past 28 years. As a result, sixty to seventy thousands souls have been saved by grace through faith. Lutheran churches and schools have been established all over Haiti. Various social ministries have also been established. The Lutheran mission work in Haiti continues to have a challenging future because the harvest is still plentiful, but the workers are few.

Despite many marvelous accomplishments in the areas of evangelism, church planting and other ministries, the Haitian people still need to learn that it is in their own spiritual interest to financially support their churches and rid themselves of the destructive dependency mentality that keeps them reliant on the generosity of people from North America. Unfortunately too many Haitians think we need continuing financial support from North America or the church will collapse...instead of realizing that the church belongs to Jesus Christ and that He will provide the necessary resources if we do our part and trust in Him for the rest. Of course our brothers and sisters in the U.S. and Canada have more resources than Haitians do, so we continue to look to you to assist us financially until we are able to be fully self-supporting.

The LCH vision is that congregations financially support their pastors and pay their school teachers if insufficient tuition is collected from the students. Also, that the LCH synod has enough financial resources to meet its budget for evangelism, church planting, and other ministry needs, *and that both be accomplished by the end of 2011* (two years from now).

This plan, which has been our goal for the past seven years, has been greatly facilitated by our Lutheran brothers and sisters in the U.S. and Canada who have blessed us spiritually, socially and financially. So many have invested their time, talents and treasures, and have sent us equipment, computers and tools that will help us achieve this goal. Praise the Lord!

Already six mission teams are lined up to come to Haiti in the first half of 2010. They will work in the areas of construction, electronics, teacher and lay pastor seminars, VBS and medical clinics.

Goods and goodies keep coming from our Lutheran brothers and sisters at the Haiti Lutheran Mission Society in Canada. This year they have sent two 40-foot containers. We received one already and we'll get the other before Christmas so we will be able to have a Christmas day distribution to thousands families in the City of Gonaives. So a BIG thanks to our dear brothers and sisters in Canada who have put their hearts and souls into packing, loading and shipping a total of 8 large containers to Haiti in recent years. Praise the Lord!

The LCH TV Ministry will soon be blessed with two new high power transmitters from Channel 6 in Indianapolis. The transmitters were donated and just need to be shipped to Gonaives. Last week our LCH TV technician, good friend and supporter, John Gebuhr, went to Channel 6 in Indianapolis to inspect them. These transmitters will replace the current 6 kilowatt transmitter with over 25 kilowatts. I am sure the LCH TV station will soon be able to reach all of Haiti with the Good News of the Gospel.

The new transmitters will require more electricity. More electricity means more diesel fuel to run the big generator at the transmitter site. Now we are looking at and praying about getting wind generators of 100 KW which would provide free power so that we can be on the air 24 hours a day.

We are not too far from becoming a self-supporting church body, but in the meantime I would like to ask you to keep supporting us with your prayers and your financial support. Right now we need funding and manpower to pack and ship these transmitters from Indianapolis to Gonaives.

May the Lord richly bless all of you.

Rev. Revenel Benoit
President, the Lutheran Church of Haiti