

Dear Lutheran brothers and sisters in Christ,

The Lord has richly blessed the people in the city of Gonaives, particularly the Lutherans despite the tragedy of hurricane Jeanne. And I just praise the Lord for so many supports our Church body has been gotten from all of you that have been praying and keeping in touch with me and the people. One way or another you have been showing the love of Jesus to the people in the city of Gonaives through your gifts, food, medicines, cloths, shoes and money. Special thanks to Mrs. Ona Zerra who is in charge of shipping on behalf of the LCH. She has been doing a wonderful job getting lots of goods shipped down to Gonaives on behalf of the flood victims. Also thanks to Mrs. Marcy Hart for sending lots of cloths shoes as well as other items to the people of Gonaives. May God richly bless you ladies and your congregation for being so generous.

I was even more touched and blessed when a team from Community of Hope Lutheran Church in Tuscom, Arizona had recently decided they would come down to Gonaives with a medical team to provide medical care to the flood victims. That team had indeed came and their work had been a great witness to the people of Gonaives which realize that Lutherans from the United States care also to assist them. What the people of Gonaives have been seeing before was mostly the US, Canadian and French Red Cross people working hard to assist them after the flood. But recently they have realized they have got Lutheran brothers and sisters in Christ that also care to provide medical assistance to them.

That team from Arizona had done a great job serving the people of Gonaives for about 4 days. Thanks to Community of Hope Tuscom, AZ for sending that team to serve the people of Gonaives, Haiti. The team impact on the people of Gonaives was so positive that we have no choice than to keep having the medical clinic they had helped started. Now we have Cuban Doctors who are willing to continue serving the people at the LCH medical clinic. They work twice a week there and I hope by March 2005 the medical clinic will be able to function 5 days a week, Monday through Friday.

Also we have had another team of 2 people from Lutheran Church of the Master, Omaha NE that came to Gonaives for two weeks. These two guys John Gebuhr and James Isley had been working in the TV Ministry. John was working hard putting our six kilowatts transmitter back to work while Jim was busy doing electric work at the TV transmitter building, the four story building and the boys shelter.

Jim also had made my wife happy in installing a washing machine that I could not find a technician in town to do so. He was also helping doing lots of electric work over my house fixing lots of bad electric wiring. John and James had left Haiti last Saturday and have had a successful two weeks working on behalf of the Lord's kingdom in Haiti. The Good News is that now the TV station is back working in high power with great picture. This will allow the LCH to spread the good News of the Gospel all over Haiti.

The past five weeks have been very, very busy for me as I was busy working with the teams while helping to start a quarry business. Please forgive me if I did not yet have the chance to reply to many e-mails from friends and HLMCC supporters in the US and Canada. I want to get some rest this week and I will do the best I can to start replying to your e-mail this coming Monday. One thing I have learned in working with Anglo-Americans and Canadians is that communication is important. If there is good communication, working relationship on both sides will be better and better.

I have lots of joys in my heart in seeing many signs of growth in the LCH. More and more people and Churches are looking at our Church body for spiritual guidance and leadership. Our ideas of not relying on foreign aid forever to provide to our Church needs and that we have a plan to become self supporting sound like a great exciting endeavor to many people and other Church bodies that have heard our plan. They like the idea that we have the goal to becoming self supporting in about four years and would like to copy our model.

This year, 2005 we have the plan to plant 40 new churches, 10 Churches in each of the following Districts: Artibonite, Les Cayes, Port-de-paix and Cap-Haitian. Please pray for the LCH concerning this Mission and Evangelism efforts that will allow us to plant 40 new Churches.

There are lots of excitements among our Lay Pastors about a three years theological training program that will get started in March 2005 in Port-au-Prince at Global village. I expect to have a total of 115 people attending that first training session. A Mission Society, LUMIN, led by Reverend Jim Tino, former LCMS World Missions area Director for the Caraibes and Venezuela has agreed to assist the LCH in the teaching process of this three years theological training program leading to ordination of over 95 lay preachers. I request your prayers and support to this important plan of training workers for the harvest.

Faith Lutheran Church special committee still working to provide humanitarian assistance to the people in the city of Gonaives while trying to get Haitian custom releasing the Bloc machine and the bakery equipment. I expected that both the bloc machine and the bakery equipment would be released by Haitian custom over at the border between Haiti and the Dominican Republic for \$2000. But I was surprised and disappointed that custom has charged the LCH \$10,000 US which we don't have. Now I am working with the Haitian Prime Minister Office to have custom released both equipment for free. This might take a few weeks, but I am sure we'll get those as the Prime Minister, Gerard Latortue, is from Gonaives and I know him personally.

The school feeding program sponsored by Trinity Hope and five LCMC congregations is becoming more and more a big asset to the parents as they are facing a difficult time in the city of Gonaives and surrounding areas after the tragedy of hurricane Jeanne. The program is so well received by both parents and the kids that it is like a BIG daily Hope for them. May the Lord continue to bless Trinity Hope and theses LCMC churches for assisting so many children in providing daily food to them while sharing the love of Jesus.

Hope Seeds agriculture program is spreading. From the Artibonite District and Cap Haitian, Haiti Hope Seeds is moving toward going working in Les Cayes. Agronome Enoch, Les Cayes leaders and myself had recently have a successful meeting last week in Gonaives. Now plan is under way that both agronomes Josias and Enoch will soon start working with Lutherans in Les Cayes, Southern part of Haiti. What a blessing to help and assist Lutherans to have their own garden to grow their own food. Again this goes right to the line of self sufficiency effort which I believe will help the Church becoming more and more effective in the spreading of the Gospel.

We are now working on the 8th steps in our humanitarian efforts to assist the flood victims. The step taking now is the Credit Union. The special committee has, so far, loaning money to over 3000 families so that they can each start a business that will allow

them to generate income for their families while paying back the loan in a monthly basis. The system has been working and doing well and we will for sure keep investing on it. By March 1st, 2005 we'll start the 9th steps which is home repair and rebuilding. Last November 2004 that special committee had made a contract with a local construction company to start repairing, rebuilding small houses for over 3000 families. As for now the people are still cleaning up the mud inside their houses and the streets. Home repair and rebuilding will get started in March 1st, 05 that by March 1st, 05. A detail financial report was sent last week to the treasurer of the HLMCC, Mr Paul Klenner concerning the Flood Relief Funds expenses.

We have recently had a good start for 2005 in going in the self supporting direction. A local bank has agreed to finance a very big project for us, a korry business. The business got started a week ago. We are selling construction sand to town. This generates a net profit of \$6000 H a day. the business daily sell is \$9000 H. We are loading over 80 dump trucks a day with brut sand. We are now in the process of installing a rock crusher which will sell finished sand. As soon as the rock crusher installation done we'll even make more profit a day on behalf of the Church. Over at the korry we give employment to over 25 people from our Lutheran Churches in Gonaives. Out of the three equipment needed to exploit the korry, we so far own two: a loader and a bulldozer. Now we rent an excavator from a company in Port-de-prince for the amount of \$10,000 US a month. Now all we need in order not to have renting headache is excavator 320 or higher to make more profits.

I am also pleased to inform you that the same bank in which we have lots of credit has helped purchasing a gas station in a good location. Based on the business plan for the gas station we'll be able to make over \$10,000 US profit a month. All that we need now to started the sale of gasoline and diesel fuel is a basic investment of \$15,000 US to make the first order of 11,000 gallons of fuel: 8000 diesel and 3000 gasoline. Anyone of you that would be interested to help the LCH investing in the gas station business with idea that we'll repay you with interest, please contact Mr. Paul Klenner. I am sure we'll be able to repay the full amount in about a year.

Please your prayers are requested for the people of Gonaives. A week ago there is a very Big epidemic diarrhea in town that have killed lots of people. It is about to spread all over town. Again keep the people of Gonaives in your prayers.

May the Lord richly bless all of you for your prayers and support on behalf of the LCH.

In Christ' service,

Rev. Revenel Benoit

