

Dear Lutheran brothers and sisters in Christ,

I want to thank all of you for your prayers and support as thousands of Lutherans, other Christian denominations and non-Christians have experienced a terrible tragedy in the city of Gonaives. Despite the hardship and misery that my people have experienced, the people and I have been very encouraged to see and experience the many supports that Gonaives Lutherans have been getting from Lutherans across the United States and Canada.

I just praise the Lord to see in a short time over \$116,000 US have been sent to Paul Klenner, the HLMCC treasurer, as Storm Relief Funds to assist Lutherans as well as other people in the city of Gonaives and surrounding areas.

As I had mentioned in my previous letter, the Lutheran Church of Haiti Finance Committee has set up a special committee that is currently responsible to assist Lutherans, various other denominations as well as non-Christians in food, medicine and shelter distribution.

This special task force has been doing a great job for the past three weeks. They have been able to distribute food to over 7000 families. The food had been bought in Port-au-Prince for the amount of \$20,000 US and shipped to Gonaives. Over \$10,000 US worth of medicine had also been purchased and distributed by a team of doctors and nurses that the committee have hired for \$3000 US to provide medical care to the people. Over 20,000 people have got medicine and medical care from that Haitian medical team. They are still working in seeing every day hundreds of people. Another \$12,000 US have been used to get shelter to over 4000 families as lots of these families used to live in the streets. They have now (the families) a temporary place to stay until we start that home rebuilding project.

So far we have been able to accomplish the first three steps in our plan of 10 points to assist Lutherans and the people of Gonaives to get back on their feet. We have helped them get :1. Food, 2. medicine, 3. shelter.

The next steps will be to reestablish: 1. The bloc factory 2. The boy's shelter 3. The elderly home 4. The bakery 5. The computer school 6. Helping Lutheran to rebuild their homes 7. Set up a credit union funds program that will loan funds to Lutheran to be back into their small businesses.

The LCH finance committee has so far spent over \$45,000 US to cover the above first three needs including hiring a medical team. That committee has kept all records and receipts on the money spent. The committee will soon be moved to start working in reestablishing the bloc factory, the boy's shelter and the elderly homes as their next three steps until accomplishing the other four.

We have had, so far, a very successful operation in the first three steps. I have been taken many pictures that will be sent to all of you next week via the internet. I rejoice and praise the Lord for the wonderful work that special committee have so far accomplished. Please keep all the members in your prayers as they continue to serve and assist Lutherans and the people of Gonaives.

Once again thanks for your generous support. This has helped us to make a difference in the city of Gonaives in providing generous assistance to the people.

God bless you all for being so generous toward the people of Gonaives.

Pastor Revenel Benoit

