

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The Lord has been good and continues to take spiritual as well as physical care to of His people in the city of Gonaives. Our Lutheran Mission in the city of Gonaives is serving as one of the Leaders in the Christian community in providing humanitarian and spiritual assistance to over 25,000 people so far in the areas of food, medical care and shelter.

I have never seen before such a great tied between Christians from all denominations since my Ministry began in the city of Gonaives in 1993. All over Christians are helping each other, trying to comfort each other after experiencing such a great flood tragedy. Whenever a brother or a sister in Christ is in need, we do not ask first what his or her denomination, but we rather ask the question how we can best serve them in Jesus' love. Of course how could we face so many challenges in the city of Gonaives if each Christian denomination would not care to support each other in the midst of this tragedy? What I am talking here is not altar and pulpit fellowship. But a togetherness for the whole Christian community to be effective in serving so many Christians in needs.

What, so far, has been taking place is a unity movement among all Christian denominations in the city of Gonaives to meet all Christians and non-Christians social, physical and emotional needs. And Faith Lutheran Church has been very active in the group being one of the leaders.

In this short News letter, I want also to tell all of you how I have been spiritually blessed in my recent trip to Canada two weeks ago. I was invited to be the guest speaker at the Haiti Lutheran Mission Society Mission festival in Canada. The time I spent up there had been a great spiritual encouragement for me and my Ministry in seeing so many spiritual support I got from the people. I went to Canada with an empty suitcase. As you know the flood took all the stuff that my family and I had. We had no cloths and mattresses left. But during my visit to Canada, I was able to bring back with me lots of cloths, shoes, suits as well as other goods for the whole family. When I got back home from Canada the whole family was very happy to see our cloths, shoes, suits have all been restored by the love of our Christian brothers and sisters in Canada. What's a blessing! Besides, Dr John Wilch and Mrs. Dorothea Korcok had made arrangement so that I can see a physician concerning my blood glucose. I was then diagnosed as being diabetes and the doctor got me medicine and explained to me the type of food I am supposed or not to eat. I also want to express my thanks to the Bogussat family, Dr John Wilch and Mrs. Dorothea Korcok and the other members of the Canadian Lutheran Mission Society for all their love and gifts while taking good care of me. I had also the chance to seat in some few classes at Concordia Lutheran Seminary in St Catherines, ON. It was a refreshing time for me as I was reminded I need to do that very often for continuing education purpose.

In my last News letter I mentioned that we have had so far made three steps in getting humanitarian aid to the people of Gonaives. 1. We got food to the people and continue to do so. 2. We got medicine to them in order to avoid and treat their infections through a

Haitian medical team. 3. We also made it possible to get them shelter. The total cost was over \$45,000.

We have recently been working to get into five six new steps: 1. Restoring the bloc factory, 2. The bakery, 3. The computer school, 4. Repairing and furnishing the medical clinic building, 5. The boy's orphanage 6. The elderly home.

Now our spending plan for the next three steps has been:

1. Bloc machine ordered in the Dominican Republic	\$15,000
2. Bakery equipment “ “ “ “ “	12,000
3. Computer school	8,000
4. Repairing and furnishing boy's orphanage	5,000
5. Repairing and furnishing elderly care center	5,000
6. Repairing and furnishing the medical clinic	5,000
Total	\$50,000

After accomplishing the six steps above, there will finally be two final steps which will be helping Lutherans to rebuild their homes and a credit union funds that will help Lutherans to get small loan for small business investment. We are in need of \$30,000 for the credit Union funds and \$25,000 for homes rebuilding funds. Out of \$150,000 Storm Relief Funds project needed, we have been, so far, received over \$136,000. Praise the Lord! My thanks to all of you for your generous contribution to the people of Gonaives. The Lutheran Church of Haiti through Faith Lutheran Church in Gonaives Haiti has, so far, been making a big difference in helping over 25,000 people through your generous donation.

A month a half ago, we had ordered a brand new bloc machine and bakery equipment in the Dominican Republic. Both companies from the other side of the Island had told us we would get both equipment by December 1rst, 2004. Unfortunately there was a custom strike all over Haiti that prevents us to get the equipment on time. As there is talk between the government and customs employees so that very soon the customs workers can get back working it is my hope that we get the equipment before Christmas so that by January 1rst, 2005 we can get back working with that new bloc machine and the bakery equipment.

Meanwhile we are now in the process of doing repair work at the medical clinic, the boy's orphanage and the elderly home. There is urgent need to get the whole medical clinic facility ready as a medical team from Tuscom, Arizona will come down Gonaives at the middle of January 2005 for 4 days to get medical care to the people of Gonaives. Please pray for that team as they are getting ready to come down Gonaives to serve lots of Christians.

Contact will also be made with Jay Brinkmeyer to see how we can get a good deal in ordering 15 Pentium 3 computers for the computer school this coming January 2005.

May the Lord richly bless all of you for your prayers and support to the people in the city of Gonaives.

I wish all of you a Merry Christmas and happy New Year 2005 in the Lord.

Yours in Christ,

Reverend Revenel Benoit