

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I want to share this report with you after two weeks of visit to four Districts of the Lutheran Church of Haiti (LCH), Artibonite District, Les Cayes, and Port-de-Paix. The Lord has blessed our young Church spiritually and numerically. All the congregations I had visited are experiencing growth. People are more interested than ever before to come to Church in order to participate in various Church activities besides getting involved in local evangelism to bring more people to come to Church. The LCH lay Pastors have been showing lots of zeal that have greatly impressed me because there was not much talk about what they need to do their Ministry, they are rather on how they want to be better equipped to do the work of the Ministry. Therefore there is a profound sense that the word of God should be first. God's people should be second and it is like they are saying let's trust God to provide to whatever else that we need, but now let's focus in serving the flock. This of course reminds me that whenever the Church of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ relies on the above first two priorities, the Lord's blessings will come forth upon the Church.

There are plans over four districts that 15 Churches be planted before January the 1rst, 2005. Please pray so that the Lord of the harvest might bring souls to His Church in order that these congregations get started as planned.

I can see a great future for the LCH. The Lord has open doors for the Christian community in Haiti I would never thought. He has great plan for the widows and the orphans as I see there are many, many needs for these Ministries. I am sure the Lord will provide the means through which we can accomplish these goals.

I am now working with all the LCH congregations to establish a National Lutheran Youth group as well as a Lutheran Woman Missionary League (LWML). As we are growing there is more and more need for our Church to be organized so that we can be more and more effective in reaching out the lost while equipping the saints for Ministry purposes. Plans are also under way to start theological training leading to ordination to nearly 90 Lay Pastors who are currently doing Ministry in the local Parish. This is so important that I want to ask you to pray for this project as we plan to start with the Training project this coming December 2004 with our own local resources.

This training project will last for about a year and half with one intensive for five days at the end of each month during 18 months. I have been working with Reverend Tino and Darrel concerning the curriculum and will have to make further contacts to have teachers from the US and Canada to come down to teach. Courses will be thought in every District. That's why we are calling our seminary system " seminary without wall. Teachers will have to travel to teach the students right in their fieldwork. Again I am asking all of you to pray for this project so that Church leaders can be well trained to better served the people in the Church.

Based on my visits to these three districts, it seems that there is a growing need in Haiti to have more orphanages and trade schools in our Church as lots of parents are just

abandoning their kids in the street. As the Church, we all feel that we need to care for these “little ones” The Lord gives the LCH a special heart for children. We have a great desire to invest in them for they are the future of the Church and the country of Haiti. How can we just forget about them in the streets? As a result we are praying and plan to start three new orphanages with the Church income by December 2004 in the following districts: Les Cayes, Cap-Haitian and Port-de-Paix.

Perhaps people might think this is risky to plan something that we do not the means to accomplish, but let me tell you that the Lord we are serving will certainly provide so that these three orphanages in the above district will soon be build up because the Lord wants it to be done. Lots of Ministries that are going on in the LCH have been started by Faith. The God we are serving is rich. He can do all things. What we have to do is to just trust Him.

Now the LCH leaders are very excited that our goal is to become self-supporting in about four to five more years. Now with the Credit Union program that just got started in which we loan funds to Church family members (from \$500 to 1000). With the bakery, the bloc factory, our new sewing factory in the boys orphanage and other social Ministries and up coming self supporting projects as well, I can see hope that we'll be achieving the above self sufficiency goal in about four to five years. All we need is to do more investment on behalf of God's people and pray that the Lord of the harvest bless the LCH.

Up coming events: The LCH TV and FM Radio stations transmitters will be upgrade by John Gebhur, an Omaha TV engineer at the end of this month. Two technicians from the Lutheran Church of the Master in Omaha, NE will be coming down in May 29th, 2004 to install a TV 6 Kilowatts transmitter and start installing a three kilowatts FM radio transmitter. With these two stations the LCH will be able to broadcast the Good News of the Gospel to the whole Island of Haiti both in TV and FM Radio. Please pray for John Gebhur and James Asley as they are preparing to come down Gonaives, Haiti May 29th, 2004. They will be staying in Gonaives for three weeks. Besides installing the broadcast equipment they will also be involved in teaching our local technicians how to maintain the equipment.

June 1st, 2004 we'll start the Haiti Hope Seeds program as we are preparing renting a farming land for two years for the amount of \$7000 H.

July 2004. They will be a big gathering of all LCH Districts in Gonaives. Please pray for the up coming gathering in which we'll focus on the theme: “We sure can do it through Christ who will get us strength”. We'll be teaching and talking about ways for the local Church to become self-sufficient.

The LCH Finance Committee has recently been formed of five people representing five district: Hebreux Feuille; Artibonite, Jacques Louisaint: Arcahaie, Hyppolite Gaston: Cap Haitian, Georges Plaisiond: Les Cayes and Andre Monis, Por-de-Paix. They are in the process of gathering some legal papers and have already open the LCH Bank account.

Christ Lutheran Church in Lincoln, NE has sent US \$10,000 to complete the LCH medical clinic in Gonaives. In about two months the construction work over at the medical clinic will be over. We keep records of all expenses and will be glad to send all receipts and financial report to Christ Lutheran Church as soon the construction work completed. We are planning to have the Gonaives medical clinic open at the end of July 2004.

The LCH two Trade schools: mechanic and tailor are making great progress as we anticipate starting teaching two more trades in September 2004, construction and carpenter. The boy shelter Tailor shop is in the process of making 10 dozen of brand new cloths. Theses cloths are being made by the orphans will be shipped to the US, particularly to Lutheran congregations to be sold. In case you want your congregation to be involved in receiving these band new cloths made in the boy's orphanage Tailor shop to be sold in your congregation let me know. We do have a team of Haitian in charge of shipping and marketing.

Plans are also under way that the LCH thrift store be open May 18th, 2004. The thrift store will provide jobs to three Church members besides generating incomes to the Church at large. Please ask your congregation to keep supplying stuff to the Thrift store project. Thanks also to Vicar Ben Haupt of St Paul Lutheran Church in Boca Raton and Jay Brinkmeyer for making all the arrangement to organize this wonderful shipping program from the US to the LCH in Haiti.

Needs: We are in needs of Creole Bibles, Luther's small catechism in Creole, French songbooks etc. French textbooks are also needed for our Christian day schools.

Prayer needs: Continuous spiritual growth for the LCH. Good spiritual leadership that are caring for the flock while providing a sound biblical vision to the Church.

Thanks to all of you for your prayer and support. I will continue making attempt to keep you posted every month on what's going on in the LCH in a monthly basis. Please forgive my poor English. I always thing that English is the most difficult language for a Creole speaking person.

God bless you all.

Rev. Revenel Benoit.