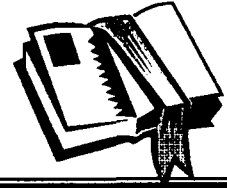


GOOD SHEPHERD EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH COLLEGE ÉVANGÉLIQUE LE LUTHÉRIEN



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August 15, 2006

Dear Brothers, Sisters & Friends in Christ,

Grace and Peace to you from God our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

I am confident that this letter will find you all well in the Lord's Vine. I am thankful to our God and Savior for all that He has done and still continue to do for us. Thanks be to Him for all His wonders, deeds and actions on behalf of His church. In spite of our sinful nature and our involuntary evil deeds, He continues to forgive us daily and makes plans for our salvation. Thanks be to Him for the Word and the Sacraments, by which we are comforted, blessed and grow in true faith.

The purpose of this is to thank you for all the blessings you have shared and are still sharing with us down here and also to keep you informed a little bit about the actual situation of our nation. I really cannot describe the joy and thankfulness that our church is expressing to all of you for your willingness and your Christian love manifested on behalf of our members. You greatly contribute in the progress of the Gospel in a society like ours, where violence such as: kidnappings, robbery, poverty, starvation, unemployment are always the menu of the day. When I think of all of you, I turn myself to God for thanksgiving and praise.

With the new government, we thought that things would get better, but it seems that we are mistaken. The change we all expected seems to go further. Where shall we go to find peace, joy and happiness? Shall we go to a better place/country where our children, our families and ourselves will be well off? It is probably not the best choice; we'd better wait for Jesus to come and take us up into His Heavenly Throne. Everywhere in the world things do not seem to go that well. In spite of all, we, the Christian leaders, need to stay in this small island to carry out the good news of Jesus to the evildoers, the voodoo priests, mambos and else. I believe it; and there is no doubt about it: by preaching the inspired Word of God, many hearts will change. That's why I will not get discouraged. I will continue to pray for our nation and the rulers. They need to rely on God if they want to be good leaders and be successful in their position. "The most basic duties God has given to rulers are to oppose and punish evil and to protect and encourage good. Rulers who

condone or tolerate evil or who hinder good conduct are a disgrace to the position God gave them. David pledges that his government will oppose evil and that he will not allow the wicked to serve in his government. He wants godly men as his associates and as his subjects. He will not promote officials who serve only to feed their own pride or those who advance themselves by slandering and betraying others. David will do everything in his power to drive evil out of the land". This is the kind of government that wants the people of God today. We don't have the joy and the peace that the world gives but we do have the one that Jesus gives. As Christians, We know that true joy comes when God's will is done and people act, as God wants them to. True peace comes when we live in harmony with God and our neighbor. And the purpose of this joy and peace is "that we may overflow with hope", "that we may be increasing in the hope." Hope is confidence in God's directing, and confidence that for God anything is possible. We know that the only way to grow in hope, the only way to be filled with all joy and peace is "the power of the Holy Spirit." And if we want the power to do what God wants, then we go to the source of that power, the Word of God. Thanks be to you, o God!

Our youth, our children were in vacation for a period of 2 months. The summer vacation is ending in a few days. Not knowing how things will be, families and parents are very anxious, wondering what the status quo will be. Our God is faithful; He'll work for the good of those who love Him. In spite of the political situation, the church, whose Jesus Christ is the Head is growing on; she is a place of comfort, joy, peace and blessings for the souls.

Please continue to pray and support the work that God has entrusted to us down here. Pray for the safety of the children, professors, families, pastors and lay-pastors with their family. Pray for all the children all over the world, for those who are in distress and in all kinds of sufferings.

Again, I sincerely thank you for sharing Jesus and all the blessings with us. By the appropriate means that God makes available to us via His Son Jesus Christ, let's worship, praise and adore Him in Spirit and in truth!

Thomas Bernard
Brotherly yours in Him,

Thomas Bernard,

Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti, Port-au-Prince, Haiti.