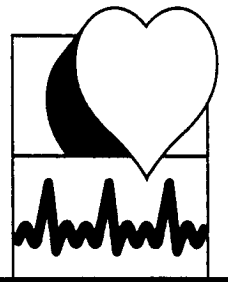


# The Heartbeat

A Newsletter of the Heart-4-Haiti Lutheran Mission Society - Trinity Lutheran Church, Vallonia, IN

Volume 4, Number 1

February, 2008



## From Pastor Thomas Bernard

To the Supporters of the Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church and The Students Adoption of the **Ecole Le Lutherien**:

Dear Christian Friends,

Grace and Peace to you from the Triune God!

Delighted about my recent trip to the U.S. where I had the opportunity to visit different churches and schools in the Indiana District under the initiative of Rev. Eric Ahlemeyer, I want to say a very big "THANK YOU" to you for welcoming me with love and charity in your church and school. This "THANK YOU" goes to all of you dear Pastors, to the members of your congregations, to the teachers, to the children attending your school, to the administrative staff, and even to your guests.

It is always difficult for me to find the appropriate words to describe my joy and that of those who benefit from the Student Adoption Program, who are the students, the members of the different congregations, the teachers, and the members of the community. I need not tell you more about the importance of a student adoption program in a country like mine, where the majority of the parents are unable to pay the tuition of their children. Any coins you are collecting for such a program are a blessing for the whole ministry here. Our school is always counted among the best schools in the country but for this year the score is even better. The high school students will tell you a little bit more about their impressions and their excitement after the results were given us by the **Ministry of the National Education** down here.

I thank you all in a special way for saving me from pulling water from my deep water reservoir by providing the needed money to purchase a generator for my family. When I was in Indiana in Sept. I shared my own history with the members of Trinity Lutheran Church, Vallonia, and with some other congregations and schools concerning the energy power, which is a real problem down here. I did not dream of having a generator at this time, because I could not afford that. My wife and I were putting a little project together - we came up with the **idea** to purchase a generator for the family at the end of 2008. **All** is ready in our house to have running water, but without electricity it is impossible for us to make use of it even though we have an electric pump. It is always a burden for me as a pastor to deal with so many activities at both the church and

the school and then when I get home, to use a basket to pull water from the water reservoir and take it to the bathtub for the family. As a father of 3 children, I always do it joyfully because children depend on their parents, and for some type of work even the wives sometime depend on their husbands. Thanks be to God, the problem is solved in an incredible way. The money is now sitting in the bank to purchase that generator! This realization is the fruit of your Christian love. Soon pictures will be sent to you who have contributed toward the generator. I was also blessed with so many other things, such as pastors' shirts for all the pastors, school supplies, the Microsoft Office Home Student of 2007, etc.

And what about the projects submitted to the Committee of Trinity Lutheran Church, Vallonia, last October? I was surprised and excited when Pastor Eric told me that two of the items mentioned in the project (40 school desks and 4 tires for my KIA) are already approved and the money has been sent down here. What a blessing for the children of the school! What a blessing for me to have four new tires! Step by step, the Lord is changing the crucial situation of our church and school. He is using faithful and committed Christian brothers and sisters like you to help us with the work down here. We are very thankful to God and we will take all the opportunities He has given to us to make Him known to those who yet ignore His saving Gospel.

From Sat. to Thurs. evening the Haitian people have had a very bad experience with **NOEL** which means **Christmas** in English. **NOEL** was the hurricane that stopped down here and caused a lot of damage. A few people died and some others are out of a place to live. For those who were already starving, their living condition is worse now. But, thanks be to God, the members of our different churches are safe. They might be hungry and thirsty but as far as the hurricane is concerned, they are all ok. This is God's pure grace because some of them live close to Cite Soleil where **NOEL** caused lots of damage.

Again, thank you so much for your prayers, your constant support and donations. As you are a fountain of blessings for us, we pray that we will be also a fountain of blessings at least for our own people. Lift high the cross!

*Pastor Thomas Bernard*

Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church

Port-au-Prince, Haiti

October 29<sup>th</sup> 2007

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are always very happy when we write something to you. As we already told you, we pray God for you every day to give you opportunity to keep your ministry for long.

For now, we are in the last classical grade. That grade means a lot for the school, and it also means a lot for us. It makes us prove how great the school is. Because in Delmas, we are the second school that haven't good report. We were excited about the result. For the class, it makes us sure that we were working for something and hope that we will catch it. It gives us a job to encourage the others that they'll never give up but to work every day and to be like us. At last, it makes us know that we are almost ready to catch the moving world or the life.

Now, we hope in that grade you will help us to have this year a computer courses. Because we would like to be able to work for you in Haiti for your help. In the name of the school we say thank you for the "Student Adoption". Which is real blessing for all of us. Thanks to it, now our secondary studies will be done

In the name of the school, in  
the name of the class, we say thank you, and  
we love you so much.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Béris Jean Enock, Lamarre Marie Esther

Orélus Renise, Jean Simon Claude Ronald,

May God bless you!

Thank you.

#### Not Simple GRACE, but Amazing GRACE

(by Heather Ahlemeyer, Heart4Haiti Committee Member)

Once again Pastor Thomas had another amazing trip to Jackson County. We had one of our busiest trips yet for Pastor Bernard. He completed 18 speaking engagements during his 17 days here. He visited all the Seymour area Lutheran Schools, Lutheran Central in Brownstown, and St. John's in Lanesville. He spent a day teaching religion at Trinity Lutheran High School and he gave a convocation address for Franklin College. He was also the guest speaker for the LWML Fall Zone Rally. We did give him some time for fun with a trip to the Creation Museum, along with some of the members from Trinity Lutheran.

The school children are becoming very familiar with Pastor Thomas and they look forward to his visits. While we were shopping in Walmart a mother came running up to us and said, "You must be Pastor Thomas; my son just loves you! I can't wait to tell him that I saw you here!" The students of Trinity Lutheran High School are also big fans of Pastor Thomas. They gave him a standing ovation after he preached for their chapel service.

Pastor Thomas said, "This has been a very fruitful and blessed trip. There have been so many surprises. I did not expect money for a generator, so that my family can have electricity and running water now. As far as the generator is concerned, that will keep me from having a backache while pulling water from my cistern. The people of Jackson County are pushed by the Holy Spirit. There is so much love, generosity, and willingness to help the people of Haiti. Only

one word can describe this: GRACE, not simple grace, but amazing GRACE."

Pastor Bernard and the Heart4Haiti Mission Committee would like to say a big thank you to everyone who donated for the students and the generator. We would also like to thank all those who donated items that Pastor Thomas could take back to Haiti. Once again the people of Jackson County have made a difference for God's people of Haiti.

#### The Next Trip

Pastor Thomas Bernard is scheduled to return to the United States (Indiana) and spend from September 4 to September 22, 2008, here. If anyone is interested in having him speak at your church, school, or event, please contact Heather Ahlemeyer (812-358-2117). She is currently working on the fall schedule.

#### Update on Pastor Bernard's Generator

Tuesday, January 22nd:

Due to the generosity of many donors, the diesel generator was delivered to me today. It will now provide electricity and running water for my home! I give thanks to God for such a blessing and I ask Him to bless all the saints up there who have contributed in such a way as to prevent me from losing my back in pulling water from such a deep water reservoir! I will be sending pictures soon.

#### New Website Up and Running!

Please check our new website at [Heart4Haiti.com](http://Heart4Haiti.com) - it has been receiving lots of attention and updating! When the pictures of the new generator arrive they will be posted on this website.