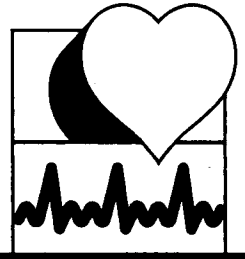


The Heartbeat



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

Volume II, No. 1

March, 2006

Special Vehicle Project

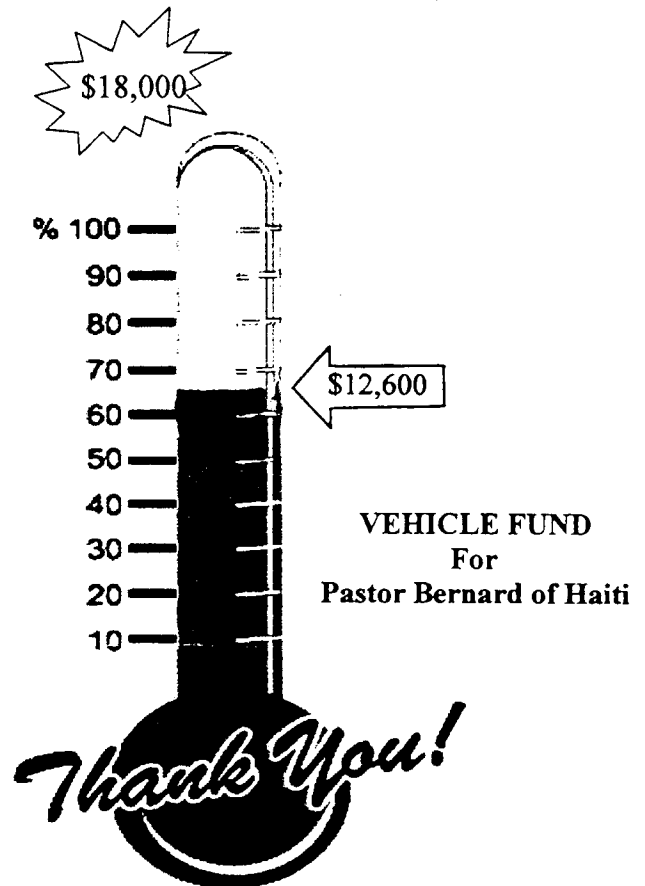
As stated in the November edition of The Heartbeat, the current project for which funds are being collected is a 4-wheel drive vehicle for Pastor Thomas Bernard, pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and School, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and also interim President of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti. It is a thrill to report that about two-thirds of the needed money has been collected for the vehicle. Pastor Bernard has been without a vehicle for about 8 months now, in a country where renting a vehicle costs about \$200 a day, plus the gas @ \$8.00 per gallon! We pray that Pastor Bernard's vehicle will be a reality by Pentecost – June 4, 2006.

A New "Gallop" Urgently Needed

"The vehicle for which you are working so very hard is an urgent need; and this, not only for the pastor, but for the whole ministry. As pastor of the Port-au-Prince District and the president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti, I need to visit all the other districts. But I cannot do that without a means of transportation. My **old Gallop** is unable to be repaired or, in other words, it would take a big amount of money to repair it, which would be a waste of money. I know you are working so very hard on this project and I am patient and confident that the Lord will work it out for the good of His ministry."

French Catechisms

The Lutheran Heritage Foundation has recently made possible the securing of Catechisms in the French language for Haitian Christians, at the price of 25 cents each. Possibly French Hymnals will be next.



New Year in Haiti

"Here we are now at the start of a new year! We are thankful to God for the past, present, and future blessings He is sending to us. In spite of the hardship, killings, kidnappings, the political situation, all the saints of the Good Shepherd Ev. Lutheran Church got together on the 31st of December for a thanksgiving service that lasted two hours, and then spent the rest of the night at the church for prayers and testimonies. At eight a.m. on January 1st, we had our first worship service. It was so amazing to see how our members were so glad and happy because of the New Year. A lot of them did not think they would see it. We cannot really describe the manifestation of God's goodness to us."

February 13, 2006 Letter

To all the Supporters of the Lord's ministry in Haiti (the ELCH):

Dear Friends in Christ,

Greetings in the name of our risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

I am pleased to write you this letter in which I want to renew my gratitude and thankfulness to you for all the blessings that you are sharing with us, at the Evangelical Lutheran Church that I am fully serving as the parish pastor. I am thankful to God for what He has done, is doing, and will continue to do on behalf of His people in a nation where most of the inhabitants still ignore His good News.

We are at the beginning of a new year. As I have probably mentioned in my recent letter, a lot of people did not think they would see this new year in consideration of the political situation and the way that the heathen/pagan rulers see the concept of 1804, when Haiti got its independence. They think that this even happened by the power of the devil and they also think that they need to express their gratitude to the evil spirits. Or, in other words, they think they have a kind of fee owed to them. They deal with different kinds of sacrifices, such as: objects, animals, and even human. Contrary to them, the Christians, the church, and some other respectful families think that the victory of the independence came from the Almighty God. That's why on New Year's Day they always have a big celebration. All messages/sermons are focused on John 8:36: "If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." The sad side of the independence is "even after this the country is not prospering at all; but the contrary – it is stepping back, and this, day by day. The reason is that, the leaders ignore God's Almighty Hand and pass the glory and praises due to Him to the evil spirits.

I am so thankful to all our brothers and sisters who are supporting the ministry that the Lord has entrusted to us all either via their prayers, their Christian love, or via their finances. One of the activities you are supporting is the **Student Adoption** which is more than a blessing, not only for the church but also for the parents, students/children, professors, and the whole community. Because of the sponsorship program, those who are unable to pay the required tuition and fee for the materials needed, now have access to the major things such as: books, supplies, uniforms, and their tuition is taken care of. The main vision of the church and school is to see the

day that our young men and girls become strong members of the church and the body of Christ: good teachers, professors, engineers, who will be able to work in various areas of life and be useful to themselves, to their parents, to the church, and to the whole country. There is no way that can happen without education. This is a way to say how important is support, relating to that point.

The elections were not so bad as far as the safety of the day was concerned. The nation wanted that and they did not deal with any kind of violence. That was great, but now it is a matter of who wins?? After eight (8) days the people responsible cannot give to the nation the final result. This is terrible and the people know for sure what they are trying to do. I pray that things will be ok very soon, and the nation will see to their activities.

Thank you so very much for everything you are doing for us down here. I express our gratitude even to the children. I know they are still working very hard for the vehicle, the student adoptions, and so on.

Please continue to pray for Haiti so that the new government will be a model, an example where the leaders will not see themselves, but the whole nation. Pray also that they be leaders who have a place in their hearts for Jesus, the only Savior.

Sincerely in Him, *Pastor Thomas Bernard*
Good Shepherd Ev. Lutheran Church
The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti

From the Heart of Aurora, Indiana

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

Please accept our donation of \$481.50 for Good Shepherd Lutheran School in Haiti. We collected this money during the second quarter of this school year and would like to help other children in Haiti learn about the love of Jesus Christ. We will keep everyone involved in the mission in our prayers as you help to continue to spread the Gospel message around the world. God bless your efforts!

In Christ, Mrs. Kimberly Swanson, Principal,
and the students and faculty of St. John Lutheran School, Aurora, In.

LETTERS - We'd Like LETTERS!!

If **your** church or organization is having a special event to aid Heart-4-Haiti missions, please let us know by mail or e-mail so that we can publish it in this quarterly newsletter. The addresses are included on the back page.

Collège Evangélique le Luthérien

Delmas 75, Rue Beauvais, Imp. A. Hall #10
Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

February 2006

Dear Sponsors,

We salute you in Jesus. We, the students of the 11th Grade thank you very much for your help. We should send you the letter already but the country was disturbing and we could not do that.

We say « THANK YOU » for the program, « the Student Adoption ». It is a good one because a lot of us who could not go to school go now. We benefit many things from this program. We receive books, supplies, uniforms for those who don't have and even some food. Our parents are very content for that. We are also part of the Lutheran Orchestra. The Lutheran Orchestra is a musical group formed with the students of the school. The group has 60 members and it sings every third Sunday of the month.

Here is according to us the finalite/purpose of the Student Adoption :

- 1) It will allow us to become educated people ;
- 2) We will be needed by the society ;
- 3) We will be helpful to the church and the school ;
- 4) We will participate in the development of our country ;
- 5) We will be able to take care of ourselves.

We thank you again and we will pray for you and for all the children, students and for each person who is helping us, in Haiti.

Pastor Thomas always tells us about you. He says that you are working very hard and travelling in many places to talk and make presentation on our behalf.

We pray God to bless you and what you are doing. We expect to see you one day in Haiti.

The students of the 11th grade for the whole school

Berius Jean Enoch . Polynice Riphenny
PIERRE Wilder Bernard Jesty
Bernide Nivius M^{re} Simon Claude Ronald
Jumaine Marie Esther Deisme Chandès
Joseph Marily
Orélug Renise
Sarréus Wilermé