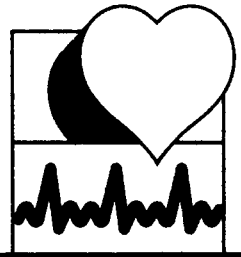


The Heartbeat

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

Volume III, Number I

October, 2006



From Pastor Thomas Bernard's Pen

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 continues 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.

In the name of all the saints that I am serving and in my own, thank you so much for your continuing support (prayers, donations, love, concern, and adoption of students). Without these blessings it would be almost impossible for us to carry out the ministry entrusted to us. The cost of living is getting higher and higher, this, not only in Haiti but probably in other countries also. This makes our burdens heavier, but fortunately the Holy Son of God, Jesus, our Savior and Redeemer took away all our sins, which were the heaviest burdens that the world has ever known. Living in conflict and in a sinful world, it seems like we are still under a type of social and physical burden, which naturally has nothing to do with our life hidden in Jesus, our Substitute.

I have received the 280 catechisms donated by Lutheran Heritage Foundation, which is very good because we



Young Haiti School Children

need Lutheran Christian materials for the children/students attending our congregations and schools. You know the schools are our means of evangelism. I also have received 96 Christian Doctrines that are also a summary of our book, "The Christian Doctrine". Those books are all important for the ministry down here. They will be shared with the 9 districts. At least each teacher will have one and some students will also have one. I hope to have more so that each child/student can get one. The French catechism is more welcomed in Haiti because the young people are more interested in the French than the Creole. Everything at school is done in French and the official exam prepared by the State is done also in French, so they have more concern for the French. The catechisms are being distributed in September of 2006.

I find myself in my little shoes to get the exact word or expression to express the gratitude and thanks

(continued on next page)

(From Pastor Thomas Bernard – Cont'd.)

of our church for the blessings of the books. I ask God to bless all those who contributed in any way to get those books to us. Their work and efforts are not vain in the Lord. Pictures of the children/students using the books will be sent later.

The conditions in Haiti right now (June 26, 2006):

As you all know, we now have a new government. We had very good elections as far as the credibility relating to them are concerned. The people did go massively to vote. Before the new government came in power, the situations were really chaotic. The phenomenon of kidnappings and killings was so scary; most of the families were afraid of going out. Compared to the way it was, I would say there are some changes. The country is more peaceful now. The population is moving from place to place. We have less killings and kidnappings and the people are happier. Personally, even though I am able to go around and do my work, I am still very careful. It is safer and more stable though. People are excited about the new government thinking that things will get much better (such as: security, the cost of living, jobs, health, and so on). The unrest and the cost of living remain the main preoccupation for the nation. The people are really starving and you can see that even in the faces and eyes of the members of the church. In this sense, any kind of donation would help to purchase some bags of rice and beans for some of the saints who are really experiencing a tough life. We have already done what we could with our little, but it's still a real concern for the church that is called to feed people spiritually and physically. There is no doubt that one day these concerns will be all gone, but since we are still pilgrims in this world we need to deal with different types of problems. We are praying for the new government, and even though the leaders are not Christians, we are confident that our good and merciful God can change their hearts and bring out changes and improvement for the well being of His people.

An Update on Government Conditions (August 15):

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 the Good News of Jesus to the evildoers, the voodoo priests, mambos, and elsewhere. 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 the people of God want 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!

Concerning the Vehicle to be Purchased:

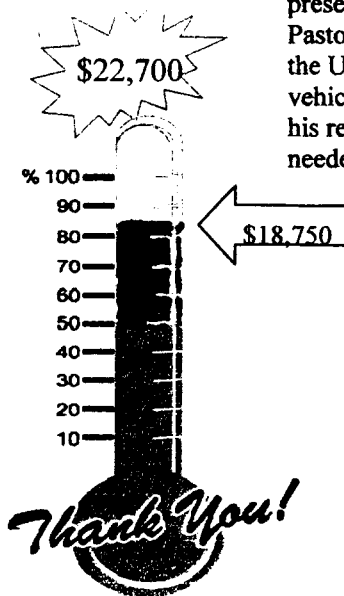
I went to the KIA store in PAP to see what the price is right now for the truck. Unfortunately I found that it is higher now. Why is that? I am told that this change comes from the foreign company where the KIAs are imported and also people buy them a lot since they are the cheapest trucks down here in comparison. The cost now for a KIA 4-wheel drive truck, with taxes included, is **\$22,700**. They have none left now (June 26) – the new delivery will come in July. They told me we'll not have other expenses relating to purchasing the truck.

Please continue to pray for the safety of the children, professors, families, pastors, and lay-pastors with their families. Pray for all the children all over the world, for those who are in distress and in all kinds of sufferings.

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!

May our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ continue to bless you and your ministry! ~ *Pastor Thomas Bernard*

Note: As mentioned above by Pastor Thomas, the price of the 4-wheel drive truck has raised, and is now **\$22,700**. Our positive goal now is to be able to present a check for **\$22,700** to Pastor Thomas while he is here in the U.S. in Oct.-Nov., so that the vehicle may be purchased upon his return to Haiti. **\$4,050** is still needed.



It was 4:00 a.m. when the neighborhood that surrounds the boys' orphanage began hearing the cries of a baby. By daylight, the baby was still crying. At about 8:00 a.m., a lady disposing of her garbage investigated the crying, only to find a small boy that had been abandoned in the darkness. The lady took the boy home knowing that she did not have the means to care for the boy.

She contacted the police to obtain abandonment papers for proof that she had not stolen the child. Almost as soon as I returned to Haiti from helping my daughter and her family move to their new home in the state of Wyoming, the lady sent a request via Leon to find out if I would discuss with the Izidors about taking this child into the orphanage.

A few days later, the woman arrived with the little boy dressed in the clothes that she had found him in. I held the little one, as she explained how she did not have clothes, diapers or food for the child. She asked if we could take him. As I held the precious bundle, I could tell from his limp body and red-tinged hair that he was badly malnourished. He was so sleepy that his head kept nodding, but he refused to lay his head on my shoulder, even when I gently tried to encourage him to do so. It was apparent that he was afraid to go to sleep lest he be abandoned again.

Leonie Izidor explained to the lady that we would first need to send the little one for medical testing to learn if he would be eligible to come to the orphanage. We loaded up the woman with clothes, diapers and milk and assured her we would be in contact with her. We then made arrangements for one of the orphanage staff members to take the child to the hospital for testing the following day.

During the time that the staff member spent with the child the next day, she reported that he had kept calling out for his papa! Other than those words, we have no knowledge of his background, as he is too young to tell us. We do not know how old he is or what his name is. Leonie has appropriately decided to name him Moise (Moses in English). Just looking at his huge, sad eyes makes me want to grab him up and squeeze away all of the pain!

The hard life in Haiti leads mothers to decisions like the one that resulted in Moise being abandoned near the orphanage. Could it be that the parent was hoping that the orphanage would hear the cries and rescue this child??? We can only guess!

Please pray for little Moise! Pray also that we will be able to hire an appropriate caregiver. Under normal circumstances, we do not take in children until they are out of diapers and no longer in need of one-on-one care. We do not have funds for purchasing expensive baby formula and we do not have sufficient staff to give the extra attention required for a baby who needs bottles and diaper changes both day and night. But with Moise, we feel God has placed him in our care and now we must find just such a caregiver!

Haiti is a land of so much heart break! I recently received a short, but insightful e-mail from a friend. He simply said, "Thank you for what you do. Sometimes I forget how emotionally tough it must be." I thank God for friends like this who remember us when we get discouraged. It happens more than I anticipated and it is OH-SO-GOOD to know that prayers are sent heavenward that will continue to sustain and encourage us in our work! Thank you for remembering us and the people of Haiti! *-Nora Nunemaker*

~ Missionary to Haiti & the Dominican Republic



Children from the orphanage in Haiti

Pastor Thomas Bernard to Visit Southern Indiana

We have just received word that Pastor Thomas will be flying to the U.S. on Friday, October 27, 2006. He will be spending some time in Southern Indiana, visiting schools and churches. His return trip to Haiti is planned for Monday, November 13th.

Classes Have Started !

The new school year has begun again in Haiti. Most students in the Lutheran School would not be able to attend the school if it were not for Student Adoptions by loving and caring people in the United States. If you would like to sponsor a child/children for one year, the cost is \$200 per child. Please make your check payable to Trinity Lutheran Church, noting in the memo section of the check that the money is for "Student Adoption". (See address for Trinity on last page of this newsletter.)