



LACROIX NEW TESTAMENT MISSION

FEEDING THE CHILDREN

ROUTE NATIONAL #1
10 MILES SOUTH OF
GONAIVES, HAITI

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“Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Mt 28:16-20

FRIENDS:

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus. It is so good to get back with you in this very important newsletter. For those of you who only rely on this to know what’s going on in Lacroix, this newsletter is for you. Thank you for your patience.

I have a lot to share with you today. I thank God for giving me this opportunity to do so at the very beginning of the year 2016.

The mission is doing well in spite of the storms that we are going through: the political storm and the starvation storm.

POLITICAL STORM

The country has been going through a political storm since August of 2015. Since last August the country has staggered through attempts to hold presidential, parliamentary and municipal

elections. In October it held an election to thin out the 54 candidates for president. A runoff election with the top two candidates was set for December 27, and then postponed to Jan. 24. When one of them declined to participate, the vote was cancelled.

President Martelly left office reluctantly on Sunday February 7, with no successor in sight. A transition government is now in place and a new election is scheduled for April.

In the meantime, Haitians are starving. This situation may be normal for Haiti. It is tragic for its people.

STARVATION STORM

This is not strange to Haitians, starvation. I remember when I was growing up, I used to put a grain of salt under my tongue, let it dissolve and then drink a glass of water. For four-years in a row, there has been almost no rain. About 75% of Haitians are farmers. This said it all. For three

years 2012 to 2014 I used to think that only people in Lacroix were experiencing famine but now I am convinced that it is throughout the whole country. Unfortunately, the political storm has prevented the Haitian politicians to see this problem, otherwise they would have quit fighting with one another for power.

The New Testament Mission is not called to solve the problems of the whole country of Haiti but as in the story of the STAR FISH, it is called to make a difference in areas where it serves. Since January 2 the Outreach Teams from various churches in Southern Ohio and in Western Pennsylvania have been doing massive Food Distributions for the people in Lacroix and in its vicinity. Since then the mission has distributed food to several thousand families. In so doing, the mission is diminishing the impact of famine for these families. I thank God for these outreach teams, for their contribution to this dire situation.

CHILD SPONSORSHIP

This program is a must especially in a country where unemployment rate is about 80 to 85%. It's not that parents don't want to send their children to school but they can't afford it.

For \$20.00 a month you can send a needy child to school. The child will receive a uniform, a hot meal each day and good Christian role-models.

I want to thank the sponsors for sending money to buy food for their sponsored child and family during this crisis. If you are not part of Child Sponsorship Program and you would like to take part, please contact Friends of Haiti PO Box 1441 Mc Murray, PA 15317 or haitichildsponsor@hotmail.com

MAJOR CHANGE

I would like to call your attention on the change that officially took place on the first of January 2016:

Some of you have noticed that you don't send your **support s** to Hillside Christian Community any longer but to **Friends of Haiti**. I know you have been notified by others but it is better if you hear it from the horse's mouth so to speak. You know with the mission growing the way it is growing Hillside has asked me to find another church to receive our monthly support because it was too much for Sister Shelley to handle both the church and ours. We had till the 31st of December 2015.

Let me quote from Friends of Haiti Newsletter: A Note from the President, Denise Douglas

2016 has brought some changes to Friends of Haiti including taking state-side responsibility for the Lacroix New Testament mission's finances. Change is not easy to adapt to but is always necessary to keep things moving in a positive direction. This change has furthered our support of the Lacroix New Testament Mission.

We have also added several children to our sponsorship roles, as a result of changes made in an area church. We now have 350 children in our sponsorship program.

Supporting Pastor Pierre in his work for the Haitian people remains our number one goal and focus. This change has allowed us to be a greater partner in the support and work of the mission.

We are grateful for the trust they have put in Friends of Haiti and we do not take this responsibility lightly.

Each of the board members is blessed by our donors, child sponsors and travelers to the mission. We truly couldn't do it without you!

THANK YOU FRIENDS OF HAITI

I am sure you didn't know what God was up to when He led you in 2007 to establish Friends of Haiti as a recognized 501c3 Non-Profit Organization. **Now you know.**

I am pretty sure you didn't know either that this year 2016 you were going to take state-side responsibility for the Lacroix New Testament Mission's finances. **Now you know.**

I am sure you didn't know either if a short Haitian man would be calling you to share needs and concerns. **Now you know.**

MORE CHANGES

In the same context when we were looking for someone to be in charge of outreach team's itinerary for trips to Haiti and for Pierre's travels to the US, **Sister Sandy Conley**, a member of the Westminster Presbyterian Church, has volunteered to do that in addition to what she has been doing already for Haiti. As you could see all these was too much for one person to handle though Sister Shelley Buchanan was doing it joyfully. If you are planning a trip to visit the mission in Lacroix- Haiti, the person to contact is Sister Sandy Conley. Her email address is conley1973@verizon.net . If you need to know when Pierre is going to be in the US she is the one to contact.

LACROIX MISSION SCHOOL

The school in Lacroix is booming. I cannot believe this. I expect it to boom but not to this extent. My Son Kerby has been back since September 2014 to work together with the Superintendent Altenor to make some major changes.

Kerby has added three more employees at the school administration: an assistant to the school superintendent, a secretary and a principal to the

elementary school. With this the school superintendent has more time to do his job.

The school office is now more equipped to meet the needs of the school. The Golf/outing has raised money to buy text books and 2 printers/copiers. Over \$21,000.00 as a result of the Golf/Outing was given to the Mission to buy two huge printers/copiers and text books for the secondary school. This is the very first time we were able to buy text books for high school students. Thank you for supporting the Golf/Outing.

I have seen more discipline in the school. Even students with behavior problems testify that now they have a school. They like the school. You can even notice the change from the time you enter the school office. The office has completely changed. There is secretary to welcome you etc.

SCHOOL MEALS

Our kitchen has been modernized from wood stove to Propane Stove. Quite a change! Though it is costly but again Kerby has helped us to buy Propane fuel directly from the Distributor in Port-au-Prince 80 cents cheaper a gallon.

Our school cafeteria has a sitting capacity of 300. Having 1400 students to eat used to take an eternity. Kerby has changed that. We had to buy plates and spoons for all the children in order for all of them to eat at the same time. It has required more cooks in the kitchen as well. That is why he is asking that outreach teams with wood working skills make table and cabinets for the classrooms in order to store the utensils in the classrooms. He has been checking also on the cooks to see their performance.

Kerby has been working with my wife to make sure the food is prepared deliciously for the children. Well, you know, it takes some young minds. The operation is costly but Kerby helps us save money like on diesel fuel and on propane.

For instance, with guests for their safety health wise we have to let the generator runs all night because now there is no Haiti Power. I don't know what even happened to Haiti Power (ED'H)? Had it not been for the Solar Energy that we have at the mission there would not be any electricity during the day. Thanks be to God!

THE VILLAGE OF PAUL

The village of Paul is located some 23 miles East of Lacroix over the mountains. It is a very lovely place much cooler than Lacroix because of its elevation. It takes one and a half hours to drive to get there. The road is very bumpy. I love the people there.

MEDICAL CLINIC

A medical clinic is built there in a locality in Paul called 'Tet Bef' it is a very nice building financed by Dr. Dan and Linda Lattanzi, Nottingham Christian Center and Hickory U.E. Presbyterian Church and other individuals. We have a full time nurse there who comes from Lacroix. Though the village of Paul has a bigger population than Lacroix the clinic is not well frequented and thus the clinic in Lacroix has to support the clinic there financially. We hope someday it will be self-sufficient.

MEDICAL RESIDENCE IN TET BEF

Almost three years ago, we started to build a medical residence there. The goal was to host some medical staff and teachers since most teachers come from outside of Paul. Also to host some medical teams too. Westminster Presbyterian Church has taken this project under their wings. They have already provided money for the roof and the GNG outreach team has put the roof on it in January of this year. They have money for us to complete it. I thank God for the

Westminster Presbyterian Church. Right now they are working on the stucco work. The welding shop in Lacroix is working on the iron work to close in the front porch and for the windows.

SCHOOL IN TET BEF (Paul)

The community of Tet Bef is blessed with a nice school building. It is located a few feet from the main road. People who pass by are often distracted by the view. This project was financed by Westminster Presbyterian Church, the Speakman Financial Institute, and Dan Beck. He is from New York, a master carpenter, who had raised money for the roof and made several trips to Haiti with his lovely daughter Heather to build it. The building is in a U shape. It's a very beautiful architecture made by our private Architect Tom Hartman from Westminster. In January this year Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church has been there and poured the floor in four classrooms. The children danced in the classrooms where the flooring was done. This brought a lot of satisfaction to the NPC team led by the Reverend Curtis Lane Paul II. He learned the trade from his father.

Now Westminster is giving us money to complete the school building. I am jealous because this building is much more beautiful than that of Lacroix. Wait till it is painted. It's built out of stones, which means it is more solid. Finishing this project also means that it will help people in the village build their economy because we are given jobs. Thank you Westminster.

There are 700 plus children in the school there and they are fed every day. There are so many people in Paul that we can never afford a general Food Distribution there. It can only be done in the school.

WATER SITUATION

What is the water situation like in Tet Bef? Not good. Hickory United Evangelical Presbyterian Church had drilled two wells: one at the clinic and the other one at DesCoullines, a locality adjacent to the clinic. They had money for more wells but every dry hole costs half of the price. I remember we had three dry holes. The well at the clinic is a very good one. The one at DesCoullines is not working now. The one at the clinic Hickory U.E.P. Church has put a solar pump to feed the clinic and they also ran a pipe to the school to take water there. Now this is the only source of water they have not only for the school but for the people in the village. On a cloudy day water is very slow running to the school. The Hickory Church does have a maintenance program for those wells. They send teams of four to five people on a regular basis to keep those wells going. People there are blessed.

There is a need for another well in a village where people have to walk long way for water. This is after you climb the mountains going to Paul between there and the first water source. Please pray for God's provision. The people in that locality have asked me for years for a well.

What is the water situation in Lacroix? In Lacroix there is still water. The well provided plenty of water. It is amazing the well at the mission dug since 1984 never run dry not even once. Though it's been used a lot for the school students, for missionaries and yet it still provides a lot of water. It's a miracle. Thanks be to God.

The well in Perisse went dry but Delouis has added another 10' of pipes and they have been getting water from it again though not in the same quantity as before.

The well in Decouvert/ BoukanTony went dry. Nothing can be done for it for another 10' of pipe has been added before. Therefore, we have paid people to haul water for the school but in those

days we haul water from the mission on the truck because it is more economical. We thank God.

WATER IN LACOUPE

It would take a miracle to have a well in Lacoupe, for we have tried and we had three dry holes. Our only source is cistern or reservoir to be fed by RAIN. Thank God Marc Gilbert and his wife Theresa had built a cistern there. Now since there hasn't been any rain for a long period, the cistern is dry. Therefore, what we are doing now is to haul water. It's been very hard on the vehicles. Last week as the Dump truck (The Big John donated by George and Kathy Yonker) was returning from La Coupe two tires blew up. If they were flat, we would have fixed them but they blew out. It is costly but we have no choice. The Lord knew about that before it even happened that is why he has provided money ahead of time. I must admit that the Lord provides.

NEED TO PRAY FOR RAIN

Our only way out is RAIN. We can do all that is in our power but only God can open the floodgates of heaven to send rain. He is able. For the wells to be replenished, rain is needed. For people to be able to grow crops again, rain is needed. For people to experience good health, rain is needed. In order for the trees to be revived, rain is needed. Therefore, let us humble ourselves before the Lord in praying for rain.

VO-TECH SCHOOL

The Vo-Tech school this year has gone to another level. With funds raised at the Golf/Outing we had added a wood working class, a sewing class on a higher level where men and women both can make clothes for anyone. I am amazed at the interest the students have in this class. The

masonry class is going well, the computer class is going well and the regular sewing class is going well.

I thank God for that. I believe the future of Haiti relies on the youth learning a trade to support the country and to support themselves.

CLINIC IN LACROIX

The clinic in Lacroix is doing well. Patients keep coming to the clinic. It is still self-sufficient. My wife has done some work on the addition to East side of the clinic. She wants to get it done because the present facility has become too small. Doctor Dan and Linda Lattanzi ought to be proud of their fulfillment for Lacroix.

Doctor Fred and Sarah Landenwitsch has been working with the Hickory team to finish the unfinished area of the medical residence. It is now very beautiful, an envious place to live with Dish Television, Internet, refrigerator though not 24/7 but it's coming. We have come a long way.

FOUCARDES/BAYONNAIS

The work is going well there. The Zion United Methodist Church in Sarver, PA has taken this project to finish. Last year they got the flooring done, the windows and the doors. This year they are going to have the stucco work done and the painting. I thank the Lord for this project that will come to completion. I know the man who has made the donation of the property is going to be honored to see the work finished.

OUTREACH TEAMS This year we have more outreach teams scheduled to go than last year. Good News Gathering (GNG) of Hillsboro, OH., Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church of Murrysville, PA, New Beginnings Church of Goshen, OH, Hickory United Evangelical Presbyterian Church,

Kings Point Church of God of Maineville, OH, a dental team from Pittsburgh. Zion United Methodist Sarver, PA, Church of the Holy Spirit Anglican; Friends Of Haiti, Andrea Loether with five other nurses; Dr. Dan Lattanzi with med students, Purcellville Baptist Church Purcellville, VA; Westminster Youth Group, Venice Presbyterian Church, Venice PA; and New Day Assembly of God.

This is what we have so far. You can see the program is very rich. I thank God for every single one of you because you are a God Gift to this ministry!

Prayer Requests:

1. Pray for my Son, Kerby, as we mentor him in the Lord's ministry
2. Pray that my wife and I to stay healthy
3. Pray for God's provision for this ministry
4. Pray for Friends of Haiti as they have taken the financial responsibility state side for Lacroix Mission
5. Pray for God to send more workers in His harvest
6. Pray for the protection and safety of outreach teams
7. Pray for spiritual harvest
8. Pray for the Vo-Tech school
9. Pray for the leading of the Holy Spirit
10. Pray for God to enlarge our territory

May the Lord bless you all!

God Prosper Pierre

The official registration and financial information of Friends of Haiti may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement