

Zanmi Ansanm

Friends
Together



Spring 2005

PLANTING A SEED Mary Alice Eschweiler

Our November trip was postponed to mid-January. That trip was postponed to late January. Planting a new seed in Haiti just had to wait. By the time Jim Turner and I finally were able to go, one person of our party of three, dropped out. But Jim Turner was determined. Our primary mission was to introduce Jim to the village of Bon Do, a mission of St. Marc's, Jeannette. Bon Do, on the northern coast of Haiti, a few miles west of the city of Miragoane has an Episcopal church and school established by Fr. Octave Lafontant nearly ten years ago.

Pere Lazard met us at the airport with the new truck. Our first stop in Haiti, after viewing the Cathedral, was a visit with the Bishop of Haiti. Jim represented his parish, St. Gregory's, Boca Raton, Florida, which is interested in expanding its outreach ministries. It is this parish which made the truck possible. We were able to have the "total Haitian experience" in one short week, thanks to this truck. Safety concerns melted away as we watched the Haitian population continue on with their daily struggles.

Jim's past experience working in Asia for IBM brings incredible gifts of communication and adaptability to third world countries. Meeting in a crowded two room hut with seven teachers and over 100 children took me back almost twenty years to St. Marc's beginnings. The Bon Do mission already has a small piece of land for a new school and church. The current vitamin program seems to be one a month. Water issues, as everywhere in Haiti, need to be addressed. Discussions of dreams will lead to realities. The friendship was sealed with the consumption of freshly cracked coconuts!

The model of St. Marc's, 30 minutes up the mountain, with all of its obstacles yet to be overcome, is one of hope for the people of Bon Do and St. Gregory's and other parishes in Boca Raton.. Please keep these people in your prayers as they work together in Christ's mission.

HAITI PROJECT HIRES NEW COORDINATOR

The Haiti Project is pleased to welcome Janis Byrd M.D. to the position of coordinator. Jan is a physician from the Madison area, soon to retire, who has sponsored many children through the project over the years. She is very excited to join this ministry. Jan took her first trip to Haiti in February (see more inside)

In her position as coordinator, Jan will continue to welcome and utilize the skills and talents of others. There is always much to do!. Please contact Jan at 608-837-7836 or res1cadh@verizon.net to volunteer your help!

FEBRUARY 05 HAITI TRIP REPORT

Six Haiti Project board members, Barb and Ted Chesney, Nancy and Mark Frana, and John and Patti Brusky, plus our new coordinator Janis Byrd, travelled to Haiti Feb 10-22. By all accounts, it was a great trip. Here are some highlights as reported by Barb and Ted.

The group was very impressed and happy to see all the work that Pere Amiroid has done in a short period of time. His fiancée Yvelande joined them for a couple of nights -there is talk of a wedding in September.

The Presbytere was in the best shape ever - freshly painted and nice and clean. There is now actually a concrete road from the Presbytere to the top of the hill Pere needs the road now that he has a truck. For the first night in Jeannette the group invited Jean-Luc Riverin and Anne Pettigrew (of Engineers without Borders) to join them. They met at Wall's Guest House in Port au Prince and at once formed a friendship. Jean-Luc and Anne are from Canada, and will be assessing the availability of potable water in the rural areas of Les Cayes and water systems that are not working for the next two years. They had some free time and it seemed like a good opportunity for them to see another area.

Gift of Water

Pastor Tilus of Gift of Water stayed with the group in Jeannette for a few days. He spoke about GOW after church on Sunday, met with the GOW Committee, spoke with students at school on Monday and worked side by side with the 2 water technicians the project employs, and with the families that have the systems (more on this later)

There has not been rain in Jeannette for quite some time. Both Presbytere cisterns were empty. Pere had 50 gallon drums of water in each of the bathrooms, made possible by the truck donated by St.Gregory's in Boca Raton. This meant sponge baths, sun showers and bucket flushing of the toilets. It demonstrates a bit about the hardships of trying to survive with such limited water. Presently people are walking between 3-5 miles for water.

Medical Clinic

Medications donated in the US and some purchased in Haiti were dispensed. Over 500 people were seen in four days.

The medical team held their very first clinic at Bon Do, a neighboring town of St. Marcs. Pere arranged for the team and all their supplies to be transported with the new truck down to Bon Do and the medical team consisting of 2 nurses and 2 doctors were able to see over 100 people there.

Clinics were held out of the dispensary in Jeannette on 3 consecutive days, with over 100 people seen each day. In addition sick children were brought to them from the school. The dispensary staff assisted. The roof on the clinic has been replaced and the entire building was freshly painted. There was a new refrigerator used to store some medications.

Building and Fix-It Projects

Mark and Ted were very busy. They built shelves for the clinic and cabinets and blackboards for the school. They reconnected the electricity to the nurses' quarters. They assessed the cisterns.

Sponsorship Photos

Barb took photos of the school children with the help of Genel Eloi. The photos will be sent with a future sponsorship mailing.

Project Administration

Rudolph Eloi continues to assist Pere in overseeing the entire Project at St. Marc's. Eloi is with his family in Leogone only every other weekend. This separation is difficult. Eloi has been with the Project since 1989, dedicating himself to the people of Jeannette and especially to the children. The Project is greatly honored and blessed to work with him.

School

Health packets that included donated soap, a toothbrush, toothpaste and shampoo were given to the students.

It was a pleasure to welcome Jean Marc Govain as the new principal of St. Marc's School. Jean Marc is the first alumnus student of St. Marc's to have graduated from university. *Cont.*

February '05 Trip Report (Cont.)

He joins Pere Amirold and Eloi in sharing much enthusiasm, vision and concern for the well being of the children of Jeanette. Currently there are > 700 children in the school at St. Marcs

Sewing Trade School

The sewing teachers are Rudolphe Eloi and Ismile. Ismile has two classes of students: a morning class of 20 students from the school and an afternoon class of 20 women from the community. The afternoon class pays a nominal fee; they buy some fabric and some is provided. Presently they are learning theory and are making dresses by hand. In six months they will know how to use a sewing machine. There are three working machines. Eloi is teaching a tailoring class.

Other Activities

Pere has formed a volunteer road crew of about forty men. They have worked on the road starting out at the little store to just past the school. He is very proud of

More Gift of Water

Pastor Tilus shared the results of a survey of the Jeannette area completed by GOW. He reported the people of Jeannette seem very happy with GOW. There are about 1000 on the waiting list from Jeanette and surrounding areas. The people of St. Marc's will be given priority. An extra technician would probably be needed if the number of systems goes between 230 and 400 systems. If and when that happens, we asked that GOW consider a woman for that position. Pastor met with the Community Committee reminding them of their responsibilities. He gave lessons about health with families and students at the school. The technicians, Jackson and Onel work every day visiting each family on a regular schedule

The technicians have a meeting once a month open to all those families with systems to share and teach. Pastor Tilus will return to Jeannette in about one month. GOW is very thorough and they truly understand the needs of Haitians and manage their program very well. We are fortunate to be working with GOW and thank Nancy Frana for researching, recommending and following up with this program.

Did you Know?

There must be hundreds of wonderful vignettes from the 19+ years of the Haiti Project 's history. Here is one which says it all.

While perusing the labels for the newsletter mailing, I noticed one for a partner located in the West Indies. I wondered how we came to have someone living so far from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, sponsor a child in Jeannette, Haiti? Here's how. This sponsor was once an impoverished child in a poor country with little or no hope of going to school or creating a different life. That is until she was sponsored by someone far away. Because someone loved and cared enough to provide financial support through an Episcopal Church sponsored program similar to the Haiti Project, that child was given hope for her future. That hope resulted in a young woman who continued on in school, became a teacher, and is now able to extend the same "hand up" for someone else.

Each seed we plant and nurture grows to bear fruit of its own. That fruit then produces more the seeds. None of us can solve the problems of poverty and social injustice on our own, but like this woman, each of us can do something. Thank you for doing something.

Haiti's Hope Note Cards

Colorful note cards with photos of beautiful Haitian children are available for purchase. Proceeds benefit the Gift of Water and other health related programs for Jeannette and St. Marcs.

The cost is \$10.00 per set of 12 (6 different photos) plus postage, \$3.00 for first box, \$.50 for each additional box.. and can be ordered by contacting:

Nancy Frana
5020 S. Courtland Parkway
New Berlin, WI 53151
414 - 425-5643
mfrana@prodigy.net

Larger quantities are also available for fundraising purposes.

Diocese Of Eau Claire Haiti Partnership

Thanks and Blessings (Continued from page 3)

Martha Berger - Martha's first trip to Haiti by all rights could have been her last. That trip nearly 20 years ago was fraught with difficulties, yet as often happens, Martha felt drawn to Haiti and it's people. She has returned to Haiti a number of times, initially answering the call to mission as a nurse, and most recently as an ordained Episcopal priest. For many Haitians, this is the first example of an ordained woman, thus an important one. Mother Martha has helped gather goods and load container shipments, sponsored children with her husband Bill Berger, a physician and past Haiti Project board member, and their children. She has ministered to the board as spiritual advisor. We enjoyed having her on the board and wish her well. *Merci Mere Martha*

Haiti Project Welcomes New Board Member

David Couper, acting priest at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in North Lake, WI has joined the DOM Haiti Project Board of Directors. David is recently retired from St. John the Baptist in Portage. He and his wife Sabine have been on three of the Projects' trips to Haiti.. We welcome David and look forward to seeing how he will use his unique gifts. He will assume the important role of Spiritual Advisor as he helps us to strive to keep God present in all of our works.

Container Shipment

Plans are in the works to send a large container to Haiti filled with much needed building and school materials, and medical supplies. Details are not yet known. If you are able to help procure any of the items listed below, please contact Haiti Project Coordinator Janis Byrd. @ 608-837-7836

- Generators
- 30 gallon garbage cans (for collecting water)
- Glass building block
- Treadle (non-electric) sewing machines and fabric
- Non expired antibiotics, children's chewable vitamins, OTC pain medications (infant drops and adult)
- Wheelbarrows, shovels, and other tools
- Toilets (tank only)
- Tile

This article, written by Dianne Dawson, Christ Church Chippewa Falls, appeared in the February issue of the Diocese of Eau Claire Newsletter. We welcome them to our shared ministry.

Thanks to many in the Diocese, we are well on our way toward being involved in this "new" mission work. The Haiti Baby Shower at Christ Church Chippewa Falls in December resulted in four large boxes filled with baby gifts being shipped to Milwaukee, to be delivered by the mission group going down on January 31. The women of St. Marc's Episcopal Church in Jeannette Haiti are sure to appreciate the gifts.

Some 24 people in the Diocese of Eau Claire (and/or groups or churches) have stepped forward to "sponsor" a child at the School attached to St. Marc's church.. In addition to the \$180.00/year, partners promise to pray for the child. The children at St. Marc's School call us their "friends". Partnerships provide the assurance that students will have good teachers, a priest, and access to medical care. If one were to visit St. Marc's School, and I have, one would find children that really do feel "linked" to their American Episcopal "Friends". It is a tangible relationship based on reciprocal prayer, and the history of a Mission built on trust & a shared love of Christ.

Many in the Diocese have also supported the Mission through the purchase of wonderful Haitian Art, both at convention and at the kick off Dinner in July of last year. And still others have simply made donations toward this worthwhile work.

It is a pleasure to announce that the Diocese now has a volunteer Partnership Coordinator. Her name is JoAnn Martin and she is a member of St. Alban's in Spooner. All partnership "business" will go through her. She is God sent, and we are thankful for her stepping forward to take on this mission work. If you would like information on how to become a "partner" and sponsor a child, contact JoAnn at 715-635-8266 or send her an e-mail message at jomartin@witc.edu.

HAITI CONNECTION MEETING

Haitians and Americans whose mission is to bring Christ's message to Haiti as they work to help improve life there will meet in Miami May 3-5. Sponsored by the Episcopal Church, this network of groups gather to share information on successful projects, resources, and solutions.

