

# The Lazarus Project

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**2008  
Issue #3**

Responding to the cry of Lazarus in Haiti [Luke 16:19-22]

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## Cost of Sponsorship Increased

Our Lazarus Project Board of Directors, reluctantly, but of necessity, is increasing the donations of *new sponsorships* to \$30 a month, up from \$25 a month effective September 1, 2008 to help meet the rising costs of everything in Haiti — salaries, books, travel, food, school supplies, etc.

For current sponsors, many who have been faithful supporters over the years, we are asking for a *voluntary increase* to \$30 a month for those that can afford to do so. We don't want anyone to "drop out" due to a request for increased donations.

The \$5.00 a month increase is certainly not a hardship issue for most of us, even in this time of economic stress. It amounts to just a little over **15¢ a day!** Many of us do not have to count our pennies that closely. But those few cents a day help to bring untold blessings to the children we serve in Jesus' name.

Those who have signed up for **credit card payments** simply need to call Food for the Poor®, (954) 427-2222, and ask for **Extension 6138**. Elaine Hill will help you change the amount you want charged to your account. A letter to all sponsors explaining the increase policy in detail is being sent out. If you have questions, contact Darrell Pfeffer or Pastor Wolber [contact information is listed on page 4 of this newsletter].

## 1000+ Show Up For Registration

June 16-17 were registration days at Village of Hope for the 40 openings in the Kindergarten-1 class of the coming school year. To bring a bit more order to the sometimes chaotic registration process, VoH announced selection for the 40 openings would be made from the first 200 children whose parents showed up with legitimate birth certificates for their 3-year-olds. How popular is our VoH school? How strongly do parents desire to enroll their children there? The answer lies in the fact that parents started lining up outside the



gate a day early! When the gate was opened, over 1000 people were lined up hoping for the chance to get their child into what has become known as one of the best schools in the whole country. School leaders had arranged for two policemen to be on duty for crowd control. They were very glad to have done so. The crowd was relatively well behaved with no major incidents. But now comes the hard part — selecting 40 out of those first 200 to join the proud ranks of the VoH student body.

## Joyful Spirit Returns To Haiti

After having cancelled a trip scheduled earlier, the good folks from Joyful Spirit, [Bolingbrook, IL], returned to Haiti June 7-14. There were ten in their group, nine of whom were “repeats.” The one newcomer was Dawn DeBrocco; the “repeats” were Julie Hupp [A Lazarus Project Board member], Jamie Meves, Patrick Meves, Larry Deguisne, Jim Cantrell, Lennie Fenton, Lori Consolazio, Gene Butcher, and Stacey Veseling. Four members of the team, a therapy group, spent most of their time helping out at the Little Children of Jesus [LCJ] home. The other six devoted themselves to a project at Village of Hope — building a guard house on top of the water tanks. The sun was hot,



but they stuck with the task and completed the four walls. The team paid for all the materials for this project, and left enough to cover the cost of the roof, the door and a finish coat of stucco on the walls. They also repaired intake and outlet pipes to make the system fully operational.

The therapy group was a real blessing to the ministry at LCJ, helping to feed the children as well as using their talents in physical therapy to meet the needs of the handicapped. They ministered to Gladys Nonez and her staff as well as to the children, touching all of them with how generously they gave of themselves to the tasks at hand.

## Another Summer Success Story

Twenty-four days elapsed from the time the first leaders came until the last ones left, and Pastor Larry & Margaret Bollinger could say “It was a great event! But it’s good to be able to relax and catch our breath!”

The second **Summer Enrichment Program**, another rousing success, was over! Transporting the staff back and forth, keeping them supplied with food, water, diesel, supplies, etc., dealing with flat tires, dead batteries and other glitches made for a super-busy schedule for these two “angels” who keep Village of Hope and its various programs running smoothly! **THANKS BE TO GOD** for Pastor Larry & Margaret and their tireless energy which blesses so many young lives!



Not everything went as planned (*no surprise!*) but the program was a huge success. Sixteen teachers and aids in 9 subjects gave many VoH students the joy of learning how to create things with their hands. Haitian culture dictates that manual labor is beneath your status when you are educated.

This summer’s program was intentionally structured to emphasize the creativity that comes with the work of one’s hands. Classes included cross stitching, silk screening, oil painting, manual art, weaving art, robotics, crocheting, solar cooking and metal art. The children were fascinated in every class all day long for the full two weeks of the program.

## VoH Students Excel!

In Haiti school students are given government exams at 4 levels. Here are the most recent results at VoH:  
Philo class [grade between high school and university]: 10 students: 10 passed (100%)  
12<sup>th</sup> Grade class: 8 students: 2 passed, (33%), 6 failed.  
9<sup>th</sup> Grade class: 22 students. 18 passed, (82%), 4 failed.  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade class: 33 students. 30 passed, (91%) , 3 failed.

All the 9<sup>th</sup> Graders and 12<sup>th</sup> Graders who failed are being re-tested and it is expected that over half of them will pass. The 3 who failed the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade test were so poor they are being dismissed. VoH’s pass-fail rate is well above the national average, which is below 50% at all testing levels.

## Advent VBS Team

Ten diligent servants from Advent [Boca Raton, FL] spent the week of June 22-29 putting on a VBS program for the children in grades 6,7 & 8 at the Village of Hope. Pastor Andy Hagen [Lazarus Project Board member] led the team, assisted by his wife Susan and the following hard workers: Doug & Sally Whitney, Greg Worch & daughter Anna, Amy Dingle & son Kyle, and Donna & Kevin Centerbar. The first of three VBS teams scheduled for this summer, the Advent team set the bar high with a well-prepared and conducted program that put smiles on the faces, and joy in the hearts of children and leaders alike. In the words of Pastor Hagen: *"This was an incredible team and an awesome week. We received more than we gave, learned more than we taught, and whatever blessings we gave were returned a hundredfold by our brothers and sisters in Haiti."*

Funded in part by \$1000 from Advent's own VBS, the program included Bible lessons, singing, crafts, activities and drama. Jorel Carte [a member of the VoH staff] gave his accordion accompaniment to singing in English, Creole and French. A lunch was served every day to the 80 some children whose families always struggle to feed their children, and now ever more so with Haiti's inflationary food prices.

The team also found time to visit Marie Major's school (where they treated nine children with pinkeye), meet the 100 children at the Little Children of Jesus home for handicapped, visit the Food for the Poor facility, and assist in pouring a cement roof on the guard house being built at VoH. Pastor Hagen reports that in addition to the team's gifts of food and clothing, some team members will be signing up as sponsors. One song the team learned in Creole says, in English, "I am so happy that you came to see me, my friend." The team left Haiti grateful for the loving welcome they received and honored to be friends of such strong, hopeful and loving people.



Guard house on top of the water tanks from page 2

## Ascension, Fond du Lac, Team

A seven member team (5 newcomers) from Ascension, Fond du Lac, WI, visited Haiti May 21-27. The team included Amy Engebose, who recently joined Ascension's pastoral staff. Pastor Jeff Blaine had been a member of one of Ascension's previous two teams. Others on this team were George & Sandy Silcox, Perry Prichard, Kathy Saemann, John Emery and Sheila Flucke. The team's hands-on activities included a craft project with Marie Major's girls and helping the staff feed the children at the Little Children of Jesus facility. They also visited Food for the Poor and brought money to purchase chicken and hot dogs for the children at Village of Hope. Their main project was building six much-needed new desks for the students at Marie's school. They also bagged beans and rice for the VoH staff, and shared many much-needed items at each ministry.

They were eagerly anticipating the Sunday worship service with the children at VoH, but due to torrential rains and lots of mud they and 3 staff members were the only ones present to enjoy a truly inspiring service. One team member, John Emery, serves on the ELCA Church Council. He intends to ask some pointed questions about the ELCA's negative stance toward The Lazarus Project and Food for the Poor. We'll remember John in prayer.

## "Congressman" Visits Village Of Hope

Jude Destine is the "Deputy" from the area of Haiti between Ganthier and Croix de Bouquet to the Lower Chamber [somewhat like our House of Representatives], which has 99 "Deputies." They also have an Upper Chamber consisting of 30 "Senators" representing Haiti's 10 "Departments" [something like our states]. Deputy Destine lives just west of our VoH location near where the cell telephone tower is located [for those of you familiar with the local geography]. Several of our VoH children are related to him. Having heard from them so many good things about the VoH school, he decided to stop by to say "Hello" and to offer to help the ministry in whatever way he might be able to. Seeing how pleased he seemed to be with our school, it was certainly good to get to know him. Pastor Bollinger reports that there will certainly be times in the future when we will want to turn to him for assistance. His good will may prove to be of great benefit.

# How You Can Help?

Are you already a child sponsor? Please keep your sponsorship payments current (\$30 a month, \$360 a year). The Lazarus Project does not bill sponsors. We rely on you to keep your vital support current.

Sign up to be the sponsor of a child —OR— send in your one-time, or occasional gift. In any case, clip this form and mail, with your check (payable to Food for the Poor) to Darrell Pfeffer • 3551 SW 23rd St. • Delray Beach, FL, 33445.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please check appropriate box:  Current Sponsor  New Sponsor  One-time Gift

Amount included \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Church Membership \_\_\_\_\_

## Two-Man Team (Plus Two)

It was Brian Fisher's fifth visit to Haiti in the last two years. From Philadelphia, Brian learned of our work in Haiti and has recruited several of his friends to come to Haiti with him to work in the ministries of the Lazarus Project. On this trip (May 29 – June 4) only one other person was able to come with him – Kevin Wright from Drexel Hill, PA. They visited the Village of Hope school every day, interacting with students and teachers and participating in some of the classes. They also made at least two visits to each of our other ministries – Little Children of Jesus (LCJ) and Marie Major's school, as well as Food for the Poor. It was a learning and sharing experience for both of them. Kevin used his expertise as an award winning film maker with the Philadelphia school system at LCJ, filming the children and staff to supplement what the Prince of Peace (Springfield, VA) team had done earlier. Amy Boynton is using both sources in her updating of our video.

**Two other "wandering pilgrims"** [Ben Frazier and Jerome Powell] joined Brian and Kevin half-way through their visit. Ben and Jerome had learned of all of Haiti's problems and felt moved to come, all on their own, to see if they could find places and ways to help. Woefully unaware of Haiti's realities, they had come planning to camp out — plans that changed in a hurry when they began to experience what Haiti was really like. After being ripped off by a cab driver who – for unknown reasons – dropped them off at the Village of Hope, they joined Brian and Kevin for the few remaining days of their visit. Their airline tickets had them returning in September; but what they had learned in their brief stay convinced them they had better get out while the getting was good, so they left with Brian and Kevin.

Meanwhile Brian is thinking of ways to continue the kind of support he has generated for VoH in the past — raising funds for special projects, including the Bon Samaritan Fund and support for the university students.



As part of the Summer Enrichment Program, solar ovens were built and demonstrated at VoH. Then a meal was shared that was cooked on those same ovens.

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This newsletter may be reprinted in part or in whole for local distribution.

Check out the Village of Hope website: [lazarusprojecthaiti.org](http://lazarusprojecthaiti.org)

Send address changes, additions, or duplications to:

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Articles, photos, and comments should be sent to Pastor Wolber

Sponsors: contact Darrell Pfeffer • 3551 SW 23rd St. • Delray Beach, FL, 33445 -or- [d\\_pfeffer@bellsouth.net](mailto:d_pfeffer@bellsouth.net)

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