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The **Lazarus** **Project**

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Issue #3

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

A “God-Moment” For Prince Of Peace Team, Springfield, VA

It was beginning to look like a “bust.” The 14 folks from PoP, led by Lazarus Board member Ray Schaible, arrived in Haiti full of energy and high expectations. But the very first day of their visit (April 16-21) the government announced that all schools would be closed before and after the senate elections scheduled for that week end. Then they announced that all vehicular traffic would be banned that Sunday — all of this in an attempt to lower the risk of violence on election day. It looked as if the team would be severely restricted in what it could accomplish.

But once again, God was in charge! When the team visited Food for the Poor on Friday, the news came that the long-awaited “Matthew’s Box” — a project initiated back in 2008 by PoP, resulting in a large shipping container full of materials for Village of Hope and other Haitian ministries — had arrived in Haiti and was just then being released from the dock for delivery to FFP! So the team scurried back to Hope House to make room in the cottage for all the things designated for VoH — about half of everything in that huge container! Friday and Saturday were now full of plenty of work to do. (See article elsewhere in this issue for the full story on “Matthew’s Box” and the “coincidence” of its arrival when this team was there!)

But what about worship on Sunday, with no vehicles allowed on the highway out to VoH? No problem.

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Hope House Hosts Needed

We’re still searching (and praying!) for someone to serve full-time as hosts at our Hope House in Haiti. The Bollingers are moving toward a different style of involvement in our Village of Hope ministry. Margaret will be returning to the States full-time, and Pastor Larry will be splitting his time between the U.S. and Haiti. So we need someone to take care of Hope House, to host the Mission Trip teams that come over, and to assume some other aspects of the work load that the Bollingers have been handling so ably and with such admirable dedication.

Ideally, we would like a retired couple looking for something exciting and satisfying to do with their time in retirement. Travel to-and-from Haiti, and living expenses in Haiti, will definitely be covered. Beyond that everything is negotiable including length of service.

If interested, or to learn more about this opportunity, contact Pastor Ron Qualley at Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Fairfax, VA. via email qualley@lordoflife.lutheran.com -or- (703)-223-9500.

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With Marie Major’s church within walking distance, the team enjoyed a spirit-filled hour of worship with her congregation! What a joyful experience! Then on Monday there were plenty of projects around Hope House to keep them all busy. And on Tuesday (departure day) the team got up with Haiti’s chickens to trek out to VoH for the opening of the school day before heading for the airport. All agreed — “What a fantastic, God-blessed trip!”

Matthew's Box – 2008-09

It all started last summer, inspired by members of Prince of Peace (PoP), Springfield, VA, led by Melinda Reidy. The goal: collect and send to Haiti a full shipping container of relief supplies. For a time two containers were considered, one to go to Port au Prince, the other to Cap Haitien. But storms and floods almost cancelled the plan altogether. For a time thought was given to alternative destinations in South and Central America. But with God's help and under His guidance a 40 foot container



stuffed to the doors was finally shipped through Food for the Poor in Florida to its main distribution center in Port au Prince. It arrived there April 17th, and another part of God's plan unfolded! The PoP mission team "coincidentally" arrived at that same time and was there to help unload the container and distribute the contents!!

Relief supplies shipped included shoes, rice, beans, Vienna sausages, folding tables, bicycles, infant formula, diapers, OTC medical supplies, personal care items, socks, underwear and other precious items, all donated through these

participating churches (in addition to PoP): Lord of Life Lutheran, Fairfax, Peace Lutheran, Alexandria, St. John's Lutheran, Alexandria, Nativity Lutheran, Burke, Good Shepherd Methodist, Vienna, and Liberty Baptist, Bear, Delaware.

Ministries in Haiti benefiting from the project include the Lazarus Project, Food for the Poor, Hands and Feet Project, Operation Starfish, Jacksonville Baptist Association Haiti Mission Project, Friends of the Children of Haiti, and the Christian School of New Vision.

It could not have happened without the dedication and generosity of the following:

- ▼ The many churches and their members in the community.
- ▼ Interstate Van Lines (storage space, packing materials, free transportation)
- ▼ Shoes2Share, Wilmington, DE – donating 1000 pairs of shoes, plus the use of their warehouse for storage and packing, thanks to Rhonda and Tim Wampler.

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Another Container!

There was enough skepticism to go around when the Wheatland Salem United Methodist Church in Naperville, IL, announced the project — fill a shipping trailer with relief supplies for the Lazarus Project in Haiti. "A shipping container is 40 feet by 10 feet by 8 feet!" they said. "That's a lot of stuff and a lot of work!" But the outpouring of giving was amazing!

Exceeding even the most optimistic expectations, members of the Naperville church, with help from local schools, businesses and other churches, accumulated about 40,000 pounds of food, clothing, household items and toiletries for the project. Food for the Poor underwrote the project providing shipping to Haiti, where they will also help with the distribution process. Jeff Simpson, spokesperson for the Wheatland Salem church, said that one of the most amazing things was not just the amount of goods donated, but the willingness of so many people to pitch in and make the project a huge success.

One church member contacted Feed My Starving Children, a relief group based in Aurora, IL, for help; result -- 10,000 pounds of rice. Other donations from various sources included washing machines, a water heater, 12 laptop computers, over 200 chairs, 15,000 diaper wipes, 4,000 diapers, and 30 bicycles. The truck was

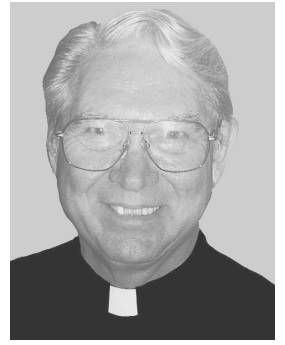


5 feet longer than expected, but it was filled to capacity. "We could hardly get the doors shut, there was so much extra stuff!" said Simpson. Most of the items shipped will be used at Village of Hope, the Little Children of Jesus facility, and at Marie Major's home for girls.

This article is based on an article in the Naperville Sun by Wendy Foster.

Pastor Wolber Relinquishes Duties

Due to health issues and advancing age (82), Pastor David Wolber, who has served as Coordinator of the Lazarus Project from its beginning, has had to give up many of his responsibilities. He will still go out on preaching visits in congregations (as long as they allow him to preach from a chair), serve on the Board of Directors, and write articles for the newsletter. All of his other Lazarus Project activities are being assumed by **Darrell Pfeffer** and **Pastor Ron Qualley**. The Lazarus Project is deeply indebted to Pastor Wolber for his key role making the Lazarus Project a unique blessing to the children of Haiti. Thank you, Dave, and may God's blessings encircle you.



St. John, Alexandria, VA Team

It was a first-time experience for all but one of the ten members of St. John, Alexandria, VA. Led by Greer Putnam (the only "repeat") their 5 days in Haiti (April 30 – May 5) were more than productive, in terms both of inspiration received and of work accomplished. Besides sorting some of the goods received in recently arrived containers, the team set themselves enthusiastically to the daunting task of fitting each of the pre-school through 3rd Grade children at Village of Hope (VoH) with a pair of shoes.

Since Friday was a holiday and they were leaving Tuesday, they had only one day, Monday, in which to complete this task. And they did it! Every child's foot was measured and fitted with the proper size shoes — and SOCKS to go with them! Although some were slightly worn, to the VoH children they were "new shoes!" And how happy they were to receive them!

Pastor Braun Campbell provided a much needed service — tuning and getting ready for distribution the laptop computers that had come in the Naperville container. Two moving visits to the Little Children of Jesus (one with Jorel Carte and his accordion) and a stop at Food for the Poor, the latter on their way to the airport for departure, rounded out this team's exciting, rewarding Haiti experience. Besides Greer Putnam, members of this team were Pastor Braun Campbell, Christine Payne, Paul Swicord, Yvette Moy, Michelle Guilfoil, Susan Gutjahr, Heidi Kupka, Jim Lofgren, and Sarah Finger.

St. Paul, Aiken, "Plus" Team

Lazarus Board member Bill Blosser led a Mission Trip team of 11 to Haiti May 11-16. Only two team members were "repeats." The core of the team came from St. Paul, Aiken, SC (Bill Blosser, Vicki Snelgrove, Bob Rogers, Pastor Beth Barkhau, Philip Barkhau, Lisa Quattlebaum and Lance Traver); it was rounded out by Lee Breuer (St. Andrew's, Columbia, SC), Laura Lee Metzger (Holy Spirit, Juno Beach, FL), and Michael Hakkenbery and son Lucas (Roanoke College, Roanoke, VA).

The task of sorting and distributing shoes for 4th graders and up — taking up where the St. John's team had left off — was a real challenge. Some sizes were in scarce supply, but in the end, thanks to their valiant efforts, every child at Village of Hope received a new pair of shoes. The team also spent a lot of time cleaning up the land near Hope House on which three Food for the Poor (FFP) houses had been built by the employees and neighbors of Hope House.

They also cleaned the interiors of the houses and did some painting to get the homes ready for their new owners. While they were there, representatives of FFP stopped by to take pictures of the houses and their residents and to hand over the keys. The team also spent a moving morning at the Little Children of Jesus facility, hanging fly repellent bags and interacting with the children, whose loving smiles touched them deeply. They also found time to visit Marie Major's mission and the FFP facilities.

Volunteer Help Needed

The Lazarus Project is growing! And it needs to grow even more! To help make this happen we need someone to take on part of the administrative work load — specifically, correspondence via letters and e-mails, follow-up on congregations interested in the Mission trip experience, seeking invitations for Lazarus Project speakers. etc.

The tasks can be part time, from home or a church office, on a volunteer basis. *Why not pay someone to do this?* The Lazarus Project has been built, and has thrived, on the principle of volunteer service. We prefer not to use donors' gifts to cover such administrative costs. Please contact Pastor Ron Qualley if interested (phone 703-223-9500; or e-mail qualley@lordofflifelutheran.com.)

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 _____

✂ _____

Special Anthem Honors Lazarus Project

A special anthem was sung at Trinity United Methodist Church when the Bollingers visited on their most recent trip to the States. Written by **Howard Cuthbertson** and **Linda Allen Smith** (the latter a member of Trinity), it is sung to the tune of "Jesus Loves Me."

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) Jesus loves me, this is true,
But He loves the whole world, too.
And this is His last command:
"Take my Gospel to each land." | 3) Jesus loves us ! We must care
For God's children everywhere.
Cynthia and Paul our love to show,
So to Haiti they did go. |
| 2) Haiti's people were in need,
Lazarus Project took the lead.
Feed the hungry was their goal,
Now they're feeding body and soul. | 4) Even though our church is small,
We can still heed Jesus' call.
With our money and our prayer,
Helping people everywhere |

Food for the Poor Mailings

Although most of our Lazarus Project supporters appreciate receiving the mailings that come from Food for the Poor to keep them informed on all the great things this outstanding organization is doing to serve the poor in Jesus' name, some would prefer otherwise. If you would like to change the number of mailings you receive from Food for the Poor, please contact the Donor Gift Processing department at (954) 427-2222 -or- email monicar@foodforthe poor.com. You will still receive a year-end statement of your contributions for tax purposes.

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- ▼ Costco of Springfield, VA
- ▼ Uno's Chicago Grill of Alexandria, VA
- ▼ Food for the Poor for the final shipping and receipt of the container in Port au Prince.

In spite of the glitches, uncertainties and disappointments along the way, the timing was perfect — arrival of the container on the docks of Port au Prince just before Holy Week — the PoP Mission Team to see it delivered to FFP on April 17th and to help in the distribution — all can only be described as one of those awesome "God Moments." To Him be the glory! And may His blessings abound for all the churches, ministries, and contributing partners, and especially those in Haiti who have been helped by this project!

This article is based on a story written by Tom Lambaise, a member of PoP, Springfield.

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

Check out the Village of Hope web site: lazarusprojecthaiti.org

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