

The **Lazarus Project**

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**2009
Issue #4**

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

Best School Around

Village of Hope school enjoys an outstanding reputation in the Ganthier region of Haiti. If it were not so, why would over 1000 people be lined up on registration day hoping to enroll their three-year-olds in one of only 40 available openings? That was the scene again, as in previous years, on Monday and Tuesday, June 29-30 — VoH's 2009 registration days.

Some of the hopefuls began arriving by mid-afternoon the day before, and spent the night out in the open air so they could be first in line. Clovis, the principal, and Pastor Larry were still getting contacts days later from people asking for "special favors" to get their children enrolled, including the mayor of Ganthier and the local congressman, both of whom were accommodated last year but were turned down this year.

Criteria for being considered for enrollment include verification of age via birth certificate, authentic record of immunization shots, address within VoH's service area, number of siblings already in the school, and readiness for school [based on an evaluation process conducted by the Kindergarten teachers]. A priority is given to those with no siblings enrolled so the blessings reach a wider scope of the community.

Final selection is made by Clovis, Pastor Larry and Margaret Bollinger. Another requirement is the payment of a \$10 Haitian (about \$1.25 US) enrollment fee and a commitment to pay a \$300 Haitian (about

\$37.50 US) annual fee. Consideration is shown to those who may be too poor to pay these modest fees which is about 10% of what most private schools charge.

According to Pastor Larry, experience has proven that attendance, promptness, discipline, and academic performance are all at a higher level among those students who pay the fees than among those who do not. The parents' and students' need for these fees is far greater than VoH's need for the money. So VoH is becoming more adamant about the necessity of meeting these minimal obligations.

A quote from Pastor Larry: "The enrollment process is a tough one. I don't think I have ever seen more desperation in the eyes of any human being than I have seen in the eyes of some of those parents whose children did not make the cut."



Just a few of the 1000 parents and children that were seeking one of the 40 spots available to 3 year olds.

The Search Goes On

Our prayers have not yet been answered. We are still searching for a couple to serve full time as hosts of our Hope House in Haiti. With the Bollingers moving toward a different mode of leadership for our Haiti ministries (Margaret returning full time to the States and Larry splitting his time between Haiti and work on the home front), we need someone to care for Hope House, host the Mission Trip teams and assume some of the other aspects of the work load which the Bollingers have handled so ably for several years.

Twice your Board of Directors believed they had found the “right couple” and twice something came up to negate the deal. So we’re still at square one. Travel to and from Haiti, all living expenses, and some other consideration will definitely be covered financially by the Lazarus Project. Beyond that, everything is negotiable, including length of service and other financial items. If interested, contact Pastor Ron Qualley at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Fairfax, VA via e-mail [qualley@lordoflife.lutheran.com] -or- phone (703-323-9500).

More than 96% of all donations to FFP go directly to programs that help the poor — less than 4% are used for expenses.

Lazarus Project Makes

STARS AND STRIPES®

Yvette Moy is the religious editor for “Stars and Stripes” magazine. She is also a member of St. John Lutheran Church, Alexandria, VA, and was a member of that church’s Mission Trip team which went to Haiti April 30 - May 5 this year.

Yvette has written a beautiful story about that trip which was published in the July 11th edition of “Stars and Stripes.” We don’t know the circulation figures for that magazine, but it goes to servicemen and women in the US and around the world. So our story is now on the “world stage” and is being read (we hope) by millions!

Go to www.stripes.com to read her story yourself. Thanks, Yvette, for the great story and the great publicity. [Incidentally, Pastor Wolber will be at St. John’s church in Alexandria August 29-30.]

A Glimpse Of Life In Haiti

It’s hard for us to imagine how different and how difficult day-to-day life is for the average person in Haiti. Here’s just one example. Not long ago our Hope House and Village of Hope handyman, Jean Dimanche, took his friend Samuel with him to the school to help him on a work project to make some classroom windows and doors more secure.

On the way they stopped to get something to eat. As they were returning to their vehicle, Samuel was run over by a hit-and-run driver! At first Jean thought Samuel had been killed. But he was just unconscious, and eventually Jean was able to get him into the vehicle. We are tempted to ask, “Why didn’t he call 911?” . Well, they don’t have that service in Haiti, and even if they did, how dependable would it be?

After being turned down at 5 different hospitals [“Sorry, no room” — “No doctors here” — “x-ray equipment not working” — “We don’t take accident victims.”] Samuel insisted they give up. By this time it was getting dark, and he wanted to be home with his family. So Jean took him home, not sure that he would live through the night. Jean reported the incident to Pastor Larry, who went to Samuel’s house [a one room residence housing him, his wife and seven children]. He brought some pain medication. He gave Jean some money with specific instructions to try again in the morning to get Samuel some medical help. He definitely needed to be x-rayed for any internal injuries and/or broken bones, and he had some cuts that needed attention. Samuel apologized for being so much trouble, and thanked Larry for coming to his assistance.

Chapter two of this amazing story. Jean took Samuel to another hospital the next morning where he was x-rayed and examined. Results: no broken bones or internal injuries — he was just badly bruised. He’ll be in pain for quite a while, but otherwise he will recover fully.

Footnote: Are we glad we have a presence in Haiti in the persons of Pastor Larry and Margaret who help the “Samuels” of Haiti on a daily basis? Are the dollars we invest there well spent? Absolutely! Think of that the next time you make a gift to the Lazarus Project, or encourage others to do so.

Wisconsin And Florida Team

Five folks from Ascension Lutheran in Fond du Lac, WI, were joined by three from St. Paul, Sarasota, FL for a visit spanning 10 days. (May 27 — June 3 for the WI people and May 30 — June 5 for the FL folks)

The Fond du Lac contingent was led by their Pastor, Jeff Blain; the others were Perry Prichard [a repeat] and newcomers Cathy McGowan, Megan McGowan, and Mark Harmsen. The Sarasota three were one family — Soren & Anselm Weber and their mother Joanna.

Much of their time was devoted to putting together enough mini-hygiene kits (toothpaste, toothbrushes and soap) for distribution at VoH and at Marie Major's school. Needless to say, there were smiles all around as the kits were handed out to those eager children. Time was also devoted to a lot of odd jobs around Hope House, with a major effort invested in cleaning the vines off of the barbed wire on top of the wall which encloses Hope House, and reinstalling wire that had come loose.



The team's visit to the Little Children of Jesus was highlighted by Jorel Carte's enthusiastic accordion music and the holding and hugging some of the over 100 children now cared for at this fine facility.

Their visit to the Food for the Poor facility was made unforgettable by the sharing in the noon feeding program (over 3000 families!) and meeting Food for the Poor CEO, Robin Mahfood, who was there with a pilgrimage group.

Another highlight was the Sunday morning worship

experience at VoH. Both Ascension and St. Paul have been long time supporters of the Lazarus Project ministries in Haiti. Members of the team from both churches are confident their visit will serve to strengthen and perpetuate their churches' commitment to serving Haiti's suffering poor.

Stacks of toothpaste are being assembled into mini-hygiene kits, along with toothbrushes and soap.

Pittman Park Methodists +3 Do It Again

Another medical team from Pittman Park United Methodist Church, Statesboro, GA (their 3rd) demonstrated once again how desperately we need the clinic we have on the drawing board for the Village of Hope ministry. The team of 10 was augmented by pre-med student Brett Hoffecker and two people from Holy Spirit Lutheran, Juno Beach, FL: Pastor Frank Wagner and Dr. Chris Ricker, a dentist.

On the scene June 13-20, the team devoted three complete days to work at VoH, but were barely able to meet the mounting medical needs of people in the community. One family traveled four hours by motorcycle to bring their ailing mother to see the doctor. She was so weak they had to carry her in on a blanket — like the man carried by friends on his pallet to see Jesus and beg for healing. As then, after being treated, she walked out on her own!

The massive number of dental needs addressed by Dr. Ricker left no doubt about the importance of that area of medicine in our planned clinic. What a blessing that, even before the clinic is constructed and operational, God's people are committed to making His healing presence known. And not only at VoH, but also at Marie Major's Grace Mission, where the team spent an entire day, reaching out with the compassion of Christ to heal the sick and, figuratively, if not even literally to raise the dead.

Repeat members of the team from Georgia were Donna Bradley, Nancy Waters, Dr. Randy and Sandy Smith, Lin and Lois Roberts, Maria Smith, Eldonna Hilde, and Dr. Rose Cesar, with newcomer Sarah Price, a nursing student. Their visit to Haiti was rounded out by visits to the LCJ, and FFP as well as attendance at VoH's school year closing ceremonies, at which they gave everyone a tube of toothpaste, compliments of Dr. Ricker

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 _____

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Even More Methodists

A small team (4) from Wheatland Salem United Methodist Church, Naperville, IL spent the 4th of July week end (July 2-6) with the Bollingers in Haiti, overlapping three days with the Bollingers' daughter, Angela, who had been there for a week assisting her parents in their day-to-day tasks.

It was Jeff Simpson's 5th visit and Shawn Mazza's 3rd. Their primary purpose was to expose their wives, Debbie and Jessica, to the Haiti experience, and help them understand why their husbands were so excited about the Lazarus Project ministry. Both Debbie and Jessica were already heavily involved on the home front. They played key roles in organizing the container of goods that was sent

by Wheatland Salem earlier this year. After their visit, which included stops at Grace Mission, Little Children of Jesus, and Food for the Poor, there is no doubt they returned home as excited, and as committed, as their husbands.

Only one incident marred an otherwise enjoyable visit. On their way to church at VoH Sunday morning, along the road they saw what they thought at first was just a burning tire, but a closer look revealed the smoldering remains of a human body, the victim of one of Haiti's infamous fiery "necklaces." That, too, will be etched in their memories — a grisly reminder of the day-to-day suffering of Haiti's people.

Prefer An E-mail Newsletter?

We have a growing list of people who would prefer to receive their Lazarus Project newsletter via e-mail — to save us the postage and to conserve paper. Please contact Darrell Pfeffer at d_pfeffer@bellsouth.net if you would like to be added to the e-mail list. [Note the _ mark between d and pfeffer,] Also note, the e-mail copy will be in 8.5x11 format.

He will remove you from the regular mailing list and make sure you are added to the e-mail list. As our mailing list grows and grows, this method of distribution has the potential of saving us many dollars which can then be devoted to direct service to the poor in Haiti.

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 by emailing monicar@foodforthe poor.com -or- calling (954) 427-2222. You will still receive a year-end statement of your contributions for tax purposes.

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

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

Send address changes, additions, or duplications to:

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