

Fall 2004



FUNCTIONAL LITERACY MINISTRY OF HAITI

ESPRI D'ESPERANS

Spirit of Hope

Haiti's Bright Future: A Report from Our Summer Mission Trip

Our missions for the summer of 2004, which may seem daunting for six volunteers in Haiti's current social and political climate, were to host a summer camp for Haitian children and to begin the building process for our FLM medical clinic. The first priority upon arrival in July was to meet with our translators, 8 young volunteers who we paired up with on day one. The concept of a summer camp was foreign to them, but after a few quick explanations, they became excited and began enthusiastically sharing their own ideas. We decided to concentrate the camp's activities on fun religious music and games, arts and crafts, and English and hygiene lessons. We allowed each of the translators to choose their activity of involvement.

On Monday morning, we met a sea of children in front of the school. From preschool to high school, there were 350 in all. Fifty or sixty children had to be assigned to each of the 6 groups, but our rooms seemed far too small. Miraculously, they fit! For three days the children excitedly moved among the groups drawing, learning English, play-

ing games, and filling the air with song. Always attentive and eager, they learned of the creation and saw pictures of wild animals and places they had never dreamed of. The highlight of the experience for them was receiving their own personal hygiene kit on the last day. Day four we spent in a nearby town hosting a one-day camp for another group of fervent youngsters. The entire experience surpassed our expectations, especially because we learned so much from the children.

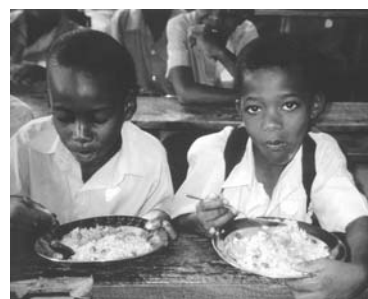
Our last day in Haiti was spent with architects, Enoch and Steve, from the Building Goodness Foundation. They came to Haiti from Charlottesville, VA, to survey our site for the FLM Community Health Center and to meet the semi-skilled Haitian natives who will help them with the construction. Witnessing our planted seeds of hope beginning to blossom was thrilling. Our vision has become reality and slowly a better future is becoming bright. Once again I marvel at God's faithfulness to our 2004 FLM Haitian volunteers.

- Sue Robinson

Progress Report: Canteen

In 2002, during our medical mission trip, we were made aware of the children's need to receive a meal at school. This summer, we saw the program in action, feeding 350 children. In a small cement kitchen, two women cooked rice and beans in huge pots. The children carried their own plate and spoon from home, and when everyone was served, a prayer of thanks was given and they began to eat. When a child finished, if the peer beside them had no utensils, the children shared. It was so gratifying to see them receive a hearty, protein filled meal.

Currently, FLM is able to feed the children three times a week, for only \$800 a



month. We are seeking to raise an additional \$600 a month, which would enable us to feed the children every school day. If you or your church would like to help support this program, a small monthly donation would make a major difference. Please call (412) 784-0342 for more information.

- Nicki Perfetti

From the Editor

Carol A. Williams, Editor

Hello friends of FLM. The weather is getting cooler and the trees of autumn are beautifully arrayed in yellows, oranges, browns and purples: that means a new issue of our FLM newsletter. In this issue, we are happy to report that our summer mission trip was successful.

We are thankful that during the horrific hurricanes of August and September Rev. Pamphile's family and those in the area of the school and clinic were not harmed. However, pray for those who were so terribly affected by the hurricanes, especially the children and the elderly. It was reported by the Latortue government

that there were 1,500 deaths and 200,000 left homeless.

We also welcome Leon and Roz back from their August cruise, "Cruising into History: A Pilgrimage to Haiti". This journey took 500 Haitians, African Americans, and friends of Haiti on a tour to celebrate the independence of Haiti. This year marks two hundred years of Haiti's existence as the first black republic of the world. A great milestone in the history of the world, the Haitian Revolution is significant for extending freedom to all human beings regardless of racial and ethnic background.

Much work has been done on the new medical clinic, but more labor is in store for the coming year: please pray for the progress of the clinic, and do not forget our endeavors to provide a daily meal for the children in the school.

In closing, a few words of encouragement: "So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them" (Gen. 1: 27). There is only one race, and that is the human race. Let us continually help and uplift one another wherever, whenever, and however we can.

Donnie Hanning: My Trip to Haiti

Donald K. Hanning, Jr.

A very awesome man named Renny Domske* came to me one day in church and offered to sponsor my whole trip to Haiti. I was stunned. I decided to go although a lot of people discouraged the idea because of the civil unrest in Haiti. I put the trip in God's hands and had faith that everything would be alright.

While in Haiti I was part of a team that taught Haitian children in a school. I was put in charge of games which was a lot of fun and a challenge. The Haitian children were not used to some of the games and the language barrier was sometimes frustrating. One time my interpreters left me alone with a huge group of kids staring at me. I have had only three years of high school French which helped me very little. It was very uncomfortable. Reflecting on this experience made me real-

* Rev. Dr. Renny Domske is the son of Martha Domske, FLM's Board Secretary since 1983. We love you, Martha!



ize that

nothing I did was correct. The Haitians taught me that a person can learn to cherish the little that is given to them.

We taught for four days and had one day to ourselves. We toured the mountains with the help of Ann, a missionary from Canada. The scen-

ery was beautiful. Driving up the mountains and looking out onto the Islands is breath taking experience. This was an awesome combination of God's craftsmanship.

Doing the work and seeing what the kids learned was fulfilling and leaving Haiti was hard. I fell in love with the friendliness of the people and the wonderfulness of the landscape and decided this is just the beginning. I will go back some day. I thank God for taking me to Haiti and opening a new beautiful world to me. Haiti will stay in my heart.

Donnie is 18 years old. He is an honor society graduate of Chartiers-Houston High School of Houston, Pa. Donnie is currently attending Bethany College in Bethany, West Va., majoring in biology. Some day he would like to be a veterinarian working with small animals or saving endangered species. He attends Cross Roads Presbyterian Church in Washington, Pa. where he serves as an elder.

Homage to a Fallen Servant: David Robinson

-Rev. Leon Pamphile, Ph.D.

I had the privilege of meeting David Robinson and his gracious wife Susan at FLM's fall banquet in 1997. I liked him immediately, but later I came to be even more impressed by his generous heart. With David, our longtime dream of expanding the scope of FLM mission to the medical level found an ardent promoter. He wholeheartedly embraced the vision and very soon sowed the seeds of our Summer Medical Mission that got underway in June 2000.

David's love for God and for people shone through the training of the first team he recruited to serve on that first mission trip. In the course of preparatory meetings held at Crossroads United Presbyterian Church in Washington, PA, David exhibited the leadership of a great organizer. He also became the crusader who wholeheartedly worked to lift high the banner of God's love by treating people in Haiti with utmost respect and dignity.

David asked us to memorize two passages of Scripture before the trip. The first one was Philippians 2:3-4: "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourself. Each of you should look not only to your own interests but to the interests of others." The second passage was I Thessalonians 2:8: "We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us." These two passages have remained the guiding light of our medical mission to this day. David exhibited the mind of Christ as he served those who are less fortunate than us.

A downpour welcomed us at the airport on that first medical mission.



David fitting a Haitian for glasses on FLM's 2003 Medical Mission Trip

It rained cats and dogs the whole time we were there. I watched with apprehension how David climbed the hills to reach the sites of our mobile clinic. It was a vivid illustration of the love of Christ in action.

David soon realized that something more permanent needed to be done to meet the medical needs of the people of Thomassin, Laboue, Boutiliers, Kenscoff and surrounding areas. He conveyed this message to the members of the 2001 team in the following words: "Much more needs to be accomplished so we can reach our goal of a permanent clinic run by Haitians and supported by FLM and a support staff of doctors and nurses from the United States... We will also begin fundraising for the clinic, and hopefully get a storage facility constructed at the Laboule School so that we can begin shipping supplies there. Please be in prayer concerning these things."

David raised the funds that built the storage facility. When he moved to

the Buffalo area, one of his first acts was to bring the plight of Haiti to the attention of the area ministers. Their churches gave the first \$7,200.00 to begin the construction of the cistern for this clinic.

Last January, my friend David was snatched from us by the angel of death. He did not live to see the fulfillment of his dream for better medical care in Haiti. We believe God's word as expressed by John the Revelator: "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. Yes, says the Spirit, they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them" (Revelation 14: 13).

David's untiring labor for the building of a medical clinic in Haiti must be ardently pursued. That is the best way of honoring the memory of a brother who transcended the self for the welfare of others. May the Lord grant peace to his wife Susan and his loving family.

FLM's Mission

Functional Literacy Ministry of Haiti is dedicated to empowering the people of Haiti with the resources and skills necessary for them to live to their highest potential

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From the Director

Rev. Leon Pamphile, Ph.D.

Dear Friends of FLM:

I am truly delighted for the privilege of being in touch with you, and I am excited to inform you of the positive developments with the Functional Literacy Ministry. Your ongoing support of Functional Literacy Ministry continues to make a difference in many lives in Haiti.

At the very beginning of the year, political turmoil once again struck Haiti. President Jean-Bertrand Aristide resigned from office. Though this crisis forced us to cancel our fifth Annual Medical Mission trip, a small group of seven diehard servants did make the journey to hold a

summer camp for more than 500 children. The group also included Enoch Snyder and Steve Davis, two architects from the Goodness Foundation of Charlottesville, VA. They surveyed the property for the construction of the Community Health Center. We met again with them on August 28 to finalize the designs. The first team of volunteers will begin excavation for the clinic this November.

God continues to smile on our endeavor. "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." (Gal.6: 9). May the Lord richly bless you at this time.



**Functional Literacy
Ministry of Haiti**

EDUCATIONAL & MEDICAL MISSIONS

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