

Spring 2005



FUNCTIONAL LITERACY MINISTRY OF HAITI

ESPRI D'ESPERANS

*Spirit of Hope*

## Breaking Ground

### Work Begins on Community Health Center

FLM has exciting news: construction has begun on the House of David community health center! In January, Dr. Leon Pamphile, Rozelle Pamphile, and Russell Bynum of FLM joined Bill Beton of the Building Goodness Foundation to travel to Haiti for the health center groundbreaking in Thomassin.

After a joyous ceremony that included a church service as well as music and the laying of cornerstones at the clinic site, Haitian workers and volunteers from the Building Goodness Foundation began the work that will make the health center a reality. The concrete foundation has been poured, and the additional construction is well under way.

The House of David is a greatly needed resource. Most of the hospitals in Haiti are privately run and serve only the rich. Our clinic will make medical care available to all people, in a place where it's needed most.

Though we are making progress, FLM still has a long way to go before the health center can become a reality. We are working hard and developing partnerships to ensure the best use of our clinic building funds. Looking ahead to the days when the clinic will become operational, we are searching for efficient and affordable ways to provide equipment, staff the clinic, and supply

### About the Building Goodness Foundation

The Building Goodness Foundation, FLM's partner in building the House of David community health center, is a volunteer construction organization that provides shelter for people in the United States as well as in developing countries.

Building Goodness' driving objective is to "improve lives and build community." International projects have taken



*The future site of the House of David community health center.*



*Dr. Leon Pamphile and Bill Beton of the Building Goodness Foundation at the community health center groundbreaking.*

medicines. We thank you for your prayers and support at this joyous and challenging time of growth, and we ask that you continue to help us empower Haitians through your faithfulness to FLM. We need you now more than ever!

*Special thanks to Russell Bynum for photographs and information.*

Building Goodness volunteers to sites in Bolivia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, and Nicaragua.

FLM is grateful for this unique and productive partnership!

You can read more about the Building Goodness Foundation at [www.buildinggoodness.org](http://www.buildinggoodness.org).

## From the Executive Director

Rev. Dr. Leon Pamphile

I count it a great blessing to share with you these brief thoughts for this issue of our newsletter. It is my prayer that the Easter season which reminds us of the glorious resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ has rekindled you with fire and energy for his service.

We are excited about what the Lord has been doing for FLM these days. On March 12, many of you joined us in a special day of prayer for Haiti. We were blessed not only by your prayers but also by the generosity of many who responded by sending a special donation to feed the children at our school.

I am also happy to report that the groundbreaking ceremony for our

Community Health Center took place on January 29. The work has been progressing steadily since January. At this stage, the foundation of the building is complete.

We are presently organizing teams and gathering supplies for our summer mission that will take place June 21-July 2. We hope to offer medical care to the needy and hold a summer camp for over 600 children.

FLM continues to rely on your support for the advancement of our work. In 2 Kings 7, there is a moving story about four lepers who were starving because their city was under siege. By divine intervention, the foreign army fled and left behind their materials and food. When the lepers

ventured out and found the food, they immediately thought of others: "Then they said to each other, 'We're not doing right. This is a day of good news and we are keeping to ourselves. If we wait until daylight, punishment will overtake us. Let's go at once and report this to the royal palace.'" (2 Kings 7: 9) Like these lepers, let us remember others when in days of good news. We can become channels of blessings by sharing our various resources with others who are less fortunate. May the Lord show you the way to make life better for others.

In Christian love,

Leon Pamphile, Ph.D.  
Executive Director, FLM

## Ongoing Support Crucial to FLM's Ministry

Carol Williams, Editor

As I sit here on a spring day with the snow outside my window, I am patiently awaiting spring's warmer weather. Here at the Functional Literacy Ministry of Haiti, we are also patiently but excitedly waiting and praying for the new construction of the House of David health clinic located in Thomassin. Since the groundbreaking and dedication ceremony in January, the foundation has been poured, and more work lies ahead.

The work of the clinic, now and in the future, has many challenges: FLM must pay for staffing, supplies and furniture, and medicines. These are critical, *ongoing* needs. To meet these ongoing needs, FLM desper-

ately needs your ongoing support. If you are new to FLM, please consider becoming a monthly donor. If you are already a supporter of FLM, please consider becoming a monthly partner or increasing your giving. Simply fill out the pledge slip on page 3, and send your donation by mail (checks, money orders and credit cards are accepted).

As a citizen of the most powerful nation in the world today, I count it a blessing and a privilege to reach out to another part of humankind with love and favor. Yes, we have our personal financial struggles (fixed incomes, unemployment, bills, healthcare costs, etc.), but even the poorest of us here in America can

find a way to give of our resources to our brothers and sisters in Haiti who face hunger, a lack of education and healthcare, diseases, poor water and sewage systems and in some situations very little hope.

Luke 6:38 reminds us, "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again." Notice, the first exhortation is to *give*; for whatever you give out will come back to you in good measure, pressed down, and shaken together and running over. Remember, love never fails!

## We Remember...

**Mrs. Devese Pamphile**, mother of FLM Director Rev. Dr. Leon Pamphile, passed away in November 2004.

**McIver Jackson**, husband of FLM Board Chairperson Emeritus Dr. Beryl Jackson, passed away in March 2005.

# Profile of a Faithful Servant: Martha Domske

Rev. Leon Pamphile, Ph.D.

The ministry of angels is an exciting feature in the Bible. An angel guided Abraham's servants in the process of finding a wife for Isaac, and an angel delivered Daniel from the lions' den. Angels also come to us in human form. Two decades ago, I was privileged to encounter one of these angels: her name was Martha Domske.

During the seventies, Martha and I worked at South High School in Pittsburgh. Our love for Christ brought us together, and we began a friendship. When I completed my graduate studies at the University of Pittsburgh in the early eighties, I turned my attention to helping people in my homeland acquire literacy skills necessary to increase their participation in church activities and to improve their overall socioeconomic conditions. Martha was the first person outside my immediate family whom I approached with such a vision. She gave me the encouraging nod that I needed and emboldened me to share my dreams with others.

Since that encounter, Martha's faith in this ministry to make life better for others in Haiti has never wavered. In 1983, she became one of the founding members of the Functional Literacy Ministry of Haiti (FLM.) and has been serving as a board member and our secretary ever since. I have come to respect and admire Martha as a person who is highly committed, faithful, and giving.



From the beginning, Martha has been dedicated to the spirit and philosophy of FLM. We are a ministry built on faith in God to provide resources to the needy in Haiti and to connect with those who can help us carry out that ministry. Martha has shared these goals with her family, friends, and especially her church—the Chartiers Cross Roads Presbyterian Church in Washington, PA, which has become a pillar in the growth of FLM. She introduced FLM's ministry to the late Reverend David Robinson, who launched and built the medical dimension of our work. Just last month, Bill Beton from Cross Roads Church was part of the team that started the construction on the House of David community health center for the Haitian people. Bill went in response to Martha's influence.

Over these past two decades, Martha's faithfulness has been impressive. Though she lives in Washing-

ton, she rarely misses an FLM board meeting. As secretary, she is our living archives, recording FLM's decisions and activities. All the while, Martha has also been faithfully serving her church as treasurer.

Martha is also a giver. She is one of the reasons we have been able to keep FLM on solid ground; she has wholeheartedly given herself to the cause. It was a great blessing to have witnessed her trip to Haiti five years ago. It rained cats and dogs in Haiti in the summer of 2000. Armed with a stick, Martha braved the elements to climb the hills that led to the site where we attended to the medical needs of the hundreds who could not afford a doctor's visit.

Martha has also been a faithful contributor to FLM. For the last twenty-two years, Martha has consistently mailed all correspondence to our board and advisory board members at her own expense. Beyond her monthly contributions, she is always willing to go the extra mile to ensure that we meet our obligation toward the needy in Haiti.

Martha is a great role model in the Lord's vineyard. She is the epitome of the faithful and unselfish servant. Her contribution to FLM is a living testimony to her faith and her dedication to God and the welfare of others. In the end, this is what really matters in life.

**Functional Literacy Ministry of Haiti**

**1064 Premier St., Pittsburgh, PA 15201**

**412-784-0342**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount of gift: \_\_\_\_\_ [ ] check [ ] MasterCard [ ] Visa [ ] Discover  
Credit Card number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Billing address (if different from above) \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*The official registration and financial information of Functional Literacy Ministry may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.*

## FLM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## FLM Seeks Nurses for Summer Medical Mission

Are you a nurse who is interested in joining FLM on our summer medical mission to Haiti? The dates of the trip are June 21-July 2. If you can help, please contact FLM at 412-784-0342.

## Mark Your Calendar: Fall Banquet Set for October

FLM's annual fall banquet will be held on October 21, 2005 at 6 p.m. Join us for dinner, a prominent speaker, and a silent auction at Pittsburgh's Oakland-area Holiday Inn. Tickets are \$50, with half of all proceeds going directly to FLM. Watch your mailbox for more details!

## Supplies for FLM Schools and Medical Mission

Are you able to donate school supplies, over-the-counter medicines, personal hygiene items, or general supplies such as plastic bags and scissors? If so, please contact FLM by phone at 412-784-0342 or email [info@flmhaiti.org](mailto:info@flmhaiti.org) to let us know what you can provide. We are looking for large amounts of these items to take to Haiti with our summer medical mission volunteers. A list of our needed items is available on our Web site: [www.flmhaiti.org](http://www.flmhaiti.org).



**Functional Literacy  
Ministry of Haiti**

EDUCATIONAL & MEDICAL MISSIONS

Functional Literacy Ministry of Haiti  
1064 Premier Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15201

### 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.

### Contact Us

Phone: (412) 784-0342

Email: [info@flmhaiti.org](mailto:info@flmhaiti.org)

Web: [www.flmhaiti.org](http://www.flmhaiti.org)

*Functional Literacy Ministry of Haiti is a charitable organization under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the PA Dept. of State by calling toll free within Pennsylvania 1-800-732-0900.*