

Fall/Winter 2005



FUNCTIONAL LITERACY MINISTRY OF HAITI

ESPRI D'ESPERANS

Spirit of Hope

Journey to Hope: A Report on the Summer Trip

Children have always been a vital part of Functional Literacy Ministry, and this summer's trip to Haiti provided an unprecedented opportunity to reach out to over five hundred children, from pre-school through grade eight. In preparation, many churches donated school and hygiene supplies which were packed and taken to Haiti for the children.

Our first morning in Haiti found four of us bouncing along in the back of a small pickup truck, holding on for dear life and praying that we and our supplies would not fall out of the back of the truck as it climbed the mountain to the school. We were the educational team and our mission was to run three summer camps for the children with about 175 children attending each two-day camp. Teachers from the school and translators enthusiastically joined us.

As we began each camp the children were shy and reserved but it didn't take long for their smiles to break forth. The joy of the whole program was to hear the children laugh and sing and watch them having a good time. With rapt attention they listened to Bible stories and health classes, and they delighted in the experience of making craft projects. From one class room you could hear the children learning to sing "Our God Is an Awesome God" in English, and in the courtyard you could hear their shouts and cheers during their favorite game, dodge ball. The canteen was in operation, and each day the children received a hearty meal of rice and vegetable sauce.



FLM students enjoying their new hats.



Sue Robinson and translator Wadson Desir.

On the last day, all of the children gathered at the school. It was here that we handed out hygiene kits, baseball hats, and hair ribbons. We helped put the hair ribbons in the girls' hair and showed the boys how American kids sometimes wear their hats backwards. They laughed and showed us their own ideas. Several children shyly held our hands. We tried out a few Creole words and they tried to figure out what we were saying. Grateful smiles and laughter crossed the language barrier.

Working hand in hand with the Haitian teachers and translators, our goal was to build relationships and offer hope to the Haitian children. We were blessed by the experience.

—Sue Robinson

From the Executive Director

Rev. Dr. Leon Pamphile

Dear Friends of Haiti:

I am delighted to stay connected with you at the end of 2005. It has been such an eventful year. It is unbelievable to witness the effects of the many natural disasters that have struck countless lives in our own country and around the world. How heart wrenching it was to watch the horrible impact of Katrina through death, displacement of people, and suffering. In spite of these hardships, we must retain the faith and courage to fight on.

I feel so blessed to be able to continue leading FLM Haiti as we enter our twenty-third year of working to make life better for those in Haiti. We say like David: "Not to us, O Lord, not us, but to your name be the glory because of your love and faithfulness." (Psalm 115: 1). Throughout life's twists and turns, God's love and faithfulness has kept this ministry alive.

I am so grateful for your invaluable support over these years. Thanks to your faithfulness and care, I am glad to report that FLM Haiti is steadily

growing. We now have 32 literacy centers with a current enrollment of 500 young people and adults. Our school also has an enrollment of 500 students. We now provide a hot lunch and a vitamin to these students five days a week—your dedication helped us increase the frequency of these meals from three days to five. We have thus far issued literacy certificates to some 3,000 people. FLM Haiti also supports the local economy by providing full- or part-time employment for 73 people. Right now we are touching the lives of over 1,100 people. To God be the glory!

Last January, we began the construction of the House of David Community Health Center, named in honor of the memory of the late Rev. David Robinson. The basement and part of the first floor are now complete. Our effort has been greatly hampered by the violent political climate in Haiti. The Building Goodness Foundation, the Virginia-based organization helping us with the construction, stopped sending workers to Haiti in April because of the violence. We learned through their lat-

est newsletter that they plan to resume the work next spring. We pray that the election in January will bring a good measure of stability to help Haiti's development.

Meanwhile, we must keep persevering, for people are suffering and desperately crying for help. We are greatly encouraged in our determination by the words of Dr. Victor Frankl, a victim of Hitler's horrors. From the depths of a concentration camp, his writing reminds us that we have the capacity to turn hopeless conditions into positive change. As he puts it, "Man is capable of changing the world for the better if possible, and of changing himself for the better if necessary."

Continue to help us in our endeavor to make positive change for our brothers and sisters in Haiti. Be assured that your effort will not be in vain. For Jesus teaches us that if we give a cup of cold water to one of these, his disciples, we certainly will not lose our reward.

May the Lord continue to bless and richly prosper you in the New Year.

"Getting on the Ball" for Haiti

Carol Williams, Editor

I would like to take this time to commend all of our supporters for continuing your faithful giving during troubling times in our own country: the devastating hurricanes, hiked gas prices, and our daily struggles with our own lives. The October banquet was successful—more than 150 people enjoyed this wonderful evening of fellowship and learning about Haiti. We were inspired by Rev. William Glaze, who encouraged us to value our time and "get on the ball."

Join us in intercessory prayer for the January national elections in Haiti. We are declaring a prayer and fasting day for this specific purpose on Thursday, December 15, 2005. Pray that God would raise up Godly leaders in a country that desperately needs them.

Jesus commissioned us as Christians to go into all the world and preach His gospel. We can be His hands by helping others who do not have the abundant lives that we enjoy. You

can help through prayer but also in some very practical ways: by collecting eye glasses, multivitamins for children and adults, crayons, pencils, pens, tablets, art paper, rulers, and markers.

Better yet, would you consider going to Haiti for FLM's summer medical mission in 2006? All types of people from every walk of life are needed. If you are interested, call Rev. Leon Pamphile at 412-784-0342. Keep smiling and remember, Jesus loves you.

Humbling Work: Perspectives on the Summer Medical Mission

Rev. Barry Sweet: A New Piece of the Puzzle



Rev. Barry Sweet

I am so thankful that God called me to go on the Haiti mission trip this past summer. All my previous mission trip experience has been in Peru

working on or near the Amazon River in the jungle. I was looking forward to a new experience! As a pastor, God has called me to share the Gospel wherever I am, at home or abroad, so my main focus has always been to lead the prayer and evangelism part of the ministry.

This is what I brought to the Haiti mission trip this year. Adding in

evangelism and international prayer was a new part of the trip for you—and I believe God put this “new piece of the puzzle” into place. I had the honor, privilege and joy to be allowed to pray with each person who came to our medical mission and to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with them. I prayed for healing from disease, for food and water, for jobs, for freedom from persecution, and for freedom from the escalating violence and terrorism that has gripped Haiti in recent months. I laid hands on their heads as I prayed for each one and dedicated them to the Lord. When appropriate, I also shared the story of God who loves them and died for them and wants to forgive them and help improve their daily existence. We had 37 people give their hearts and lives to Jesus Christ as Savior, Lord, and Life-Leader. There was a celebration in Heaven for each one! This is a hum-

bling work, and I am always amazed at how God works.

It was a privilege to work with 18 others in both the medical and educational teams on this trip. What talented, gifted people! Together, we made a difference medically, educationally, and spiritually. Isn't this what it's all about?

Thanks to all who donated funds, who counted pills and helped pack bags, who prayed for us, and who donated items to be given to the children and adults of Haiti. You helped make this life-changing trip to Haiti possible. We couldn't do what we do without you! Good work is being done by FLM. I pray that God will continue to bless the efforts to help the people of Haiti help themselves.

An Interview with Monica Williams from the 2005 Medical Mission's Education Team

Why did you go to Haiti this year?

I felt a call from God and felt it was something I should do.

What was your role on the team?

I conducted music for the children at the school and church for two weeks.

How did you overcome the language barrier?

We had Haitian interpreters, so that made communicating easier. I also smiled a lot—the universal language.

How did the people react to you?

I found the people very friendly. They especially welcomed our help.

What did you find striking about Haiti?

I saw an interesting sight: on a country



Monica Williams (center) leads FLM school children in a song

road a large billboard advertised expensive European furniture in this very poor country. I also remember seeing a strong tree standing alone that seemed to show the spirit of Haiti—strong and independent.

Among the many people you encountered, did anyone stand out?

A little girl at the first school ran and

greeted each of us from the team with a kiss. That was such a blessing.

What advice do you have for others who want to go to Haiti?

Just go! This was a great experience, and I urge anyone who is interested to do whatever is necessary to go.

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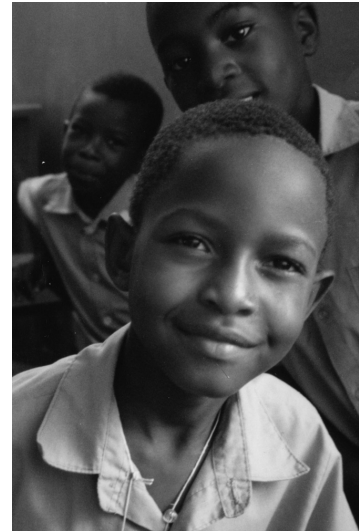
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Supplies for FLM Schools

As FLM's schools grow, we need more supplies for our students. Are you able to donate school supplies such as pens and pencils, or general supplies such as plastic baggies and scissors? If so, please contact FLM by phone at 412-784-0342 or email info@flmhaiti.org to let us know what you can provide. We are looking for large amounts of these items to send to our schools in Haiti. A list of our needed items is available on our Web site: www.flmhaiti.org.



**Functional Literacy
Ministry of Haiti**

EDUCATIONAL & MEDICAL MISSIONS

Functional Literacy Ministry of Haiti
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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
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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.

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