

Summer 2009



FUNCTIONAL LITERACY MINISTRY OF HAITI

Esprit D'Espérans

Spirit of Hope

Serving by Grace

Clinic and Mission News

By Dr. Leon Pamphile

Executive Director of Functional Literacy Ministry of Haiti

What a privilege to reach you at this time! Isn't it a joy to be in the land of the living? It is my fervent prayer that you are enjoying the Lord's choicest blessings!

I am excited to share the good news of an excellent summer medical and educational mission. Twenty-six people from five different states made the journey.

We attended graduation ceremonies for our 53 literacy centers, during which 1,127 young people and adults received literacy certificates. We encouraged them to maintain their new skills and to nurture their hope by giving them a Bible or a hymnal. Members of our educational team also offered training for teachers to help them bring new life to their classrooms and to promote much-needed health concepts.

Our medical team provided care for some 700 people. We also encountered some severe medical cases. There was a 12-year-old girl who had lost her hearing after contracting meningitis when she was 3 years old. We sent her for evaluation for a hearing aid. There was a young mother with a large abdominal wall tumor, and we covered the cost for her surgery.

The highlight of our mission this time was the dedication of the House of David Community Health Center.



Team member Anna Porter holds a young patient

Named to honor the memory of the late David Robinson, who initiated our medical mission program in 2000, this clinic serves thousands of people in communities including Thomassin, Pyron, Boutilier, and Fessard. We are thankful to the Building Goodness Foundation for sending teams of workers over the past 4 years and providing us with financial resources. We are grateful to all the donors who made this project a reality through their generosity.

To God be the glory! We continue to count on your support as we do our utmost to serve God and those who depend so much on our help. In the end, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 19:35).

Excelsior,

Great Blessings, Great Needs

With the opening of the Community Health Center we have added \$2,000 to FLM's monthly expenses. This amount is needed to pay for staffing the clinic, medications and general running expenses. If you are not presently a monthly contributor, would you consider becoming a monthly partner with FLM at this time? If you are a monthly contributor a small increase in your monthly donation would be most helpful. See page 4 for a donation form.

Fearfully and Wonderfully Made

A Review of the Summer Education Program

Pastor Molly Golando, *Education Team Leader*
Sheridan United Methodist Church, Sheridan, NY

The moment I stepped off the plane in Haiti, the sights and smells now familiar on my third trip to this mountainous country struck my senses. It was good to be back. I was looking forward to the program that was planned for the two schools we would be visiting.

Early in the morning we headed up the mountain to have a teacher enrichment day. As I entered the school I noticed something decidedly different. There were no students shyly peering through the door as we approached, because it was a teachers-only day. But there was something more: The smell of human waste that had so pungently greeted me in January was gone. I was anxious to see the new bathrooms that had been installed. They were beautiful! Five new toilets each in its own private room, three urinals, and a large sink with three spigots!

This day was to be the start of an incredible two weeks. The teacher training day proved to be invaluable. The team gained much insight into the needs of the teachers through a time of small-group dialogue. The teachers' biggest concern was the need for classroom management techniques. During the day the teachers played group-building games and participated in seminars on healthy bodies, minds and souls, music with motions, and a discussion of the needed classroom skills.

The rest of the two weeks was focused primarily on the students. In the morning there was a lab school for the preschool teachers and students while the other primary students attended a Vacation Bible School format with the theme of "Healthy Bodies, Minds and Souls." The theme verse of the week was Psalm 139:14: "I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well." All of the children learned the song "I'm In Right, Out Right, Upright, Downright Happy All the Time." They learned skills for journaling, played games, did coloring pages, listened to stories of their heritage of the proud people of Africa, and heard the story of the paralytic from Mark 2.

After lunch, the secondary students arrived for a program similar to the morning. The students were divided into gender and age groups, which allowed for discussions on sexuality. The students were open and honest with many questions. At the end of each week the students were commissioned to be ambassadors to share the knowledge they had been given. The older students were all given drawstring backpacks, sandals and other items. It was an outstanding week!



Teachers participate in a team-building exercise

We look forward to continuing the work next summer. We will be recruiting specialized teachers in the area of teacher training, particularly in classroom management and creative skills.

Now that the bathrooms have been completed, the next urgent need for the school is more classroom space. Three to four more classrooms, at a cost of roughly \$4,000, are needed for this terribly overcrowded school.

The members of this exceptional education team were Bob Beach (physical education), Edward Davis (music and heritage), Paul Hicks (journaling and self-esteem), Rozelle Pamphile (Bible and Haitian pride), Maggie Hill (preschool), Debbie Holser (sexuality and grief counseling), L'Tanya Jacobs (sexuality and health), Brady Bender (all areas).

Some Thoughts from One Education Team Member

Bob Beach (Hamburg, NY)

"God is good." That is what a young Honduran girl told me as she sat by me on my flight home from Haiti. Celia and I prayed together, read the 23rd Psalm, and discussed how wonderful it is that we have trials in our life. This from a girl who has had a disability since birth and has been teased by her peers most of her life. Yes, trials are wonderful because they help us grow.

This summer I saw plenty of trials for the people of Haiti, but I also saw hope and progress. As a physical educator, I taught about fitness, nutrition, and pre-

vention of heat illness, as well as avoidance of destructive behaviors like smoking and drinking alcohol. However, our work went much deeper, especially for the older students; we really wanted to bring a sense of hope to them in a country where things often seem so hopeless.

Celia told me that God has a special plan for each of us. That was also our message to the children of Thomassin, Haiti. The Holy Spirit led us and guided us throughout this process. Every time that we identified a need that we should address, one of us was an expert in that

area. I am convinced that God put this team together and guided us every step of the way. The children learned far more than how to prevent HIV and stay healthy.

Our Bible story was the story of the paralytic whose friends lowered him by ropes through a roof so that Jesus could heal him. Our team feels so honored to have "held the ropes" for our Haitian friends these weeks. As we looked through that opening, we so clearly saw Jesus. Merci (thank you) Jesus, and thank you to all who support FLM.

A Dream Come True for Haitian Communities

A Message from the House of David Clinic Manager

Esdrac Germaine, manager of the House of David Clinic, writes:

At top of the mountain, in the village named Thomassin not so far from the city of Petion-Ville, the Organization "Alliance Action Chretienne,"* whose fields of work are Education, Literacy and Health, has built a new building to help the community for medical care.

The economic situation of the country where most of the people do not work so they don't have possibility to provide medical care when they are ill. They live far from the hospitals; that's the reason why most of the time, children or old people die after walking a long way before getting care. Fortunately, on July 4, at 10:00 AM, in the presence of a large crowd of people, leaders, pastors, and missionaries of the United States, has begun the ceremony for the opening of the Clinic (House of David). The executive manager, Dr. Leon D. Pamphile, who has

fought to realize this project, in his speech thanked God first and the American supporters (friends), especially Mrs. Susan, the spouse of David, who helped to make the dream come true. Now the community (about 20,000 people) who benefits from the Clinic will have three advantages.

- They do not have to go far for medical care
- They do not have to pay for medicines
- They do not have to wait six months for the next mission trip to see a doctor.

Now, young professionals in the community work as doctor, dentist, nurse, manager....



Services previously provided only through periodic mission trips are now available daily at the clinic.

This project is a great benefit for the community. Thank you to everybody who helped realize this project.

Esdrac GERMAIN, Manager of the Clinic

** FLM does its work in Haiti through Alliance Action Chretienne, a nongovernmental organization (NGO) recognized by the Haitian government.*

Sharing Our Blessings with Haiti

Andy McCauley, Morgantown, WV

As I write this article, I have just returned from Haiti, and I am surrounded by the comforts of home. Clean, disease-free water. Abundant, nutritious food. Great health care minutes away. A functioning government that provides one of the best education systems in the world. Those of us who have been to Haiti do not take these basic items for granted. Most Haitians do not have access to the "comforts" we as Americans feel entitled to.

Lack of clean water and food leads to malnutrition and chronic health problems that are magnified by the absence of basic health care. The lack of education makes it especially difficult to solve these problems and can create a sense of hopelessness in the people.

I have traveled to several areas of Haiti over the past 15 years with various

organizations, working on health care and nutrition. FLM has the right approach with its two-pronged efforts of medical and educational missions.

I have participated in three of FLM's mission trips. In the course of two weeks, we provide health care to 700 patients. Beyond health care, we provide a sense of hope and optimism to the Haitian people. They understand how much time and effort goes into our mission work. Our optimism and good will empower them to improve their living conditions and level of education.

This was evident with the dedication of the House of David Health Clinic during this summer's trip. It was not FLM that built the clinic. It was the empowered community of Thomassin that built the clinic with assistance and

guidance from FLM. The community saw what impact a two-week medical mission can make in their daily lives and made the building of a permanent clinic happen. They now have one of the basic "comforts" in their community.

God has richly blessed us in more ways than we realize. Want to share your blessings with others? Take a chance and leave your comfort zone. Join us on a mission trip to Haiti. You can share your blessings with those in need. I promise you that if you participate in one of our trips, you will gain a new appreciation for your current life. Through the grace and gratitude of the Haitian people, you will receive many more blessings than you could ever imagine. If you can't join us, please donate to FLM. Your contribution will make a lasting difference in the lives of the Haitian people through health care, literacy, and most of all hope.

The Honor Roll

The following gifts have been received since publication of the last newsletter. We apologize for any oversights. We regret that this list omits the scores of people who have given generously over the past several years to improve the school and to contribute to the clinic's construction.

In memory of David Robinson

Polly Giordano
John Howard Jr.
Charlotte E. Minich
Amos Minkel
Dana Murphy
Richard and Laura Reynolds
Jennifer Wolford
Marjorie and Richard Wood

In memory of Dr. Amril

Crichlow
Thelma B. Albert
John Boccella
CRK Associates
Hugo Cerri
Edmund Effort DDS
Colette Henderson
Geraldine Marzaloes
Pittsburgh Bone & Joint Surgeons
Marlene Raszewski
Sherry Scalise
Doris Smith
Athea Thomas

In memory of Davidson Paul

Dunkirk Conference Center
(Family Camp)

In honor of Martha Domske

Marjorie and Richard Wood

In honor of Susan Robinson

John Howard Jr.

In honor of Dr. Sam Roberts' 60th birthday

Kate Roberts White

Major Gifts

Bibles

Churches in Action
Buffalo, NY
Cranberry (PA) Community
United Presbyterian Church
First Presbyterian Church
(Bryan OH)
St. Alban's (NY) Presbyterian
Church
Wyalusing (PA) Presbyterian
Church

Summer Mission Trip

Hamburg Presbyterian Church
Dick Robinson
Beverly Suhr
Wyalusing Presbyterian Church

School Bathrooms

Sheridan United Methodist
Church (Men's Club
and UMW)

Clinic Construction

Asthma and Allergy Center
(Charleston WV)
Hamburg Presbyterian Church
Key Club, Clarksburg WV
Norman Robinson

Summer Mission 2009 Participants

Robert J. Beach (Hamburg, NY), Brady Bender (Hamburg, NY), Sheree Bowley RN (Elkins, WV), Russell Bynum (Pittsburgh, PA), Rev. Dr. Edward Davis (St. Albans, NY), Pastor Molly Golando (Sheridan, NY), Rev. Paul Hicks (Rosedale, NY), Maggie Hill (Mattapan, MA), Farrah Holmes (Pittsburgh, PA), Deborah Holser (Dunkirk, NY), L'Tanya Jacobs (Pittsburgh, PA), Joby Joseph MD (Hurricane, WV), Melody Loudin (Elkins, WV), Andrew McCauley (Morgantown, WV), Lorin Metzner RN (Elkins, WV), Rev. James Moran (Cranberry, PA), Lynn Moran, RPh (Cranberry, PA), Leon and Rozelle Pamphile (Pittsburgh, PA), Anna Porter (Pittsburgh, PA), Sam Roberts MD (Elkins, WV), Anna Robinson (Eden, NY), Donald W. Robinson MD (Eden, NY), Susan Robinson (Hamburg, NY), Rev. Barry Sweet (Bryan, OH), Mildred Taylor (Boston, MA)

Yes, I would like to help the people of Haiti!

Please send your donation to
Functional Literacy Ministry of Haiti
1064 Premier St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15201

Name _____

Amount of gift: _____

Phone _____

Address _____

City _____

Zip code _____

- I would like to be a child sponsor (pledge of \$20 per month). My first payment is enclosed.
- I would like my donation to be marked for the House of David Community Health Center.
- Please use my donation wherever it's needed.
- Please call me about sponsoring a clinic staff member or teacher.
- Let my canceled check be my receipt.



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.

How Do You Build a Clinic in Haiti?

Susan Robinson

The House of David Community Health Center dedication was one of the most memorable events of my life. As I sat in the ceremony at the clinic on July 4, I was reminded of the vision the first volunteer team had in the summer of 2000.

Overwhelmed by the lack of medical care in the villages, they returned saying, "The people are desperate for a community clinic." With a twinge of sarcasm and a great deal of perplexity, I replied, "How on earth do you build a medical clinic in Haiti?!"

For me, the thought was incomprehensible. Now, as I reminisce about the last nine years, I recall the beautiful symphony of the faces of all the people who gave so much of their time and effort to make this dream a reality.

People started to pray, and God began to draw us together. Through the special talents and abilities of so many, he transformed a simple cornfield into the vision they all believed in. He used people in the local Haitian community,

and people from all across the United States. He used two American architects, a Haitian engineer, and strong men from both countries to dig dirt, bend rebar, and pour cement. He placed the vision in the hearts of people to give money and donate supplies. It is an awesome thing to see what God has done. He has drawn our hearts and hands together across the miles to build the House of David.

In essence we have become neighbors. We held each other up when we were disheartened, we prayed for each other. We encouraged each other, we wiped each other's tears. And now, we rejoice together. God created the symphony of people to bring our vision to pass.

On July 13, 2009 the clinic opened for the people of Thomassin and the surrounding villages. They can receive medical and dental care on a year-round basis. The clinic is staffed by Haitians: a clinic administrator,



Susan Robinson with a portrait of her husband David, for whom the clinic is named

doctor, dentist, nurse, pharmacist, and support staff. During the first three weeks, they saw 341 patients.

And so...to answer the question: "How do you build a medical clinic in Haiti?" It begins with a vision that God places in people's hearts. He picked up his conductor's wand and the symphony began.

Former FLM Student Becomes a Teacher



FLM-Haiti's mission is to empower Haitians with education, health care and hope in order that they may be able to help themselves. We are blessed to witness the success of many young people we sponsored who are now professionals.

Shiller Philogene attended our elementary school, and he has returned to teach. Shiller is also continuing his studies in management at a local university.

Pictured: Shiller Philogene with FLM Director Leon Pamphile

The Gift of Sponsorship

Child sponsors help children in Haiti thrive. Your regular gifts can provide much-needed medicines, school supplies, and support.

Clinic sponsors provide funding stability as the clinic gets settled. Your donation could pay the salary for one of the staffers, or ensure that the clinic has the drugs or supplies for treating patients.

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact Leon Pamphile at 412-784-0342 or leondpamphile@yahoo.com

FLM Thanks Child Sponsors

Crystal Bynum
Kathleen Cook
Lisa Kay Davis
Celeste Deitzler
Tarah Eldridge
Edmund Fleming
Susan Nernberg
Paul and Peggy Outon

Elaine and Jack Phillips
Barbara W. Rogers
Guy Rouzeau
William A. Savage
Kate Roberts White
Dr. John Young
Wendy Zimmerman (2)

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Mark Your Calendar: Fall Banquet November 7

This year's fall banquet promises to be better than ever! We will gather on Saturday, November 7, at 6:00 p.m. at Churchill Country Club. Esther Bush, president and CEO of the Urban League of Pittsburgh will be our keynote speaker.

More about our keynote speaker

Esther L. Bush is President and CEO of the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh with a \$6.5 million budget. The League's 67-member staff implements more than 29 programs serving 36,000 people. Since moving back to her hometown in 1994, Ms. Bush's leadership and drive have been responsible for bringing the affiliate into the black. Ms. Bush is the first woman to have held directorships in the Staten Island and Manhattan branches of the New York Urban League. She was the first woman to hold the presidency of the Greater Hartford and Pittsburgh affiliates.

You're Invited!

FLM Fall Banquet

Saturday, November 7, 2009

6 p.m.

Churchill Country Club

Tickets: \$50

(includes dinner and donation to FLM)

For more information or to RSVP:

412-784-0342



EDUCATIONAL & MEDICAL MISSIONS

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

FLM's Mission

Functional Literacy Ministry of Haiti empowers Haitians through Christ with education, health care, and hope.

Contact Us

Phone: (412) 784-0342

Email: info@flmhaiti.org

Web: 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. Registration does not imply endorsement.

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