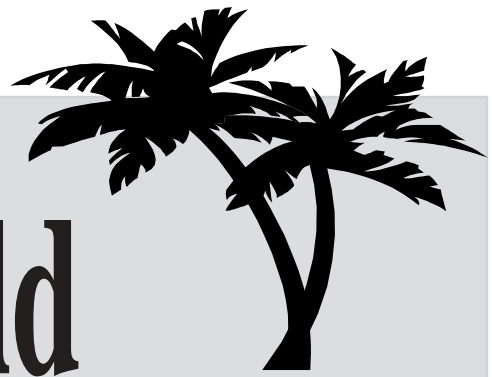


A Haiti Herald



November 2004

The Newsletter of The Haiti Corner, a program of Building Together Ministries

What Faith Means

In September, Hurricane Jeanne blew with her devastating force and torrential rain into the coastal city of Gonaives, Haiti and the surrounding region where our friends and areas of ministry are located. Approximately 3,000 people lost their lives. Many lost the little they had.

In Sous Raille, (a rural area just outside of Gonaives), Building Together Ministries helps support a small church. Twelve people of the rural congregation lost their lives. Over 100 homes were swept away by the torrential rain causing flooding of three tributaries flowing from surrounding bare mountains. In Au Poteaux, another rural community, a small business loan



Hanging on to the rafters meant survival.

enterprise that we operate had 30 families lose their homes and 17 people lost their lives. Lost lives, lost homes, lost livestock, lost gardens, lost businesses - all lost and gone!

One month after the flood, I traveled to this area with Harry

Lyness from Indiana. We were met with amazing stories. One lady showed us the remains of a mud hut where 20 people had perched on the thin rafters in the small space praying the wood would hold them all - out of harms way. Another Haitian pointed to the tree where he

(Continued on back)

On the Road to Recovery

During my trip to Haiti in October, I witnessed recovery from the flood in process. The UN was busy distributing food. Businesses and schools were open once again. People were selling on the streets, between mounds of mud and debris.

It will take a lot of work and help for gardens to be planted as the ground is covered in rocks. Irrigation canals are ruined. Livestock will need to be replaced.

(For many of the rural people, their livestock is their savings account and their way of meeting a financial need is by selling an animal.)

Many of you responded to the great needs of this poor country. We are so grateful. So far, we have distributed and/or allocated funds as listed below. We plan to rebuild some churches and additional houses as funds are available.

Soon after I returned from Haiti, a call came in from a small Haitian-American medical team from Florida with an offer to help. They have returned and reported ministering to over 300 patients in two days and also distributed many helpful goods. What an immense blessing!

Stan Wiebe, BTM's Haiti Outreach Coordinator

Fund Distribution for Hurricane Relief

- \$ 5,100.00 Cash given to over 110 families immediately following the crisis for emergency needs.
- \$ 5,000.00 Designated funds given specifically for certain individuals & programs.
- \$ 3,000.00 A new well has been drilled and pump installed at Sous Raille where the community now has access to fresh, clean water.
- \$37,500.00 Construction materials for houses and latrines at Sous Raille. We will build 30 concrete block homes (10x20 ft) - built in such a way that they can add on in the future. We are purchasing the block, cement, iron, wood and tin. The owners will supply the land, sand, rock and labor. As I write this letter, 12 houses are ready for the roof and additional houses are beginning construction.
- \$ 2,000.00 Funds to cover the loans lost to flood victims from the Credit Union members.
- \$52,600.00 Total funds distributed to date

Wanting A Unique Christmas Gift?
Consider Sponsorship!

What Faith Means (Continued from front) A Haiti Herald, November 2004

and his wife and three children had climbed as they watched the swift waters below. As I saw with my own eyes and heard with my own ears their great loss,



Tree that "saved" family of five.

I was deeply moved and awed! Through all the recounts, not a word

of complaint.

*"My shepherd is the king of Love;
His loving kindness is everlasting.
If He is my Savior,
I shall never be in need of anything."*

Sunday morning in worship in the midst of great sorrow and tragedy, my Haitian brothers and sisters sang. They continued:

*"Even facing death,
I will not fear.
His rod will protect me.
His cross is before me to guide me."*

From Psalm 46 they read:
"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea."

Wow! This is what *faith* means. This is trust. This is loving God and our Savior. This is true praise and real worship.

Yes, these gentle, resource poor neighbors of Haiti are what the Bible refers to in Isaiah 61: 1-3 as trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He might be glorified.

God is glorified in these.

Stan Wiebe, BTM's Haiti Outreach Coordinator

Giving Thanks!

- Fund have been received to build a church at Tarasse and Pacot and to complete the computer lab in Au Poteaux!
- We currently have 560 students attending the 3 schools we assist.
- At Pacot, our Grade 6 students had 100% passing rate in the government exams.
- At the children's home, we have 20 youngsters who head into town every day to attend secondary school and three young men are attending trade school full-time.
- A number of our children at the home took the Grade 6 government exam after only completing Grade 5 and passed, enabling them to skip a grade and start secondary school.

Please Pray About ...

- ... continued spiritual growth for the 720 folk who attend our 6 churches. In Sous Raille

particularly, quite a few people are making commitments to follow Christ and the church is growing in numbers.

- ... the 13 additional children that moved into the children's home this year. Several are still needing sponsors @ \$25.00 per month.
- ... School children needing sponsors @ \$15.00 per month. Please consider giving a gift to someone this Christmas by sponsoring a student for a year (\$180.00) in their honor. A card and photo will be sent to the person noting your special contribution.



- ... construction funds for a well at the boys' home and at the Tarasse school, for the completion of the second story of

the boy's home and for the vocational school.

Upcoming Events

- Beginning in February 2005, Stan Wiebe is available to share about the work in Haiti with your family, Sunday School class, church, etc. Please feel free to contact him at (919) 834-7626 ext. 16 or swiebe@btministries.com.
- The next BTM mission venture to Haiti is planned for March 2005. (Please contact Stan by Jan 15th if your interested in participating.)

For more information about The Haiti Corner, contact: Stan Wiebe

Work Phone: 919-834-7626 ext. 16
E-mail: swiebe@btministries.com

Home Phone: 919-836-1929
E-mail: swiebe@juno.com