

A Haiti Herald



October 2006

The Newsletter of Hearts and Hands for Haiti

The Body of Christ ... the Church

Getting to know the heart of God is the greatest adventure we will ever undertake as a follower of Christ. And we begin to understand the ways of God more fully as we study His Word and have it taught to us. God designed for this to happen as we gather as the church.

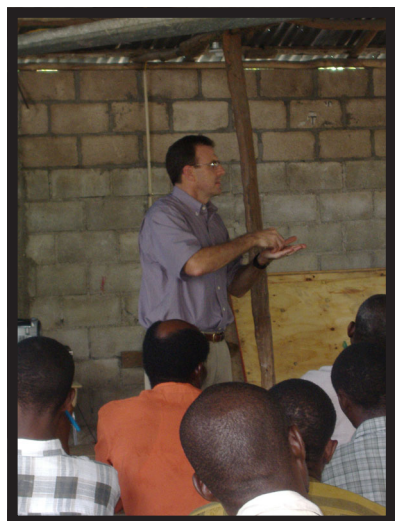
Come over and help us ...

A frequent request from my friends in Haiti has been, "please send us pastors to teach us the Word, so we can better teach our own people".

This past month, a small team from Christ Covenant Church had the privilege of hosting a one-day conference for pastors and church leaders in Poteaux, Haiti. We had been told to expect about 25 pastors and leaders to come, yet there was 'standing room only', with about 75 people in attendance. Pastor Tom Mercer had the opportunity to teach God's Word to the eager and attentive students.

As suggested by one of the Haitian leaders, the conference topics included "The Integrity of the Pastor in the Community, Family and the Local Church" and "The Value of the Power of the Holy Spirit in the Life of a Pastor".

Not only was the Word taught and



received well, but good questions were brought forth. As well, there was time for praise and worship, prayer and fellowship over both breakfast and lunch.

I truly feel the leaders and pastors were inspired, encouraged and better equipped to go and teach the Word among their own congregations.

Opportunities are being explored to determine if these teaching sessions can be done on a regular basis. As you may imagine, this type of church-to-church partnership can be a blessing to all involved. Pastor Tom attests to this in his following reflections.

"May God be praised!"

"To be honest, I was quite unsure of what to expect in Haiti.

I knew a few facts about this tiny island nation: they were the poorest country in the Western hemisphere; conveniences which we take for granted would be in very short supply and traveling would be somewhat arduous. These facts were true but I also learned a few facts that surprised me with great joy.

First, I enjoyed a hospitable and gracious people in the midst of little food and comforts. Second, I was encouraged with a faithful people in the midst of daily uncertainties. Third, I was challenged by a worshipping community that, in spite of economic hardship, rejoiced over the generosity and kindness of God in Jesus. I also found a people hungry for the word of God, greatly desirous of knowing God more so as to make God known among their own people.

The last fact I learned on my trip to Haiti came through seeing the fruitfulness of Hearts and Hands for



Pastor Tom Mercer with translator Milo John

Haiti's ministry as Stan has labored faithfully over these years. As I saw these faithful ministries, I was encouraged in the beauty and glory of a long term, consistent and diligent service for the glory of God. I am humbled that God allowed me such a powerful opportunity to declare the greatness of God to people of Haiti.

Stan, thank you for your faithful service to our God and for allowing me the wonderful chance to serve these precious brothers and sisters in Christ!"

Building up Christ's Body

Hearts and Hands for Haiti has had the privilege of partnering with numerous churches in the Gonaives region of Haiti for many years.

Working together has included:

- Periodic pastors' and youth conferences
- Adult literacy classes, using the Bible as the text
- Financial sponsorship of pastors so they can dedicate their time to church ministry
- Construction of five community church buildings
- A benevolence fund to assist folks in their time of crisis (These funds are often used to help pay for secondary education for the church)

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**Share Christmas Blessings
with the Church in Haiti
Details Inside**

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The Body of Christ ... *(Continued from front)*

teenagers whose parents are not able to send them to school.)

We are looking forward to the day we can partner with Haitian youth in leading Bible camps.

As well, we want to prepare children's programs with Creole

Bible lessons, crafts, etc., as a resource for the church teachers.

There are many other ways we can assist our Haitian brothers and sisters, especially with the Christmas season approaching.

Several churches are in need of a moped which would greatly assist the pastor.

Most of our churches are in need of additional benches as well as Bibles, Bible commentaries, study books, song books, etc.

Please see the enclosed idea list for ways you can bless our Haitian friends this Christmas. Please also consider how your CHURCH can get involved, too!

Stan Wiebe, Director

Giving Thanks!

- We thank the Lord for **protecting and guiding the group** from Christ Covenant Church (CCC) as they were in Haiti Sept. 14-18.
- The all-day **pastors' conference** presented by CCC was very well attended, well received and much appreciated! Praise be to God!
- Hurray! HHH sponsored schools have started the **new school year** well -- with a 10-20% increase in enrollment, new desks for all teachers at Tarasse and uniform material for all students at Pacot!
- We appreciate the donations towards the \$5,000 matching grant. **We reached the goal!** What a blessing!
- A **new church** began this summer in the rural community of Doland under the leadership of Pastor Jean Francois.

Please Pray For ...

- **Shilove Nerard**, one of the youth of the Children's Training & Nutrition Center. She has major medical needs and we are seeking medical attention for her in Port-au-Prince.
- **Electricians** going to Haiti in early December to work on the vocational school building - per Pere's request!
- **Sponsors** needed for school students at \$15.00/ month.
- Several **good mopeds** to assist Haitian pastors with their transportation needs. (Available in Haiti for approx. \$1000 U.S.)

Upcoming Events

- An **electrician work team** will be traveling to Haiti in early-to-mid December to assist at the vocational school under construction. *(If you have these skills and want to serve in this manner, please contact Stan Wiebe a.s.a.p.)*
- The HHH mission venture planned for this fall has been postponed. The **next team mission venture** to Haiti is being planned for the spring of 2007. Please let us know if you are interested.



Shilove Nerard



New vocational school under construction

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