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MISSIONMATTERS

Allegany Region Missions provides a multi-denominational Christian mission ministry to the needy of the world, through a focus on mission projects and programs in medical care, surgery, construction and education.

Our Lord's Will in Partnership with Others and Service to Him

By Mary Rappole

Dear Arm Supporters,

Pastor Juan Bernato Charles (affectionately "Pastor Ben") sends deep appreciation and blessings to the Allegany Region Mission family. Bert and I met with Pastor Ben and the school board for the Institution Mixte La Trinite Chretienne de Galette on Tuesday morning November 1.

It was a typical sunny morning with the roads full of cars, trucks, tap taps, walkers, bikers, women going to market and dogs looking for breakfast! Roberta Anderson, missionary, drove us out to Galette and was a valuable contributor to the conversation. We met in the side classroom of Pastor Ben and Jeteze's (his wife) home. The entire school board arrived and our sharing began. Gems Antenor a long time Haitian friend was our interpreter and a vital part of the developing relationship with Pastor Ben. They continue to be appreciative of our presence, evident in prayers and the luncheon served by the women.

The school was empty this morning as this was All Saints Day, a national holiday for the Haitians. As I walked thru the empty classrooms my thoughts went quickly to what if?

What if there were no ARM?

What if there were no teams that came to Haiti to build the existing classroom pavilions?

What if there were no teams that came to help the men and students build desks?

What if there were no ARM to assist the leaders of the school to dream BIG, to vision a more stable building and space for the three preschool grades continuing on to completion of sixth grade?

What if there were no Ohio State to honor the teachers in the community and offer new skills?

Would there be a school?

My answer is YES.

The "Pastor Ben" school has been in existence for 60 years. Started by the Bernato family out of the village church. They value and desire for their children to be prepared to serve their country and our Lord. It is a privilege for all of us to be

partnering with them in this country village.

Yes, ARM and the Ohio State faculty bring resources that they might not have available. We attempt to do this with Pastor Ben and his school board leading the way while we gently come behind with our Lord's guidance.

The great news is that 310 children returned on Wednesday, 10 teachers and one aid head up the classroom direction and supplies are being purchased for them. Professor Terri Bucci (Haiti Empowerment Project) is bringing a team to Galette for a continuing education day for area teachers from both this school and Fan Fan's Faith Academy. (This was held on 11/8.)

Pastor Ben continues to explore options for property for a new school building. We are in communication with him frequently as opportunities arise. There will be construction teams available in the future for ARM friends to be part of as we support the school board in a building a cement-block school.

The ARM board asks for your prayers as we sit beside our Haitian friends listening to their needs while always honoring them in this process. We will be returning to Haiti in February 2012 to meet with them again. God's work is being done in this school and in the hearts of us that serve Him.



Haiti Viewed From the Heart

By Jim Holler

The images left in my mind from Haiti are crowded noisy streets, businesses sweeping up the trash and lighting it on fire on the side of the cramped roads with the ash adding to the ever present dust filled air, and motorcycles buzzing past the slowed traffic with cars and taptaps (over crowded ornately decorated Toyota pickup trucks serving as public transportation) often spewing black exhaust into the dust filled air. Business is conducted on the street, in lumber yards, tailor, black smith, bicycle repair, auto repair, and welding shops, with food cooking on charcoal fires, and vendors selling water, soda pop and more. Concrete block buildings, some painted in bright colors, are dirtied by the air. Some buildings under construction and many showing signs of damage from the earth quake pass by as we ride on a hard bench in the back of an open truck. Then over a wall or past a hedge row, slightly hidden, are the tent cities. Hundreds of thousands of people are living in tents made of sticks and tarps. Only inches separate many of the tents as small walking paths and only a few feet wide as roads. Make no mistake this is a hard place to live and if you pay attention, a hard place to visit.



Then you start to meet the people...people full of the joy and love of God. The children are eager to hold your hand, arm, leg...anything they can latch onto. At the school they made a sign to welcome us and sang songs praising God for us. A short walk leads us past the school where the kindergarten class is out in the yard, we are surrounded and held hostage with their affection and joy at our presence; holding our hands, laughing and moving in and out seemingly so all can touch us. Just amazing! The people are beautiful and so grateful. At the end of the trip I met a Haitian woman waiting in line at the airport. Clearly she is better off than most. She asked what I was doing in her country and how many times I had been there. Once I spoke she took my hand and plainly and simply said thank you. I look forward to the next opportunity to go back to see the friends I have made and to help as I am able. Our Lord be praised.



Jim, along with a team of 13 others, served with the Village of Hope, Haiti, October 29 - November 5, 2011.



ARM Depot Update Randolph, NY by Chuck Lindberg



...**Part-time volunteers needed.** Are you able to volunteer 1 day per week, 1 day per month, 1 hour a day or more? Thank you in advance!

...**Sam Huffman**, founder of the Depot, was remembered through the Memorial Tree in Randolph.

...**Free shopping** for several families in extreme need in the community is one reason the Depot is open. How can items be offered free? Because you have donated the items (thank you) and the Depot isn't about making money—it is about serving others in Jesus' name.

...**Collecting winter coats**, blankets and other items for Randolph's Community Cupboard, ARM is one of the drop-off sites for these new or gently-used items for this important drive.

Successful Fair Fundraising !!

Through the generous contributions of ARM members and visitors to the ARM table at the What's New Fair in November, we were able to raise \$1024 for the Teacher Sponsorship Program. Since \$2500 covers the sponsorship of 1 teacher, we almost raised half a sponsorship! Well done everyone! And a special thank you to all who helped man the sale table.



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I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. Philippians 1:3-6