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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.

President's Report ~ Institution Mixte laTrinite Chretienne de Galette School

by Bert Rappole, ARM President

I am happy to report that the Institution Mixte laTrinite Chretienne de Galette, (MLTCG) is doing well. Emmett Tenpas, Bert and Roberta Anderson and I met with Pastor Bernato and his school board on **September 23rd** in the village of Gallette. At that time, Pastor Ben reported that he expected 250 students this year. Due to increased enrollment, Pastor noted this would require more teachers and he would also like to offer a raise for the teachers. They have not received a raise since we started the Teacher Sponsorship Program in 2007. Pastor Ben also reported that the purchasing of the land for the new school was moving forward and was in the hands of the notaire.

The ARM Board of Directors met on **October 24th** and authorized \$18,000 to be sent to MLTCG which would then go to the notaire to finish the down payment and complete the purchase of the school land. The total cost of the land is \$22,500. The ARM Board also authorized increasing quarterly support of MLTCG to \$5,340/quarter (previously \$4,200). This would allow Pastor Ben to hire one teacher, two aides, and give the current teachers a 5% raise.

We heard from Haiti on **November 25th** that the survey had been completed and Pastor Ben has been given a sales certificate for the land purchase from the notaire.

This has to go through several agencies before all is finalized. Pastor Ben also reported that 300 students have enrolled in the school, books and supplies have been purchase for them, and all is going well (school started in October).

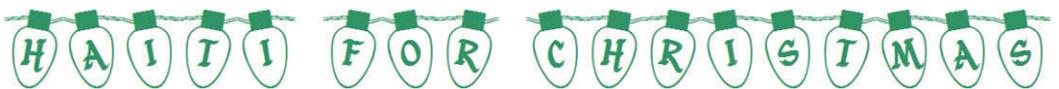


Pastor Bernato shows the team the new MLTCG new school land — Sept 2013

The ARM Board is very happy with the above proceedings and we will need your help to make all of this happen. We need to re-energize the Teacher Sponsorship Program and the New School Project. There will be an **“open-to-all” ARM meeting on January 6, 2014** at Christ First United Methodist Church in Jamestown—*everyone is invited*. We would like to inform you, in detail, what is going on and seek your help in moving forward. We need to approach this like the *Heart for Haiti* campaign following the earthquake in 2010. Members of ARM will be available to speak at your church or any organization you belong to.



Haiti artisan items for sale; support teachers



Original Haiti artisan items are on sale at *Trinity Guitars*, W. 3rd Street, Jamestown. Prices are reasonable. **All sales directly support ARM's Teacher Sponsorship Program in Gallette, Haiti.** Handmade artisan items include tin ornaments, tin crèche, tin crosses, wooden platter, tin platters, magnets, candle holders, and more.

Trinity Guitars store hours: Monday (11AM to 5:30PM), Wednesday (11AM to 5:00PM), Tuesday, Thursday and Friday (11am to 6:30 PM), Saturday (11 am to 4:30 PM).

Trinity Guitars is also sponsoring the next “Soup and a Song,” January 18th, 6-9PM, at the St. Susan Center to raise funds for that organization. The students and instructors from Infinity Visual Preforming Arts will open the show. The Bill Ward Band will be the headline act. A selection of fine soups will be served along with pop, coffee and sweets. Check your local paper for more information on this event.

ARM Depot Mission Store Update

Thrft Store of Gently-used
Items
Main Street, Randolph, NY
by Chuck Lindberg

We continue to be very proud and humbled to serve the community with an affordable source of clothing, household goods, books, footwear, etc. This is all possible, thanks to the three sales associates who make up our staff. ARM is fortunate to have such a hard-working reliable, dedicated staff. Thank you, precious Jesus, for bringing these willing servants to our ministry.

For the past several years, the gals, lead by Mary Jo, have constructed a Christmas Village window display which will be back by popular demand again this season. If you are ever in the Randolph area, make a point to stop by, see this beautiful display, and say "hello" - it's well worth it.

In short, by God's grace all is going according to His plan.

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Donations of gently-used clothing and small house-hold items can be made during open store hours. Please make sure items are in sell-able quality and style. Thank You!

Learn more about our ministry:
www.armissions.org/local_regional.htm

Compellingly Beautiful, Our Mission by Michele Harms

God as *compellingly beautiful*... that phrase has occupied my mind for weeks now and I want it to occupy yours, too. I am reading the book "What Jesus Demands From the World," by John Piper. Demand #9 is "Love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength," taken from Mark 12:29-30. In his explanation of this demand, John Piper states the following: "*Remember we love Him to the degree that we know Him. And remember that only Jesus can make Him known in truth and fullness (Matt. 11:27). Therefore, look steadily at Jesus and pray that He would reveal God as compellingly beautiful.*"

John Piper explains that in order to love God with every part of our being we must know God, and to know and love Jesus is to know and love God (John 14:7-9). We just don't decide to love something on a whim; that something must become compellingly attractive. For example, maybe you heard a new song on the radio but didn't like the tune. As you hear the same song again, you begin to pay attention to the words and you are attracted to the song now—something inside of you changed and you now delight in the music. You didn't just decide to follow Jesus, something made Him attractive to you, your heart changed and you now delight in knowing Him—He has become compellingly beautiful to you. When something or Someone is compellingly beautiful, we desire to know more, see more, be with Him more... we hunger and desire for more.

When I was young, my mother would spend time with me searching Biblical truths for faith; she never forced or demanded this, she showed a pure desire to share her compellingly beautiful Savior. For me, His compelling beauty has had my heart forever, but it wasn't until my faith was challenged during mission trips and in personal situations, as an adult, that His level of beauty became so compelling I couldn't focus anywhere else.

As we reflect on Jesus being so compellingly beautiful, that we desired to love Him with all our hearts, souls, minds and strength, it should make us wonder how we can help others come to this same decision—seeing our Lord as so compellingly beautiful they will desire to love Him, too. Unfortunately, we can't force someone to see something right in front of them, they have to make the discovery themselves. We can tell someone the cookie is delicious, but until they take the step to see and taste, it is still only a cookie. Jesus will only be the person they have heard about... until they must rely and trust in Him on their own... until they discover His compelling beauty.

So, how do we make God compellingly beautiful to others? The best example we have to follow is Jesus, Himself. In all He did and said, He revealed the true nature and the deep love of God. As we strive to be more like Jesus, we too, must allow God to reveal His loving nature through us, thereby making Him compellingly beautiful to those around us.

My prayer for you (and me) at the close of 2013 is that God's compelling beauty will overwhelm you, causing you to delight in Him with all of your heart, soul and mind. In your delight, I pray He will be made so compellingly beautiful through you that others will see Him and fall in love, too.



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Jesus answered, "The most important [commandment] is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'"
Mark 12:29-30