



Volume 2, Issue 2 Spring 2004

# 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, surgical construction and education.

## Sponsoring a Teacher, a Community

When Sam Huffman (from Randolph, NY) went to Haiti for the first time, little did he realize how God was going to use him to spark a focused ministry for the children of Haiti.

Schools in Haiti are all private, requiring parents to pay tuition and purchase books, uniforms, and all necessary supplies in order for their child(ren) to attend school. For Haitians, this a difficult prospect when life is a day-to-day venture; the money made during the day is utilized to purchase food for an evening meal and hopefully some breakfast before heading to out to work the next day. The concept of spare change is foreign to these hard-working, loving people.

Conversations with Greg Benson (missionary), Fan Fan (Haitian team leader) and Pastor Bernato (pastor and school director in Galette, Haiti) during the April team's trip, resulted in a basic plan for this program. Unlike other sponsorship programs that can segregate neighborhoods by sponsoring one child, but not the next, this program will open education to potentially every child in the community. This sponsorship program, still in the preparation stages, will focus sponsorship on the school teachers. Since this is the largest portion of tuition, sponsorship of the teachers will allow *any* student to go to school *free*. Currently, teachers make \$550 Haitian per month (~\$85us), this program will increase their salary to \$800 Haitian (~\$125us) allowing a school to gain and keep high-quality teachers. Along with teacher salaries, other aspects of support include covering the cost of student's books and supplies, material for school uniforms and a director's salary.

Because our US dollar goes farther in Haiti, the resulting sponsorship program will be approximately \$225 US per month for a 30-student classroom. Individuals wanting to sponsor at smaller levels could commit to \$7.50/month which would cover the costs of one student or \$22.50/month which would sponsor a desk-full of 3 students. Our prayer is that large organizations will also want to join this program by sponsoring a 5-classroom school for \$1125/month.

The future plans that God could open with this program may include sending US teachers to show Haitian teachers different teaching skills. Using the Bible as an intricate part of the curriculum and more. Only God knows the heights that can be reached for His children.

## To God Be the Glory

A Lesson Learned in Haiti. Thoughts by Audrey Cline

April 2004 was my first trip to Haiti, and hopefully not my last. Before we left, I wasn't completely sure what to expect, except for weather that was above thirty degrees for more than five minutes.

The first day on the field, working at the VBS, was completely opposite of what I had expected. I saw my other team members playing with kids, talking with people from the community and having a good time, working for God. This was great, except for the part where I realized, "Wait a minute, those guys are having a blast. Why am I having such a miserable time here? This isn't right." I was happy for everybody else, but I wanted to be having fun like they were.

That night we had our group devotions on the roof of the mission house and I was still feeling bummed, thinking maybe I was just tired or something. However, God works in mysterious ways sometimes, and that night He worked through the devotion leader and a song on a CD.

The devotion started to get me thinking about giving it all to God and letting Him have the glory for everything that we were doing that week. I went down to my room that night, questioning God about why I had such a lousy time, which made no sense to me because I absolutely love kids, and every year I look forward to VBS at my home church in Kennedy. The only thing I could think to do was ask, "Why God? Where are You?" and just hope for a better day tomorrow.

As I do quite often at night, I decided to listen to some music before I went

to sleep, and that night I listened to the CD that my friend Kyle had given me. I laid down on my bed and began searching the CD to find a good rock song; I stopped on the last track, entitled "Pride Away" by Kutlass. I listened, really listened, to the lyrics and then it hit me; I knew why I had had such a lousy day! I felt like an idiot! My problem was that I was in the mindset that it was all about me, which isn't the mindset to be in, ever.

That night I laid there in my bed and earnestly prayed, asking God to forgive me, to help me get into the right mindset, and for an awesome week in which God is glorified, not me.

Needless to say, after I got straightened out, the rest of the week went absolutely incredible, and all for the glory of God. The Lord even blessed me with a little buddy that I played with at the afternoon VBS. Even though he wouldn't tell us his name, he was definitely an awesome blessing and someone I will never forget.

Remember, just give it all to the Lord. It always goes better that way anyway, because after all, He already has everything planned out, so shouldn't we trust the One who knows what's going to happen and knows how to help us through it all?

Audrey Cline is an 11th grader at Falconer Central School. She attends Clark's Corners' Community Church and is active in their Sunday School, youth group, teen praise team and morning worship band.



## WANTED: TEAM LEADERS

The mission of ARM is to be a facilitator in sending short-term mission teams to areas of need, throughout the world. To do this, we are in need of team leaders.

Being a team leader requires a heart for serving Christ - that is it. If you have the God-anointed desire to serve and take others with you in your endeavor, ARM is setup to provide the "nuts & bolts" in helping you accomplish this.

### Team leader's job description:

1. Encourage team members
2. Schedule team meetings to answer questions and build team-togetherness and a servant's heart in members
3. Keep an eye on team members as they travel to and from the country of service
4. Lead group devotions in serving country
5. Give congregation greeting in Haitian churches
6. Be the liaison between country missionaries and team members
7. Keep 'motherly' tabs on all team members to make sure everyone is healthy and safe
8. Show an example of Christ's love and compassion at all times.

### ARM will:

1. Work with you and the missionary in the country of destination to:
  - set the best travel dates
  - put together work projects
  - discover project needs / supplies
2. Help make travel arrangements
3. Take care of billing / payments as appropriate
4. Share resources and help in obtaining supplies for team projects

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a team leader, please contact Dave Messenger, president of ARM, 716-358-9204.



## New Logo, New Look

The new ARM logo and newsletter heading is the result of a collective effort and the special talents of Carl Brand. Carl donated his expertise in design to help ARM create a logo that told a story about our focus.

The resulting logo represents two individuals helping each other. As we are able to share our blessings with others, we are blessed in return. Our Lord is awesome.

We hope you like our new look. Now keep watch for a ministry brochure, special project brochure (s), thank you cards and an active web site (ARMissions.org).

## Thank you for blessing our teams

ARM teams don't *go* on a trip, but are *sent* by all who donate, help and pray for the team and its members.

Even though each team member thanks those individuals, churches, clubs, groups and more who have helped them on their endeavor for Christ, we want to take this opportunity to say a special thank you.

THANK YOU to everyone for serving our Lord by helping others serve Him. You are a special blessing and may God continue to bless you.



## Presentation Materials

Those interested in borrowing presentation materials (Slides, PowerPoint, etc.), or if you would like someone from ARM to come and give a presentation to your group, call Michele (985-4438) for more information.

## Dates to remember:

**Board of Director's meeting:**  
Tuesday, May 25, 2004, 7:15pm  
East Randolph UMC

## Future Mission Trips

Lots of possibilities - are you interested? - is God calling you? Team leaders needed. Contact ARM.

### Possible destinations and projects:

- Haiti
  - build 50 more desks for the Galette school
  - surgical, mobile medical and education teams
- Jamaica
  - build home(s) for needy in community CSI serves
  - provide support for Men's Conference (summer 2004)
- India (Equip INDIA)
  - build Disability Ministry Center (2005)
  - youth camp volunteers (May and October)
  - rehabilitation professionals

### Clothing Ministry

Donated clothing needs to be sorted and packed for shipping to Haiti, Jamaica and more. Want to help? Contact Sam Huffman, (716)358-3492.



ARM

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But blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in Him. He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.

Jeremiah 17:7-8