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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.



Joint Ministry Meeting

Allegany Region Missions—Christian Service International—Empowerment Project-OSU Partnership—Building for a Common Goal—Quality Education for Haiti's Youth



It has been a deep desire of the ARM Board of Directors to meet with representatives of CSI to establish a common vision, specific goals and strategies to help assure continued support and development of the Teacher Sponsorship Program schools in the light of encouraging quality education through the cooperative efforts of the Empowerment Project.

On Saturday morning, September 22nd, 11 members of ARM, 5 members of CSI, and 2 members of the Empowerment Project team met together with Bert and Mary Rappole as amazing hosts. The meeting was facilitated by Dr. Terri Teal Bucci, director of the Empowerment Project, and when the brainstorming sessions were complete, 3 topics were the decided focus.

#1. Creating Sustainable School Budgets

The schools that are part of the Teacher Sponsorship Program (Pastor Bernato's school in Gallette—ARM; Faith Academy in Croix-des-Bouquet—CSI) meet their salary and supply needs, but without a concise, planned budget. There is also a need for Special Needs teachers in the schools, which would add additional cost-base to the programs.

Needed actions:

- a). Send a US individual with finance expertise to Haiti to work with the school directors.
- b). Assist/help the school directors with a sustainable plan, budget, needs, desires, etc.

- c). Find a Haitian accountant who will work with the directors and be sensitive to the cultural issues involved.

#2. ARM / CSI Role in Cooperative Ministry

Needed actions:

- a). Build communications/connections between ARM/CSI.
- b). Send an individual to Haiti as liaison/observer for education/school focus.
- c). Find a full-time Education Ministry Coordinator—from US? from Haiti?
- d). Produce policy of guidelines/expectations of US & Haiti.

#3. Cultural Issues—Empowering vs. Imposing

Needed actions:

- a). Learning how to share ideas and not impose ideas.
- b). Filter all words and actions in context of the culture.
- c). Train/prepare team members in cultural awareness.

If you have interest in helping ARM meet these goals, please do not hesitate to contact Dave Messinger, ARM President.

An amazing additional outcome of this meeting was getting to know the people behind the ministries we have valued for some time. It was wonderful to look each other in the eye and discern each other's heart for Jesus and His service. With Jesus at the helm, we know He will take us to places beyond our imagination!

Upcoming Events

- November 10** (10am-6pm) and **November 11** (10am-4pm): Ten Thousand Villages sale event at the What's New Fair being held at Jamestown Community College. 10% of proceeds go toward ARM ministry endeavors. Help needed!
- November 25 at 7:00pm:** Bon Voyage reception for Bert and Roberta Anderson. Everyone is welcome; bring a dessert or snack. Held at Dave and Judy Messinger's home: 3450 Caswell Rd, Randolph, NY 14772.
- February 9, 2008 at 9:00am to noon:** ARM Vision-Setting Roundtable Event. Everyone is welcome to this discussion and brainstorming session centering around the future of ARM, including topics such as: "is ARM on the right track" and "where do we head next." The event will be held at Colecraft, Allen Street, Falconer.
- March 1, 2008 at 6:30pm:** Annual Music, Dessert, Auction Night. Donations for this auction are gratefully accepted. Mark your calendar and attend this exciting event.



2008 Mission Trips

Keep us in your prayers!

- January 5-13: JAMAICA** Molly Lindberg, leader
Construction —FULL TEAM
- January 2008: HAITI** Mary Rappole, leader
1/12 - 1/17 Women's Health Clinic
1/17 - 1/26 Surgical Team
To join these teams, must have specialized skills, contact Mary Rappole at home 357-2385.
- March 22-29: HAITI** Michele Harms & Jeannie Haglund, leaders. Mobile Medical, VBS, Construction —FULL TEAM (to be placed on a waiting list for openings, contact Michele at 985-4438)
- April 12-20: HAITI** Anne and Emmett Tenpas, leaders
In cooperation with Bemus Point United Methodist Church, Construction and VBS. Contact Anne at (716)-789-3407

Bon Voyage, Our Special Friends

Stepping out in faith—They can still use your help

Goodbyes are no fun, except when it isn't really a true "goodbye" but an "I'll see you later - in Haiti!" Bert and Roberta Anderson, residents of Sherman, NY, are becoming full-time missionaries in Haiti beginning this December. Their schedules have been VERY full with the fast approaching November 30th drive to Florida in a full 12 foot Penske truck. On December 4th, they will unload the truck onto a Mission Flight International plane and on **December 6th, fly to Haiti** with 2000 lbs of cargo and a 13-year old Labrador Retriever (yes, dogs can be missionaries, too!). Whew! Tired yet? I bet Bert and Roberta are and will be!



Their primary need is heaven-bound **prayers** for their new ministry, for the families and friends they leave behind, and for the Haitians they will serve in His joy as directors of the CSI Health Clinic in Haiti.

Their **financial needs** are great, too. This has been the most challenging part of their transition to full-time ministry. Despite sending or handing out over 600 support request letters, only about 10% have resulted in financial support. The topic of finances is a quiet one for Bert and Roberta—they know our Lord will provide, despite the seemingly insurmountable obstacle. They also won't tell you, but they have put quite a bit of their own savings into this venture to get themselves to Haiti to fill the huge vacancy in the Health Clinic's ministry.

What are Bert and Roberta's needs and **how can I help?**

\$14,000 - \$16,000 = start-up costs for training, travel, vehicle, etc.
(this need has been met through contributions and their own funds).

\$3,000 per month = needed for food, housing, insurance and etc., while serving in Haiti. This need is far from being reached.

So far, they have about \$650 per month in committed support toward the \$3000/month need. This is a huge shortfall, but with a faith that can move mountains, Bert and Roberta are continuing forward, knowing they are doing the Lord's will and it will be up to Him to raise people to join them and Him in this vital ministry.

Are you able to join Bert and Roberta's ministry—prayer support—financial support? Contact them: e-mail Anderson@csiministry.org or send correspondences through Christian Service International, 1714 West Royale Dr, Muncie, IN 47304.

Don't Miss It Next Year!

An Amazing Night—Annual ARM Fall Dinner

On a Friday night in September, 141 friends of ARM got together to enjoy a time of praise. The evening began with an update by Terri Bucci and Cheryl Canada on the Empowerment Project for Haiti's educational system collaborations. The joy they shared and the love for the Haitian people was evident along with God's blessings as they work alongside nationals who also want to see Haiti grow through the quality education of its youth.

Dinner was served and lively conversations continued through dessert when the keynote speakers for the evening took to the podium. FanFan Janvier, a Haitian national and missionary to his own people, had the room spellbound as he told of his life journey and the miracles related to seeing his dream of a school fulfilled with the sacrificial giving of Americans like those in attendance. He ended his speech with a fervent desire to see everyone come to know Jesus as their Savior, so our international family will continue to meet throughout eternity.



FanFan at the podium.

After a standing ovation, Greg Benson stood to the podium sharing even more blessings experienced by he and his wife Cathie in their over 10 years of ministry in Haiti. With tears in his eyes and a breaking voice, Greg lovingly told about the H.O.P.E. orphanage and the beautiful girls that now are growing in a loving, caring environment to become the Haitian women of tomorrow.

With sadness and joy, the final speakers of the night were Bert and Roberta Anderson. As they look forward to joining the CSI team in Haiti as Directors of the CSI Health Clinic, they are also closing chapters of their lives stateside. God's hand has been in it all and despite our loss of not being able to see them around Chautauqua County, we know He will keep them safe and working hard for Him in Haiti.

Thank you to all (especially Mary and Bert Rappole) who made the night a beautiful success.



ARM

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Create in me a pure heart, O God, and
renew a steadfast spirit within me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain
me.
Psalm 51:10 & 12