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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.

Teacher Sponsorship Program & Education in Haiti

✍ Growing, Developing, Challenging ✍

Portions submitted by Professor Teri Teal Bucci, PhD



Humble Beginnings

When the Teacher Sponsorship Program was developed by ARM in 2004, its basis was to provide tuition-free education to Haitian children by covering teacher salaries and other related costs of schooling. The success of this program, through the generous gifts of sponsors like you, has allowed this idea to grow and develop. *There is so much more to come! God is amazing!*

School in Galette - The Pilot Program

The sponsorship of teachers in the Galette school began at the start of the school year in September 2005. Over the past year enough funds were received to cover sponsorships for 10 teachers and one administrator, providing education to students unable to afford it. To keep this endeavor alive, individuals wanting to sponsor a teacher for a year or more, or to give a one-time gift toward sponsorship are encouraged to contact ARM.

Faith Academy - "FanFan's School"

A second school utilizing the teacher sponsorship premise will be opening its doors this fall to over 200 children. Funds for this program are being collected by Christian Service International (direct your contributions to Faith Academy to CSI). It is exciting to see a second community in Haiti receive tuition free education!

Move Forward ~ Cooperation in US and Haiti

Teri Bucci, PhD, an associate professor at Ohio State University along with other colleagues both in the US and Haiti, are eager to provide quality education to Haitian children. Initially their primary focus was to provide workshops for Haitian teachers to demonstrate effective methods of teaching. This grew into a larger vision of redesigning the educational system in Haiti. On recent trip to Haiti, Teri witnessed first-hand the social, intellectual and geographic obstacles in the Haitian educational system, and she is looking forward to playing a part of its transformation.

Overcome the 1st Obstacle ~Teach Lessons in Creole

While 90-95% of the Haitian population speaks Creole, the language of power is French, due to Haiti's past history of rule by France. Currently, students in 3rd through 5th grades are taught all of their lessons in French, not in Creole, their first language. (They are taught Creole as a second language beginning in the 5th grade!) This would be similar to you and I having all of our lessons in Spanish when the language in our homes is English - an obvious barrier to quality learning. As Teri states, "Learning to read and write in a language that is not spoken is destined for failure." There is a movement underway to begin a stu-

dent's education in Creole, teaching reading, writing, mathematics and science in the language in which they are raised, and teaching French as a second language. This change won't come easy since, historically, French is equated with education and achievement. Therefore, the success of this vital transformation will lie with the parents and teachers seeing the value of teaching and learning in their native Creole.

Overcome the 2nd Obstacle ~ Teach Critical Thinking

Rooted in an education system based on teaching within a foreign language, much of learning has relied on rote memorization. Critical thinking is difficult when communication is comprised of language barriers - it becomes necessary to memorize the knowledge and tasks instead of thinking them through and fully understanding concepts and methods. As the barrier of communication and expression is lifted, learning skills to problem solve can occur.

Overcome the 3rd Obstacle ~ Add Secondary Schools to Rural Communities

Most rural schools provide a good source of elementary education up to 6th grade. To continue their education, students must travel to urban areas, pay tuition and travel expenses, if they are accepted into the limited number of schools available. For families whose annual income is \$400 US, school opportunities are often denied or a student must work for a few years to save enough money to complete a year of school. The solution is for rural schools to also provide intermediate and secondary schools to their students.

Strategies Toward Solutions

Teri and her team have worked to set up strong collaborations between in-country Haitian education experts and US experts in educational professional development. Their strategies for effecting change are to:

- Alter curriculums to teach in the native language Creole
- Build community acceptance of changes
- Professional development for Haitian teachers in constructivist teaching methods, focusing on two rural schools as test sites (Galette and Faith Academy)
- Gain capital funds for building and sponsoring intermediate and secondary schools (begin with test sites)

Vision of Hope

The monumental step to alter the education system in Haiti has the potential to impact their society on multiple levels and most importantly bring a vision of change and hope.

★ *Want to hear more from Professor Teri Bucci about the struggles and hopes for Haiti? Watch for an upcoming fall dinner event featuring Teri as guest speaker. This will be a night you won't want to miss! ★*



Being World Minded A Mission Thought



Often we take our blessings for granted. I pray the following will not cause you to turn away, but to think, search and pray. May God abundantly bless you as you deepen your involvement in the care of God's special people in all the world through prayer and missions!

- ♥ If you woke up this morning with more health than illness...you are more blessed than the one million of this world who will not survive this week.
- ♥ If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture or the pangs of starvation... you are more blessed than 500 million people in the world.
- ♥ If you can attend a religious gathering without fear of harassment, arrest, torture or death... you are more blessed than 3 billion people in the world.
- ♥ If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep... you are richer than 75% if this world.
- ♥ If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace... you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy!!
- ♥ If you can read this message... you are more blessed than over 2 billion people in the world that cannot read at all. Source unknown



Fundraising Event at Oktoberfest

ARM will run an International Festival Sale booth at the **Ellicottville Oktoberfest, October 7th & 8th**, in cooperation with Ten Thousand Villages (tenthousandvillages.org). ARM will receive 15% of the retail sales for our mission ministry fund. *Come, look and buy!*

We will need lots of help setting up the sale and manning the 10x10 booth for the event. If you are able to help, please contact ARM at 716-358-9126. Thank you in advance for your support!



Be His hands and His feet!!
Serve on a mission trip



Upcoming ARM Mission Trips

Come to an informational meeting **August 7th, 7:00pm** at the Bemus Point United Methodist Church. Learn more about mission trips with ARM and how you and your church can be involved! Questions? Call Anne - 716-789-3407 or e-mail annetenpas@alltel.net

Trips in the planning stages

Does one fit in your schedule?

Can you help someone go?

Fall 2006—Waveland, Mississippi
Katrina Hurricane relief—Construction
Led by Fred Dye

February 3, 2007—Haiti
Medical and Vacation Bible School
Led by Leslie Johnson (deadlines approaching)

February 17, 2007—Haiti
Construction and Vacation Bible School
Led by Emmett Tenpas

April 6, 2007—Haiti
Mobile Medical, VBS and Construction
Led by Molly Lindberg

Don't Wait! Deadlines are coming fast!

If you are interested in joining a mission team you **MUST** contact ARM (716-358-9126)! Early planning provides the best airfares and more!



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May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13