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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.

## Empowerment Project

by Roberta Anderson, June 2007 Empowerment Project Team

In June, I had the privilege of working with Dr. Terri Bucci, Cheryl Canada, TJ D'Agostino, and Dr. Jeff Zwiars as a member of the Empowerment Project in Haiti. The Empowerment Project is the initiative created by professors from Ohio State University that responds to the need for professional development of teachers in Haiti.

Many teachers in the rural areas have little or no formal training in education. There are limited resources for professional development. The Empowerment Project Team facilitated workshops for the teachers from Faith Academy and from the school at Gallette. The workshops modeled educational methods that are universal in our school systems but rarely known in Haiti. Workshops were also presented to education majors and faculty at the University of Carraibe.

In addition to providing these educational opportunities to Haitian students and faculty of the University, Dr. Bucci and her team spent many hours in meetings and discussions with local administrators and teachers. The goal of these meetings was to strengthen the partnership between the Empowerment Project Team and the educators in Haiti.

One of the programs offered at the University of Carraibe was the Writing and Children's Literature Workshop led by Cheryl Canada, Director, Mid-Ohio Writing Project. As you know, Creole is the spoken language in Haiti and has been declared the national language. However, French remains the language of

power—it is used in all business and governmental transactions. In order for Haitians to succeed, they have to know French. To promote Creole presents the Haitians with a dilemma: parents want their children to learn French in order to better themselves in the Haitian society yet they value their spoken language. There was an understanding of their needs to function and succeed in their society coupled with their passion for the value of Creole and its importance it plays in their culture. While they struggle with the need to know French, the students and faculty present at the workshop value the importance of creating and preserving works written in Creole.



The Empowerment Project is committed to strengthening the collaborations within Haiti. The Project is developing programs in conjunction with educational systems in Haiti to design materials for Creole-based instruction (curriculum and resources) and to continue professional development in rural and urban areas.

Please keep the Empowerment Project in your prayers. If you are interested in supporting the program financially, designate your giving to ARM for the Empowerment Project. To participate on an Empowerment Project Team, contact Dave Messenger at ARM (716-358-9126).



### ARM Missionaries To Be Missionaries in Haiti

Bertel and Roberta Anderson have traveled to Haiti many times with ARM, each time marveling at the opportunity to serve Christ in this foreign yet amazing land. Little did they know that God was preparing them for ministry.

When Bert and Roberta were appointed by Christian Service International to succeed Chris and Rolf Lukkarila as directors of CSI's Health Clinic, they turned to their foundation, Jesus Christ, for direction. Feeling His peace in this new path, their lives have changed dramatically. Leaving jobs, family, and friends behind will not be easy, but they are excited to see what He has in store.

As Bert and Roberta answer His call, you and I can join them in service by helping support them as they commit themselves to His care. Send your support to CSI Ministries, 1741 Royale Drive Muncie, IN 47304-2240 or e-mail CSI at [csi@csiministries.org](mailto:csi@csiministries.org)



### 2008 Mission Trip Plans

See what His work is all about!

**January 2008 - HAITI** Mary Rappole: team leader

1/12 - 1/17 Women's Health Clinic

1/17 - 1/26 Surgical Team

Deadline: Team member list will be finalized on 9/1/07 (no new members after that date)

Contact Mary Rappole at home 357-2385 or office 483-3572

Contact Bert Rappole at home 357-2385 or office 483-1183

**Easter 2008 - HAITI** Mobile Med? VBS? Construction?  
3/22 - 3/30 (Easter vacation week)

The dates have been reserved, but this team needs a team leader or co-leaders. Contact Michele Harms for interest—Call by August 31st (985-4438)!

# You Might Be an Answer to Prayer

By Michele G. Harms

It is Easter Sunday morning as ARM's April 2007 Team sits in the honored front rows of the church in Gallette, Haiti. On Resurrection Sunday the parishioners were in celebration, being able to hold their first service in their new church which had been under construction for quite a few years (and is far from being completed). As a mission team member, I find it



Outside the Gallette church

very difficult and embarrassing to displace people from their seats as we arrive to join their Sunday celebration; I realize the Haitians are thankful for our willingness to serve them in the name of Christ, but the honor they bestow on us is painfully humbling. As the worship service continued in Creole, the celebration of Christ's resurrection was slightly lost to me as I sat as more of a spectator, not understanding the language enough to join in praise. I am ashamed to admit that after an hour in the heat and in frustration of not being able to sing praises of my own to my Lord, I was praying the service would come to a completion...and then a gentleman stood up to start the sermon!

God had a wake-up in store for me in the midst of my complaining. As the gentleman gave his sermon, he lovingly translated the key points into English and then told us this story... About 7 years ago, he and Pastor Bernato saw the needs of their village and prayed for a medical team to come. Only days after their prayer, Pastor Bernato was approached by CSI missionaries about his willingness to let a mobile medical team set up in his church.



Inside the Gallette church.

**We** were God's answer to their prayer - talk about humbling!!

When the first team from what would become ARM traveled to Haiti in 2000, little did we know that God was preparing us to be an answer to a prayer not yet breathed. Coincidence? No, only our Lord could have brought all of this to fruition and continue to take willing people on an amazing ride for Him. His blessings for ARM continue to amaze me - as we partner together, we are all part of answers to prayer.

## 2007 Annual ARM Dinner

Haiti Missionaries are Guest Speakers

**Friday, September 21, 2007 at 6:30 PM**  
**Holiday Inn, Jamestown**  
**Buffet style meal**  
**\$25 per person**  
**Purchase tickets in advance by calling**  
**Mary Rappole 716-357-2385 or ARM 716-358-9126**

Greg and Cathie Benson, missionaries for over 10 years in Haiti, along with FanFan Janvier, a Haitian national and missionary to his own people, will be the keynote speakers at the 2007 ARM annual dinner. The Bensons and FanFan will share the progress being made at the Teacher Sponsorship schools in Haiti and the impact programs like this currently have and will have on the local communities and on Haiti as a country.



FanFan, Cathie & Greg

There are challenges with projects like these, so it will be exciting to hear where our prayers and support can make a vital difference. Last year's speakers will also be in attendance to give a brief update on the progress of the *Haiti Empowerment Project* which is working with Haiti Universities to build a stronger education system and empower Haitian teachers through collaboration efforts.

The evening will also include great food! Come and enjoy a great night out and an evening of Praise!



Unable to attend the Annual ARM Dinner but would still like to hear from Greg, Cathie and FanFan? They will also be at the following locations to speak.

Saturday, Sept 22nd at 6:00 PM  
Bemus Point United Methodist Church—evening service.

Sunday, Sept 23rd at 10:15 AM  
East Randolph United Methodist Church—morning service



ARM

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Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. I Corinthians 15:58