



The Haiti Partnership

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MONTROUIS

Montrouis is located at 75 kilometers from Port-au-Prince. It has about 70,000 people. It's a poor locality. The majority of families cannot send their children to school, eat, or drink good pure water. In order to help religiously, spiritually, and educatively in this area, the diocese of the Episcopal Church in Haiti implanted St Paul's Episcopal Church and St Paul's Episcopal School in 1958.



St. Paul's Church & School

St Paul's School

St Paul's school is a community of learners. It was founded in 1958 in order to help children in the area. In this school, we have a course in Christian education where we invite them to come and participate in the Sunday mass and prepare some for confirmation in order to join our church. When I arrived as priest in charge on March 2007, it had 178 students with some in the kindergarten and some in the primary. Before the month of September, the parents of the students who will graduate in their end class or will finish their primary school, told me they'd like their children to continue the other classes in the same school. With that, I have tried to start with the second cycle, seventh grade and add one classroom year by year. Actually, the school has 245 students, some in the Kindergarten, some in the primary and some in the seventh grade, but we don't have enough space for the students, no good toilet facilities for the teachers or students, no good pure water, no hot meal for them.

So we thank all of you for your money you put together to send to St Paul's School. May God bless all of you. That you do this means you understand the essence of Christ's message is best realized by acts of charity, love and sharing. We encourage new friends to join our St Paul's School.

Contributed by Father Fruitho Michaud, the former Priest in Charge, St. Paul's Church, Montrouis, Haiti



URGENT MESSAGE SEPTEMBER 6, 2008



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I greet you at a very sad and hard time for the country of Haiti. I hope to give you a brief but informative update regarding our dire situation. We have been hit hard by a series of hurricanes, including Fay, Gustav, and Hanna. Hanna was particularly devastating, due to extensive flooding in Les Cayes, Cap-Haitien Gonaives, Hinche, Port de Paix, Leogane, Port au Prince, Croix des Bouquets, Bainet, Petit Trou de Nippes, Jacmel, Torbeck and many other regions. Numerous homes were completely underwater during the worst parts of the storm as rivers overflowed their banks, becoming massive walls of water. Communication is difficult or impossible in

many locations. There is infrequent or complete lack of electricity, many roads are destroyed, and rivers continue to overflow. Many bridges are unsafe to cross due to high waters, debris, and possible mud slides.

This destruction has made the day to day survival of the poorest people increasingly difficult. The storms have destroyed crops and homes, closed businesses, and prevented the people from obtaining clean water. Without these activities, the poor do not have the ability to obtain the daily money necessary for food or access to a healthy living situation. The destruction of the season's crops will intensify the food crisis with significantly less produce available for sale at market.

Haiti's children, in particular, will be greatly affected by the recent events in Haiti. Not only is there civil unrest, but the storms have ruined the livelihoods of their parents. With no money to buy food and future income producing crops destroyed, many children will not be able to attend school this fall. In such desperate situations as this, families must make choices as to who will be saved in a flood and who will eat each day. These are choices no person ever desires to make but even as I write this letter to you, the people of Haiti face this reality.

I would like to thank all of you for your prayers and support. Prayer is a powerful force against trouble, darkness, and trials. Thank you as well to those who are supporting us spiritually during this time of sorrow. Please know, too, that Haiti is also in great need of direct material support. The people have great courage and staunch hearts in the face of these events; however, they cannot live on courage alone. They must have sufficient food and clean water. Please pray and consider how you may help the Haitian people in these troubling times.

May God bless you,

The Rev. Kesner Ajax
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OUR PORT-AU-PRINCE MINISTRY

In addition to our financial and prayer support for St. Paul's Church and School at Montrouis in Haiti, The Haiti Partnership of the Diocese of West Tennessee has adopted St. Vincent's Children's Hospital in Port-au-Prince, the capital of Haiti.

This ministry was established by the Episcopal nuns of the Sisters of St. Margaret's over sixty years ago. Now St. Vincent's is the sole responsibility of the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti.

The hospital consists of administrative offices, school offices and a music area. It has a medical clinic, a dental clinic, a brace shop, cooking and dining facilities, and guest quarters. It has dorms on site for male and female infants and older girls. A boy's school and dorm are located around the corner from the hospital.

Elementary and secondary education is available at St. Vincent's. 350 students attend school there daily. Basic skills taught include reading, writing, math, Haitian history and English. Students, who are deaf, learn to sign, and blind students learn Braille. Music and the arts are taught also.

The hospital includes two full-time physicians, a pediatrician, and an orthopedic doctor, three nurses and a physical therapist. Other doctors volunteer regularly. Care is provided to the children who reside there and others on an out-patient basis.

The newly rebuilt brace shop provides prosthetics, orthopedic bracing and other apparatus needed to help correct and return to normal function the various deformities with which these beautiful children are stricken.

There is also a part-time dentist on staff. The dental clinic is frequently staffed by doctors from the United States. The dental clinic was recently upgraded and air conditioned for the patients' comfort. There is an interpreter on staff also to assist both doctors and patients.

St. Vincent's goal is to provide care for Haitian children who have physical challenges that make it impossible for the parents to care for them given their own meager circumstances. The children usually arrive as infants, and many have remained there to grow into young adults. It is the Center's hope to mainstream these young adults back into Haitian society.

The school currently has two teachers trained in the Montessori Method of teaching. It is their hope that this progressive method of education will help these students become more self-reliant. The school is partially funded by tuition from those students who can pay. A small fee is charged to those who are treated at the clinics also. These funds help support the entire Hospital.

We will be joining hands at St. Vincent's with the Presbyterian Church USA, The Children's Medical Mission of Haiti and the Friends of St. Vincent's to help provide food, medical, educational and musical supplies. These children are entirely dependent upon this help. The Government of Haiti has little or no resources to care for the least of these.

St. Vincent's provides a safe environment for its residents and day students, yet these children's lives continue to be filled



with hardships. The faculty and staff of St. Vincent's continue to do what they can to provide adequate living conditions, education and medical care for their population. It is a constant struggle to keep the children clothed, fed, educated and in good health. These are in every way, "Truly, the least of these."

*The Rev. Drew Woodruff,
Chairman
Haiti Partnership
Committee*

THE BISHOP'S JOURNAL



“Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity with itself.” (Psalm 122:3, a selection from the psalms assigned for January 9th's Daily Office reading.) We know that Jerusalem is not a city “at unity with itself.” Just look at the newspapers or watch TV. However, the psalm expresses a vision and not the on-the-ground reality. Having returned today from a mission trip to Haiti [January, 2008], I would say that it is also a land not at unity with itself. Yet, this internal unity is the vision of God that we have been invited to assist in bring about with the people of this remarkable country.

Seven of us met in Miami's airport to begin our encounter with these people. Some of us had been before. For others of us, this was a new experience. Four of us are from Memphis, two from Florida and one from Virginia. Ruth Lentz, our Haitian Partnership chairperson, gathered Dr. Susan Nelson, M.D., Madge Saba, R.N., and me together with two long-time friends of mine and a new friend as well. The long-time friends are the Rev. Bill and Margaret Squire. Margaret and Bill were missionaries serving in Haiti for over three years. Their knowledge of the people and culture allowed us to see with eyes that we might not have otherwise had. Our new found friend was the Rev. Lee Warren. Lee is a United Methodist Minister living in Virginia where she is a regional director for Stop Hunger Now, an exceptional feeding ministry for thousands. Lee was Ruth Lentz's college roommate at Sweet Briar, and they had obviously made a pact to not tell too many “good stories” from college days.

We were late getting out of Miami by about an hour because, as the pilot announced, he “couldn't get enough air to flow through the engine to take off.” I for one was more than willing to wait for that adjustment to be made. When we finally took off, each of us carried our own hopes, memories, and curiosity to this great venture in mission experience. We were met by Bishop Jean Zache Duracin at the airport in Port-au-Prince and ended day one at the Hotel Kinam in Petionville (pronounced “Pay-shun-ville.”)

I went to learn. Grace-St. Luke's, St. Mary's Cathedral, and the Church of the Holy Communion, Memphis joined with other volunteers from within and beyond the Episcopal Church last year to explore the partnership relationship with St. Paul's Mission and School, Montrouis (pronounced “Mon-wee.”) St. Paul's is our designated mission connection, and we spent a portion of our time there trying to assess the needs, learn from their loving and self-less spirits and set in motion new mission support for the future. Academic and health concerns topped the list.

Our second day took us to Bishop Duracin's office in Petionville. He offered a warm greeting and a helpful overview of the hopes and needs of their diocese. It was often noted during our trip that there is a tendency, in a desire to be helpful, to come in with our own solutions to issues that, for reasons of culture and practicality, will not work in someone else's world. He pointed out a number of ways partnership efforts could work hand in hand to address the many needs in Haiti.

We toured Trinity Cathedral with its colorful murals covering most walls and its beautiful hand-carved stone work. We visited the seminary in Port-au-Prince and met with the Dean, Oge Beauvoir and his spouse. A native Haitian, he left a position with the Episcopal Church in New York City to return to his home and raise up the next generation of indigenous clergy. Currently there are about forty priests for this country of eight million people that is the size of Maryland. I learned a good bit about the ways in which they use lay worship leaders and other lay ministers to carry on the ministry when the clergy are serving at other places.

We went to St. Vincent's, a mission facility for handicapped children in the heart of the city. The first Head of School was a woman who served generously there for many years before her death. She had founded the school “under a tree” with just God's love as her curriculum. We met the children, and we also met others who were “graduates” from the school but who live nearby and paint or do other things to make a living. The reality that most of them are without arms, legs or both makes this achievement all the more incredible.

It was to this mission that the Rev. Bill Squire went to serve as Interim while the bishop was seeking the next Head of School. Margaret accompanied him on the journey and continued to teach among the community.

Susan Nelson and Madge Saba both brought their medical experience and insight to each site throughout the trip that sought to address life and death as well as the many “quality of life” issues within this community. Their trained eyes were opened and their considerable medical knowledge challenged at what was being accomplished with so little. Thus ended Day Two, and we returned to the Hotel Kinam for dinner, conversation and rest.

We left early on Saturday morning. The local “market day” made our typical “trip to the grocery store” back home look a bit tame. Each side of the road and any space available in the alleyways were filled with merchants selling charcoal for heating, art for viewing, water for drinking and live chickens for that night's supper.

I must also say that the way the Haitian's drove did wonders for my prayer life. Bill Squire noted that the people on the island do not consider horn honking to be rude. Rather, it is a way to tell you that someone is coming up behind you so that you might be less likely to run into one another. Other than a broken mirror on the side of our car and seeing a rather destructive bus wreck on the way back to Montrouis, we neither suffered nor saw many other collisions. It was, in this regard, quite surprising.



HAITI CONNECTION

Haiti Connection 2008 Conference Scheduled for November 12-14, 2008 in Port-au-Prince, Haiti

The Haiti Connection 2008 will be held in Haiti in November 2008 marking 10 years since the first conference was held in Delray Beach, Florida. It will also be the first Haiti Connection Conference to be held in Haiti since 2003. Haiti Connection Conferences were held in Miami in 2005 and 2007.

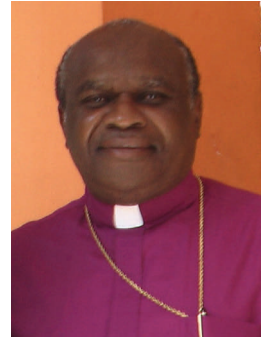
The Rt. Rev. Jean Zache Duracin, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti, will attend as will the diocesan clergy and lay leaders of the diocese. Main themes of the conference will be what's new in health care, development and education. While the primary focus will be on the mission and ministry of Episcopal and Presbyterian outreach efforts, any persons and all ministries engaged in ministry in Haiti are welcome to attend.

Pre-conference trips are also being planned to take small groups to mission projects throughout the country. These trips are especially helpful to newcomers to Haiti.

It will be a great time of learning, sharing, partnering, and mutual support.

Details of the conference schedule and registration will be posted soon. Please spread the word and come back to register.

Register online at www.HaitiConnection.org



The Rt. Rev. Jean Zache Duracin, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti

Our Haitian Partnership coordinator in Haiti is Pere Kesner Ajax. He was most helpful at each step of our journey, and we enjoyed getting to know him and his homeland. As we drove to Montrouis, Pere Ajax and Pere Michaud Fruitho, the local priest, provided hospitality that was well beyond what others might have been able to accomplish while working with so few material resources. We arrived at Montrouis on Saturday afternoon (a bumpy two-plus hour drive from Port-au-Prince that covered about fifty miles.) That evening we toured the old seminary that overlooked the ocean and enjoyed a beautiful sunset. We retired for the evening in anticipation of the celebration of the Feast of Epiphany the next morning.

We had a great Sunday Epiphany worship service. I was honored to be asked to preach. Pere Fruitho, Pere Ajax, Pastor Warren, Father Squire and I gathered at the altar together as men, women and black and white members of the clergy to share our various ministries among the people of Montrouis. At the vestry meeting that followed, I was deeply touched by Pere Fruitho's comments that they were honored to have me, as a bishop, come and celebrate my first Eucharist with them rather than in Port-au-Prince at the Cathedral. Other members of our troupe brought toys, school supplies and other items for the students of St. Paul's. It made for a full and rich day for all of us. Following the Eucharist and lunch, we packed and drove back to Port-au-Prince to spend the night at the Hotel Montana. This was a "reentry" hotel for us given its elegance and restful ambiance. It had been a full trip, and we hadn't even gone home yet to digest all we had seen and done.

The next day we were at the airport early. Due to a mechanical problem on a flight scheduled to leave the night before for Miami, hundreds of people gathered in the terminal awaiting their take off. We actually boarded our flight on time, but by the time the "stand by" fliers were added to our plane, we were over an hour late leaving Port-au-Prince. This meant that we who had chosen to go back to Memphis via Ft. Lauderdale were not able to clear customs in time to catch our flight home. American Airlines put the "Memphis four" up at a local hotel where we had dinner and were early to bed for our next-day-one-day-late flight to Memphis. Three of us flew out and arrived back in Memphis about noon. One of us (that would be me) was able to finally get back via Detroit about five o'clock. But in the end, we all made it safe, sound and challenged.

The Millennium Development Goals fit Haiti perfectly. Why? They need help for women's rights, children's education, community sanitation, and all the other MDG goals that have been listed. (www.er-d.org/mdg). Many of us have been able to help with both the "Domestic and Foreign" mission that defines the Episcopal Church's outreach to "this broken and sinful world" already. However, Haiti provides us a partnership opportunity in which we could never do enough but where we can definitely make a difference. I look forward to exploring this mission opportunity with you. Until then, know that I am glad to be home, but something of my heart will always remain in Haiti. +Don

The Right Reverend Don E. Johnson, Bishop of West Tennessee



The Haiti Partnership

September 2008

Dear Friends:

It's that back-to-school time of year again. Students everywhere are getting used to new uniforms, school supplies, computers, classrooms, and even new dormitory rooms.

It's also time for remembering the children of our partnership parish at St. Paul's, Montrouis in Haiti. Their new priest, Father Jacques Deravil, is hoping to provide scholarships for 250 children this year, which we understand will cost \$210 per child (including uniforms, supplies and teachers' salary). This comes to roughly 60 cents per day per child – think of it!

Won't you consider sponsoring a child at St. Paul's this year? Our goal is to raise as many scholarships as we can for as many children as possible. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could educate every child in their congregation? Just think what a difference that would make in the lives of these fellow Christians.

Please know we greatly appreciate your heartfelt consideration of this request. You may make your check payable to GSL Haiti Partnership and send it to the attention of Linda Stine, Grace-St. Luke's Church, 1720 Peabody Avenue, Memphis, TN 38104. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the Rev. Drew Woodruff at 336-1103 or anyone on the Haiti Partnership Committee, 5865 Ridgeway Center Parkway, Suite 300, Memphis, TN 38120.

With thanks,

The Rev. Drew Woodruff and
The Haiti Partnership Committee in
The Diocese of West Tennessee



OUR HAITI PARTNERSHIP

Want to make a lasting impression on your loved ones or colleagues while improving the lives of others? Consider honoring their birthday, anniversary, or any special occasion with a contribution to The Haiti Partnership for scholarships for the children of St. Paul's Church in the village of Montrouis, Haiti.

Simply complete the information below, including the names and addresses of those you would like to honor or remember. Please return to Linda Stine at Grace St. Luke's Church, 1720 Peabody Avenue, Memphis, TN 38104. Acknowledgement cards will go out to recipients and donors within a week. And may God bless you for being a huge blessing to the people of our partner parish in Haiti!

Donor Name _____ **Phone** _____

Address _____

Check (made payable to GSL Haiti Partnership) enclosed in the amount of \$ _____ **.**

Please print full names and addresses and circle whether honorarium or memorial:

In Honor/Memory of: _____ Name on Gift Card:

Address _____ City, State, Zip

In Honor/Memory of: _____ Name on Gift Card:

Address _____ City, State, Zip

In Honor/Memory of: _____ Name on Gift Card:

Address _____ City, State, Zip

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HAITI NEEDS YOU – RESPONDING TO THE MDGs

In two successive General Conventions, the Episcopal Church, USA has committed itself to eliminating world poverty by working through the Millennium Development Goals, or MDGs. These goals were set and agreed upon by the world through the United Nations, and are as follows:

Eradicate world poverty and hunger. The people of Haiti exist on less than \$1.00 per day. All you have to do is give .7% of your income to organizations that fight starvation in places like Haiti.

Achieve universal primary education for children. Simply sponsor a child in Haiti who otherwise could not attend school. There is no free public education in Haiti, and it can cost as little as \$200 a year for one child.

Promote gender equality and empower women. Support through your prayers and your treasure the work of the clinic at St. Vincent's Children's Hospital. Through education and neonatal care, these women will die less often in childbirth and develop healthier children.

Reduce child mortality. In Haiti, one out of six children born will die before age one. Develop an awareness of your use of water, the importance of good nutrition, and their effects on the infant mortality rate.

Improve maternal health. In Haiti expectant mothers are as likely to die in childbirth as to live to see their children born. Join us on our next trip to Haiti and support the clinic of St. Vincent's treating hundreds of mothers and children every week.

Combat HIV/Aids, malaria and other preventable diseases. Donate your time and treasure to help purchase mosquito nets, inexpensive medications, and resources for proper sanitation. All of this needs to be accomplished at St. Vincent's.

Ensure environmental stability. Haiti is an environmental disaster. Pollution is choking Port-au-Prince, the capital of Haiti. The native forests have been almost completely cut down. The topsoil from the deforested mountains is slowly being washed into the ocean. This is killing the reefs which support the fishing. People cut down what pine trees are left to burn and use for charcoal to cook with, thus compounding already polluted air. Develop an awareness of your impact on our environment. We all leave our footprints no matter where we live on this planet.

Create a global partnership. Contact any member of the Haiti Partnership of the Diocese of West Tennessee or call me on my mobile phone, Rev. Drew Woodruff, at 336-1103. We would be happy to talk to you about how YOU can make a difference in the lives of our children in Haiti!

Never heard of the MDGs? You are not alone, but together we have the power to make a huge difference. So little does so much good in Haiti!

The Rev. Drew Woodruff, Chairman, Haiti Partnership Committee

The Haiti Partnership

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The Haiti Partnership Committee requests you contact us at HaitiPartnership@hotmail.com with email addresses for yourself and anyone interested in receiving newsletters online to learn about our upcoming missions and ministry.

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