



THE BREAD

# LACROIX NEW TESTAMENT MISSION F E E D I N G   T H E   C H I L D R E N

PH. 011-509-755-5187  
ROUTE NATIONALE #1  
85 MILES NORTH OF  
PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI

VAUGELAS PIERRE  
AGAPE FLIGHTS #2152  
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VENICE, FL 34285

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THE WORD

October, 2007

“Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.” (James 1:27)

Dear Friends:

Greetings from whom all blessings flow. I have been in Pittsburgh from August 31 until October 1. As you know, it has been a routine for years to be in Pittsburgh in September. In November, Lord willing, I am going to be in Ohio and Indiana. It is always fun to be with friends. I look forward to seeing you all.

I want to thank all of you who have hosted me. You have done your best to make my stay very comfortable. Words are not enough to express my thanks and gratitude. Thanks to all those who have taken me out to eat or cooked special, delicious meals. I really appreciate that. It is always good to eat. Please “DO IT AGAIN” next year Lord willing! It was so kind of you to give me a home away from home. God bless you.

I am pleased to write you this newsletter in order to inform you length-wise and width-wise. I understand the importance for me to keep you posted. You pray for us daily and thus you know how to direct your prayer to God.

## PURE WATER PROJECT

In the past the greatest need of the people of my parish was water—now it’s Pure Water. This means that progress is being made. About three years ago, all the existing wells were tested and found to be contaminated due to pit latrines that are around or nearby. People were getting sick with typhoid, not knowing how they got it. Last May, Dr. Patti Fisher, accompanied by her husband David, a nurse practitioner, a PA and a translator came with the Thomas Presbyterian outreach group. It was David’s first trip to Haiti, while his wife has been there many times. While David was there, he contacted a man who works with Pure Water for the World and asked him to see if he could meet him. He introduced him to me and we talked about Pure Water and how Lacroix can participate. Then David invited me to go to Vermont in order for him to follow up with the idea. There are occasions you only find once in life, and thus I accepted his invitation. Before I even made it to Vermont, the man whom I was introduced to was looking for me because he received words from Vermont that this program should be started right away. Thank God.

## POLITICAL SITUATION

I want to thank you for your prayers. The situation is better now. The security is not one hundred percent, but it is better. Many who were causing the insecurity were arrested and put in jail. Others are in hiding because they are under arrest. They have been cracking down on the drug traffickers. The UN and the Haitian government are doing a very good job. We were blaming the UN for not doing anything to bring security in the country, not knowing it was our government who decided not to do anything. Now they are helping. Thank God. Someone said one has to be careful because the snakes are only sleeping and they can be awakened any time if they are not killed.

## ARE YOU MYRTHA’S FATHER?

I don’t know if it is due to old age, but I missed my flight in Haiti and this was a bad time for one to miss a flight. I was scheduled to leave Port au Prince on Tuesday, August 21, at 9:30 am and somehow I forgot and when I arrived at the airport, my flight had been gone for about an hour. Due to Hurricane Dean’s passage in Haiti, there were no flights out of Haiti Saturday afternoon or Sunday. Therefore on Tuesday there were still a lot of people trying to leave the country. Missing my flight did not leave me with much chance to leave the country that day. I checked in on stand by and I had not made it on that flight either. I was worried knowing that I had to go to Vermont on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. When I went to check whether or not I was going to be on the next plane, I was sent back to the ticket counter but I didn’t understand why. Sometimes all we have to do is obey without understanding why. I went to the ticket counter and the lady who was attending me asked me, “Are you Myrtha’s father? She was my classmate and she is my friend.” With her authority, I was on the next plane that they said I was not going to be on. I thank God for that.

By the way, I want to thank you for helping Myrtha with her college tuition. She continues to covet your financial support for her college tuition. She is doing well with her classes. I ask you to also continue to pray for her.

## VISIT IN VERMONT

On Thursday, August 23, I missed my flight again to Vermont. I could not understand what was going through my mind. The Lord worked it out and I was able to be on the next flight to Burlington, Vermont, without paying a penalty as

some thought I would. David and his lovely daughter Hannah met me at the airport and took me to their house. There was a very warm welcome. On Friday morning, arrangements were made for Stacey to take me to Dr. Rachel who was supposed to examine me for my pain in the leg. No medicine was needed, for she thinks it is what we call Iliotibial syndrome and it needs to be treated by stretching exercises. Saturday afternoon Margaret, the nurse who went to Haiti with Dr. Patti, came to pick me up and take me to her home. She and her husband Michael took me to the lake. Unfortunately bad weather was forecast and we could not stay there too long. But whatever time we spent was very enjoyable. Saturday evening there was a cocktail party at the house in order to raise funds for the pure water program in Lacroix. I had the opportunity of meeting Carolyn Meub and her husband Bill. Carolyn works with Pure Water for the World. I was also introduced to Professor Ferdinand Joseph who teaches at St. Michael's College. We talked about how Haitian students can be admitted into this college.

## ORPHANS

Six months ago within walking distance of the mission, more than four hundred orphans have been discovered. Some of the parents have died from AIDS and others by voodoo. Again I became aware how evil power is at work in that particular village. I am going to concentrate my efforts to evangelize that area. Right now my priority is not an orphanage but to get them in school and to feed them right where they are. To have all of them in school for the first time would cost \$40,000 (USD) and then \$20 a month. So far we have gotten money to put 28 in school. As it's said in our language, "Little by little the bird builds its nest." The testimony of some of them is very tragic. Let me share one with you: Mother and father both died and the eldest is 17. Struggling for her survival and that of her siblings, men took advantage of her and she became pregnant. I could not stop drying my eyes when I heard that, knowing that it is for a time like that the Lord has brought me to Lacroix. I could not forget myself for taking that long to be aware of this.

You may wonder how we picked these 28 children from the 400+. What we did was this: we picked from the list and we read their story.

## CHILD SPONSORSHIP

Due to the above story of the discovery of the orphans, we are trying to focus our endeavors on finding sponsors for them. So far we have about ten of them who are sponsored and we are still working on finding sponsors for the others. If you would like to sponsor one or more of these orphans, please call Shelley at 412-279-2996 during office hours at Hillside Christian Community.

We have 800 children sponsored and our expectation is to have at least half of the total enrollment of the school which is 3500 children. If we can get at least 1750 children sponsored, we would be able to expand the services offered to the school children. Please pray about that.

Maybe you cannot sponsor a child by yourself.

What you can do is to find people who can join with you to do that, or you might talk to your church and encourage others to do likewise. Maybe you want to help one or several of them go to school. If you are not able at all to sponsor a child, that is fine also but you can do the best by praying for sponsors for these children.

## MONETARY DONATIONS FOR FOOD

During the Sponsorship Coordinator's meeting on September 23, one of the primary issues discussed was making food available for all school children. Currently, out of approximately 3,500 children, only 800 or so are sponsored. The ratio is disheartening. Periodically, sponsors designate money for specific food items to be given to their child(ren) and their family members. There are too many children that are left out of this special blessing. We are not asking sponsors to stop providing for their child(ren)/family, however, we are asking that sponsors prayerfully consider the needs of all children (including the orphans) at the LaCroix New Testament Mission.

The kindness and generosity of your gift to one child and family is of great benefit and blessing. Unfortunately to those who never receive any additional food or help and who, at many times, have absolutely nothing, it creates an opportunity for jealousy and economic imbalance in the village and community. So we are asking you to please continue with your additional gifts for food and help and assistance for the children and families, but to allow for the overseers of the food distribution program to use discretion and sensitivity in the distribution of that food, knowing full well that a good portion of the food will go to your child and their family, but that the remaining portion will be distributed on an "as-needed" basis to those who are in most desperate need for help and assistance and who do not have a sponsor to bless them in this very special way. Your acceptance and support of this adjustment in this food distribution practice would greatly enhance the effectiveness of the Lacroix New Testament Mission in helping to bring blessing, help, and encouragement to the lives of all other children and their families.

Some options that are proposed include:

- 1) Sponsor additional children.
- 2) Designate monetary donations to a general food fund for all school children.

You will be receiving information in the near future outlining these options from which to choose.

## KINDERGARTEN

Four years ago we sent one of our students to college in Port au Prince to major in kindergarten teaching. She graduated last July and now she is back to teach kindergarten. She wants to improve the school and to make it fun for the children. It is going to cost a considerable amount of money in order for this to happen. First, the number of children per classroom would have to drop from 60 children to 25 at the most. We have to do that if we want the children to benefit. Changes are hard to accept, but I am willing to accept them. Our prayer

is to have enough money to do what is required for the kindergarten curriculum to be adopted in our school. A member of St. David's Episcopal Church is trying to get us the necessary teaching materials. Thank God for that. Our construction met the standard. We are changing the school desks to small chairs and round tables. Chairs are to be painted rainbow colors to allow children to learn the different colors. I can't wait to see the outcome of all this change. Please pray.

## VOCATIONAL SCHOOL

It is our goal this year to take the vocational school to another level. Children need to be equipped with a skill so they can earn a living when they leave the school. Most of them come to school at twelve years of age or older, therefore they are not going to finish high school. We want them to learn a trade so they can make it after they leave the school. Right now we are recruiting teachers to teach masonry. I talked to one of them who used to teach in a professional school in Gonaives, 10 miles north of Lacroix. I understand the government was paying him \$100 (Hts) an hour, equivalent to \$14.30 (USD). If he teaches 10 hours a week, it is \$143 and in a month it is \$572 (USD) or he can have a full-time schedule which will be to our advantage. If we have four teachers like that in four disciplines, it would be \$2288 (USD) a month. If we have full-time teachers, it could cost \$5,000 a month. For now we will start with part-time teachers. However for the masonry trade, because of the construction that we have constantly, we might have to hire this teacher full time. The advantage in this is that the teacher along with the students will build the buildings, and we might just need to hire two more people to work with him.

I am praying for someone in the US, a retired person or someone who feels called to go, to be in charge of the vocational school. This person could supervise and evaluate the program. Please pray with me for that.

## REFORESTATION

Last year, a couple at Chartiers Hill Presbyterian Church who heard me speak about the need for reforestation, gave me \$500 to start it. Qualified people have been hired to work in this program. Now trees such as ficus, mango, papaya, and citrus have been distributed to the school children in Lacroix. Hopefully we will be able to do the same in the other schools of the mission such as Lacoupe, Perisse and Boukan Tony. We might need to start it for them instead of taking the trees there, since they have the possibility to do that.

Seven years ago, we planted several dozen ficus trees at the mission and at the clinic. Now they are big and we are reproducing trees from them through layering. Now we don't have to buy any more, for we can start them ourselves. We thank the Lord for that.

I believe reforestation is the only hope for Haiti. Right now it is a big hassle for people to find wood to cook with, and we want to have this problem solved. This program will directly affect 15,000 people. Please pray that we will be able to

keep this program going for the well-being of the people in Haiti.

## MEDICAL CLINIC

The medical clinic is going well. We have come to the point where the presence of a physician is a necessity. Between 100 to 150 patients are seen each day. We are close to hiring a Haitian doctor who was trained in Cuba. One was interviewed but did not meet our expectancy. This one is a little different. When it comes to the salary, he said that he is not worried about that because he knows that once he proves himself, we will pay him good. Now we are waiting to get the approval of Public Health Regional Director before we take action.

## MEDICAL PERSONNEL RESIDENCE

The Lacroix mission values its employees and that is why a place is being prepared to accommodate doctors and nurses who are now working and who will be working in the clinic and maternity unit. It is going to be five stars. We thank God for the total commitment of Dr. Fred Landenwitsch and his architect friend Joe Vanderheide who have made this possible through their bike ride across America and for all of you who have supported them. Thanks also for all those who continue to support this project. Even though the building is almost complete, we still need to buy furniture to put in it and this is going to cost some money.

People in Lacroix have never seen a house like this. They could not believe such a building is in their midst. I don't want to brag about it, but you should see it with your own eyes. It will accommodate 12 people, two per bedroom. Also available will be electricity 24/7, internet, DSS or digital satellite system, telephone, and private transportation. It is expected to be done next month. As far as the house is concerned, it is ready now but an in-ground cistern is still under construction.

## COMMUNITY OF HOPE

Community of Hope is the name given to a village that is now under construction for hopeless and homeless people. This project is supported by churches and individuals in the US. The first quad was built and dedicated in memory of Linsey N. Loether, the dear and beloved daughter of David & Andrea Loether who came to Haiti to help the victims of Hurricane Jeanne in Gonaives. She was killed two months later. The second unit is still under construction and will be dedicated in memory of our dear brother-in-Christ George King who had been in Haiti numerous times to work on the clinic and grain mill building. He also worked with the crew who wired the big generator that Westminster Church bought for the mission. The dedication will take place in February next year. There may be two buildings dedicated in February, Lord willing—this one and the Medical Personnel Residence. A third Community of Hope unit is not under roof yet but will be soon. We have people that are waiting to move into those buildings.

## HILLSIDE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

1050 Campbells Run Road  
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### THE GRAIN MILL

For one and a half years the grain mill was down due to the need of money to purchase a new generator. People were coming to me, for they thought it was a project that we had neglected. I kept telling them to pray, for the Lord can do anything. Two months ago, Hillside Christian Community in Carnegie (PA) where Rev. David Morgan pastors, gave eight thousand dollars to buy the needed generator. You should have seen the excitement of the people in Lacroix. It seems that they appreciate it more than when they first heard of it. I thank the Lord for answering prayers.

### OUTREACH

Last summer, there were two outreach groups who came to Lacroix. One was led by Denise Douglas from Thomas Presbyterian Church in Eighty Four, PA. The Vermont team led by Dr. Patti Fisher joined them. The second group was led by Rev. David Morgan of Hillside Christian Community. Their purpose was to build the new kitchen cabinets in the guest house and to build tables for the dining room and the sewing class.

This fall two more groups are expected. Both are from New Day Assembly of God, where Rev. Jeff Marshall pastors. The first group is going to be in Haiti from October 6 - 13. They are going to have a seminar for teachers, paint some classrooms, and also minister in the Word. We are going to have a great time with them.

The second group will be lead by Rev. William Spriggs. Their purpose is to launch an evangelistic campaign in Paul, a remote village where the power of darkness is so great. This is the place where I was told by some lads last year when my vehicle was stuck in mud that I was in a cannibal village. During the week of December 22 - 29 we are going to be there 24/7. We will be doing house-to-house visitation during the day and open air meetings in the evening. New Day Assembly of God is going to buy us a portable

sound system that we can use in our open air meetings. We covet your prayers.

### GOAT PROJECT

The goat project will be started this month when I go back to Haiti. Everything is ready for them. A lot of preparation was done. Grass is growing, and a shed to protect them from the sun and rain is being built. People who will take care of them are trained. Dr. Kelly, the vet, is going to help me purchase them. As I said we need dairy goats to help the malnourished children. I learned a lot about goats in the seminar that I did not know before. Haitians always say that goats don't drink water. It is false because they do.

### PRAYER REQUESTS

- 1) Pray that the orphans' basic needs are met.
- 2) Pray that all children in the school have plenty of food to eat.
- 3) Pray that money be provided to buy a bus for transportation of teachers and workers.
- 4) Pray for the Pure Water program and all those who work in it.
- 5) Pray that money be provided for school buildings, including the one at the mission.
- 6) Pray that God sends workers to His harvest.
- 7) Pray for the reforestation program.
- 8) Pray for all the churches and friends that support the work in Lacroix.
- 9) Pray for all sponsors who support children.
- 10) Pray for a successor for Pierre.

Again we want to thank you for making it possible to continue this work which benefits greatly the people in Lacroix. Had it not been for you, none of the progress mentioned above would be done. May God continue to bless you & yours. For Calvary cause,

Pierrermithe