

HAITI MISSION MAY 2011

JOURNAL ENTRIES 5/16 – 5/17: PREPARING FOR OUR JOURNEY

Monday, May 16, 2011

Tomorrow, May 17th will begin the 2011 Haiti Mission Trip from St. Paul in Los Angeles. The mission team includes members from St. Paul, Greater Los Angeles Community, Concordia University Irvine, Lincoln, NE, New York, and Haiti. A total of 24 team members will make up the team. We will be ministering and working for the first time in Leogane, Haiti. The trip will include our normal agenda of the following: Construction projects, VBS, Worship, Community Outreach, total availability to the local needs of the Lutheran Churches/Missions in the area. It will be our privilege to work in collaboration with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti and the Lutheran Church of Haiti. President Marky Kessa (ELCH) and President Revenel Benoit (LCH). Our team members ages range from 17-70! God will be using all the gifts of this team to advance the mission and ministry of the Lutheran Church bodies in Haiti. The area of Leogane was the epicenter for the January 2010 earth quake.

Tuesday, May 17, 2011

As I begin this first entry of the 2011 Haiti Travel Log, the St. Paul and Concordia University Haiti Mission team, consisting of twenty-four individuals, ranging in age from 17-70, is in the final stages of preparation for our journey. By the time most of you read this first entry, we will have landed in Port Au Prince and traveled by land to Leogane, Haiti. Leogane is in Southwest Haiti and was the epicenter of the January 2010 earthquake. There is still much devastation here, so one of our major efforts will be to build homes/churches/offices. We will also conduct VBS, engage in a major feeding program, community outreach, make ourselves total availability to the local needs of the Lutheran Churches/Missions in the area and perhaps, assist in local orphanages.

It will be our privilege to work in collaboration with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti (President Marky Kessa) and the Lutheran Church in Haiti (President Revenel Benoit) We have recently learned, that one of last year's mission participants, Lindsey Kingsland (a CUI graduate and star basketball player), has decided to move to Haiti, in September, to teach English as a second language. We are thankful that the Lord has so directed her life.

On Sunday May 15, the California based members of the team traveled to St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church (the 'Lighthouse' at 9th & Adams). Students, parents and friends participated in an orientation and Q &A about the planned trip. This was followed by an inspiring sermon by Dr. Bryant Clancy and a commissioning of the team. A light church lunch, consisting of about ten thousand calories per person, guaranteed that most will not be hungry until we arrive in Haiti on Wednesday morning.

On Monday, two divisions of the team, one in Los Angeles & one in Irvine, will finish the final packing of personal items, VBS materials, construction tools, and donated clothing. On Tuesday, we will meet at the American Airline ticket counter at 6:00 PM. Our plane departs at 9:45 PM and arrives in Miami at 5:45PM. Our flight to Port Au Prince departs About 7:45 AM.

I have begun the first entry now, because once we are in transit and arrive in Haiti, any type of communication may be difficult for the first several days. Hence, the plan is to send this email shortly before we depart for Miami. Thus, most of you will first read this entry, after we have arrived. Other entries will be made as we progress through the final stages of preparation. We ask that you remember our team in your prayers.

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The highlight of Monday, May 16th involved the packing and weighing of the sixty plus suitcases and boxes that constitute our spiritual and physical life support while in Haiti. Each item is limited to fifty pounds, so the concept is to make adjustments to individual items at the packing location, not at LAX.

In case of emergency, the phone number of Lay Preacher Lophane Laurent may be of use to you 011-509-3-750-1677. Just in case you are looking for a charity to sponsor, Lophane Laurent runs a feeding program that typically feeds between 13,000-16,000 students a day!!!!

We have said our good-byes to friends/family (we closed with the Lord's Prayer) and are now in the Admiral's Lounge at LAX. American Airlines was kind enough to let us in at a substantially reduced rate, which was the good news. This had been preceded by the bad news, which was the bill for excess baggage--lots of zeros. We will dine shortly then hop on our 'red eye' to Miami. We will arrive at MIA at 5:45 AM local time, which makes it 2:45 AM LA time. So, if anyone would like a live update on our travels, let me know now, and we will give you a call, so you can keep your friends updated.

Will try to update during our layover in MIA.

