

Special points
of interest:

- Hurricane Relief in Haiti
- Graduate Report: Richard Rodney
- Student-led Seminars: The Chance to Give Back
- Endowment Fund: A Vision for the Future

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Haiti Update

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October 2008

September: A Month of Tragedies for Haiti

If you Google: Haiti/News/Images you will see evidence of the devastation of the recent hurricanes. Hanna and Ike hit Gonaives and other areas with a 1-2 punch, only 4 short years after Hurricane Jeanne destroyed Gonaives.

- One of our CBT graduates, Daniel Alexandre lost all his possessions – and he lives in a 2nd story apartment.
- Bellot Calice (a graduate of the first class and one of our Haitian directors) ministers in Ft. Liberte where members lost homes, animals and gardens.
- In Ft. Liberte, Anilus Justin (from the 3rd class) huddled with his family in a corner of their orphanage, while the storm blew tin off the roof of where they kept the food for the orphanage children.
- Employees at the CBT had their beds ruined, in St. Michel crops and homes were ravaged by storm, and many of the students had their homes damaged.



Daniel Alexandre and baby

...And there is no Red Cross, no FEMA, no insurance.

Members of the church are going in to Haiti to try to help. Nancy Pharr and Donna Ashley went to Cap Haitien the week after the hurricanes, distributing food, clothing and school supplies to churches. Holly Eckhart, Melissa Jung and some other medical folks went to Haiti the next week, to distribute relief funds. Eddie Randolph, Dale Huff and David Dirrim will be going in during the month of October to teach and can carry in relief funds as they are given.

But a greater tragedy went on in September, and before and after the hurricanes:

(continued inside)

But a greater tragedy went on in September, and before and after the hurricanes: (continued from cover)

- This morning women across Haiti threw a bucket of dirty water out their front door before anyone left the house, to disperse the evil spirits waiting there.
- In thousands of homes, there is a little chair, a wash basin and a cup, all unused, to welcome Satan if he should come looking for a welcome.
- Men, women and children are wearing rings, charms and bracelets to protect them from curses and to fulfill contracts they have made with the evil spirits
- At the end of October, while American kids dress up for trick-or-treat, in Haiti families will take food to graves to appease their dead relatives.
- Somewhere, a lady sings a song: “Thank you witch doctor for all...”
- Somewhere else on another day, at a waterfall or a mud hole worshippers ask to be possessed by spirits.



Voodoo temple
Lovana behind the
CBT

And every day hundreds die after living an average of only 50 years, and they find out just how badly they have been deceived.

So in 1997, the first class of the CBT began with 12 men. Now in the 4th class they are carrying the gospel to Haiti. Churches are growing and maturing. We are reaching out farther than ever before through our graduates and through printed materials in Haitian Creole.

We need to continue to look at things with a spiritual perspective. In Ephesians 1:17-21, Paul says:

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

We will never solve all the daily physical tragedies going on in Haiti. But spiritual poverty and slavery to Satan is a tragedy that we can and are doing something about. We need to keep our focus on those spiritual tragedies and victories, and continue to work with eternity in mind.



Baptism in Peltan
after gospel meeting

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Students Giving Back



CBT Students lead a seminar in Thomassique

The students at the Center for Biblical Training have a break month after every 3 months of classes to give them the opportunity to go home to their families and churches. The first week of this break, the students “give back” some of the blessings of Bible education they have been given as they go travel out to teach seminars in village churches.

“They prayed and studied with the people, then gathered part of their food money together to give.”

In April, the students traveled to the mountain village of Thomassique, near Hinche. On the way, they stopped by a village of blind people and a home for the destitute. At both places, they prayed and studied with the people, then gathered part of their food money together to give.

In Thomassique, the students visited members of the community and invited them to evening Bible studies. They also conducted individual studies with those who were interested. As a result of their efforts during the day, they had over a hundred people attending the evening Bible studies, where they talked about the nature of the church, the plan of salvation and other topics. On Sunday morning, they had more than 200 people in attendance. The students were very encouraged at the people’s response, especially since Thomassique has had no organized congregation of the churches of Christ up until this point. After the students left, Raphael said that 3 people were baptized as a result of this evangelistic effort. He is also continuing to study with several of the people with whom they made contact.

Upcoming Trips to Haiti

- Eddie Randolph of Tampa, Florida, will be traveling to Haiti in early October to teach a seminar on the Gospel of Luke.
- David Dirrim will be in Haiti from October 8th to 18th, teaching a seminar on Kings and Chronicles and working on maintenance around the school.
- Dale Huff will be teaching a seminar on Sermon on the Mount, using materials translated into Haitian Creole through our Translation Project in late October
- Melinda Cox will bring a group at the end of October.

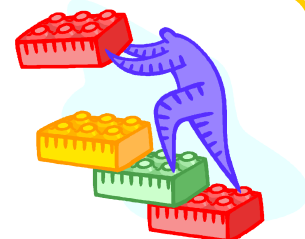
There are so many opportunities to serve in Haiti. Won't you consider joining a group and coming to see the needs and ongoing work in Haiti for yourself? If you're interested, contact Tim Mastenbrook at tim-m@carolina.rr.com.



Endowment Fund Challenge

The mission of the Haitian Christian Foundation is **“To prepare selected students to be servant evangelists to spread the gospel of Christ, and to minister to the needs of the Haitian people in the Spirit and likeness of Christ.”**

Believing this mission should continue to build up the church in Haiti for years to come, an anonymous donor issued a matching-funds challenge to the HCF to raise \$50,000 this year for our endowment fund. We have raised \$40,000, which leaves us \$10,000 short of our total. In order to benefit from the matching-funds, we must raise the additional money by the end of 2008. If you have been blessed with financial resources, and desire to provide permanent ongoing support for an evangelistic effort, please consider helping us meet our goal. Contact Ann Herron (915/677-0033) or Tim Mastenbrook (704/843-5824) for more information.



Building an endowment for the future



Haitian Christian Foundation

402 Cypress
Suite 511
Abilene, TX 79601

Phone: 325-677-0033
E-mail: hcfcbt@juno.com

**Making a difference in Haiti in
the Lord's name**

Mailing Address Line 1

Mailing Address Line 2

Mailing Address Line 3

Mailing Address Line 4



Graduate Report: Richard Rodney

"I want to inform you that we organized a week of revival at Peltan from August 10th to August 17th. God blessed us a lot because we had several preachers come like Daniel Alexandre, Jean Jocelin, Julien Pierre Antoine, Gaston Desauguste, Joseph Joel, Rosier Yvio and Lucner Pierre. As result, 24 souls came to the Lord and 15 others who had left the Church came back to the Lord. I'm very blessed by this week and the Church is blessed also.

May God bless you,

Sincerely Richard Rodney "



**Gospel
Meeting in
Peltan**



**New
Christians**