

LOTT CAREY Herald



Published by the Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention

August 2012/Annual Session Issue

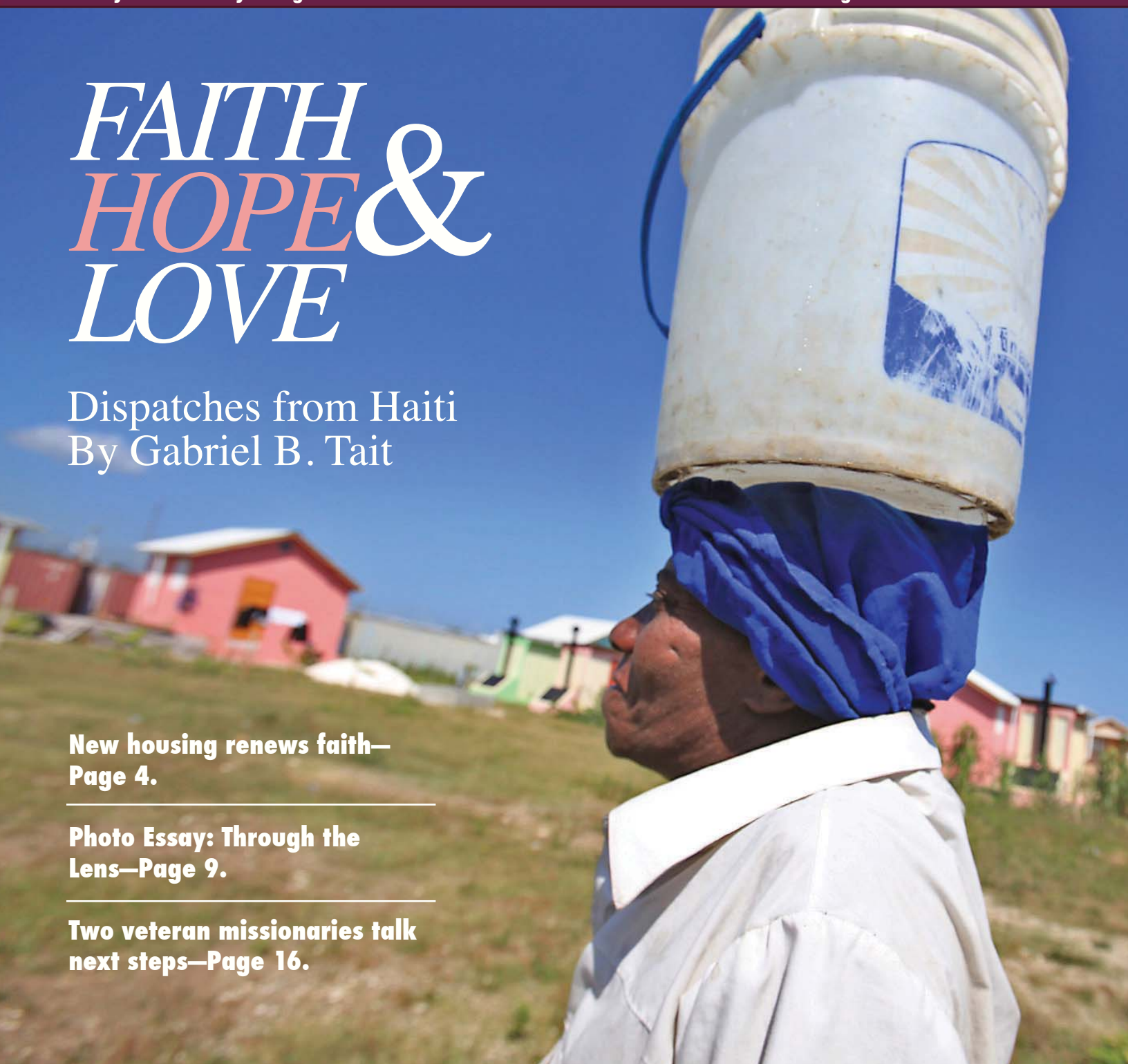
FAITH HOPE & LOVE

Dispatches from Haiti
By Gabriel B. Tait

**New housing renews faith—
Page 4.**

**Photo Essay: Through the
Lens—Page 9.**

**Two veteran missionaries talk
next steps—Page 16.**



CONVENTION EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President

Dr. Robert G. Murray

First Vice President

Dr. Gregory K. Moss

Second Vice President

Dr. Alyn E. Waller

Chairman, Board of Directors

Dr. John M. Alexander, Jr.

Vice Chairman, Board of Directors

Dr. David C. Forbes, Sr.

Chairman Emeritus

Dr. Norman W. Smith

Executive Secretary-Treasurer

Dr. David Emmanuel Goatley

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President

Mrs. Antoinette W. Winslow

First Vice President

Mrs. Debra G. Garner

Second Vice President

Ms. Carol W. Mohamed

LAYMEN'S LEAGUE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Team Leader

Mr. Bernard Lott

Short-Term Missions

Mr. Gregory Gabriel

Special Projects

Mr. Tony Taylor

Recruitment

Mr. Lawrence Campbell

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

Team Leader

Rev. Trevor Beauford

Associate Team Leader

Ms. Camille Anderson

Associate Team Leader

Rev. Amanda Haines

Lott Carey

Lott Carey

Publisher & Editor

Dr. David Emmanuel Goatley

Deputy Editor

Mike Tucker

Design Director

Dash Parham

Copy Editor

Tonga Peterson

Contributing Editors

Kathi L. Reid

Rev. Dawn M. Sanders

Published by the Lott Carey

Foreign Mission Convention

220 Eye Street, NE,

Suite 220

Washington, DC 20002-4362

202-543-3200

Current and back issues of the
Lott Carey Herald are avail-
able online at LottCarey.org

Editor's Note: Lott Carey Herald is proud to publish the words and images of Gabriel B. Tait, a gifted and blessed photojournalist and minister of the Gospel. All photographs in this issue are © 2012 by Gabriel B. Tait/Mission with Visions.

About Gabriel B. Tait, Photojournalist



Gabriel B. Tait of Pittsburgh, Pa., is an Intercultural Studies Ph.D. Candidate; adjunct instructor at the E. Stanley Jones School of World Missions & Evangelism at Asbury Theological Seminary and the Director of Outreach at Total Grace Baptist Church in Lexington, Ky. His research interests include the people and cultures of Liberia; the history of African Americans in missions; missionary photography, and how the study of visual representation shapes personal identity. Prior to seminary, he served nearly two decades as an international photojournalist for top American papers. Tait has covered events in Iraq, Kosovo, Egypt, and around the globe. He earned a M.A. in Intercultural Studies at Asbury Theological Seminary and a B.A. in Communication with an emphasis on photojournalism at Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania. You can write to Gabriel at SightBeyondMySight@gmail.com

Table of Contents



LIFE GOES ON—A trio of resilient women, toting personal belongings on their heads, must navigate rough terrain because a landslide destroyed the road.

Gabriel's Haiti Journal

Celebrate Service—A profile of the housing initiative created by the African American Baptist Mission Collaboration and Habitat for Humanity, a partnership that is renewing faith and changing lives. **Page 4.**

Trees of Life—A visit to the mountains of Haiti reveals an ambitious effort to save the country's ecosystem, which advocates believe will help heal the nation. **Page 6.**

Through the Lens—Yes, the 2010 earthquake victimized Haiti but as Gabriel reveals in his stunning photo essay, Haitians are an enduring people determined to rebuild their lives and nation. **Page 9.**

Next Steps—Two veteran missionaries— Dr. Carroll A. Baltimore Sr. of the Progressive National Baptist Convention and Dr. Stephen J. Thurston Sr. of the National Baptist Convention of America—offer their views on what's happened and the challenges ahead. **Page 16.**

Lott Carey Herald/August 2012

Life-Changing Event In Haiti Unites God's People From Around the World in Good Works

By Dr. David Emmanuel Goatley

Life changed for millions on 12 January 2010.

The historic earthquake in Haiti left hundreds of thousands dead or injured, millions displaced, and countless businesses destroyed. An already struggling country was put deeper in distress.

But from the ruins a spirit of generosity burst forth for a number of months, and huge sums of money were raised in the name of relief. People have traveled to Haiti in droves, and the need has sparked engagement by some who had never traveled outside their contexts for service and support. Questions have surfaced about the funds pledged, paid, and used.

Life also changed for the Lott Carey global missional community. The spirit of collaboration embraced African American Baptists in a unique way. The National Baptist Convention of America; the National Baptist Convention, USA; the National Missionary Baptist Convention of America; the Progressive National Baptist Convention, and Lott Carey formed the African American Baptist Mission Collaboration (AABMC) to link resources and amplify our impact to help Haiti rise. This is the first time that African American Baptists across the country came together for ministry impact since 1895.

Lott Carey provides the administrative and programmatic support for the collaboration. Together, we have enabled the short-

term missions planning and implementation for large numbers of individuals, groups, and churches to serve in Haiti. Together, we pledged and paid a million-dollar gift to Habitat for Humanity in 2010, less than 10 months after AABMC was formed. That initiative has provided housing solutions to some 2,000 families along with hundreds of sanitation solutions and more than 700 jobs for Haitians. This gift was leveraged to attract other large contributions and was the largest single gift to Habitat from a faith community for post-earthquake Haiti.

Life also changed for African-American Christians and Haitians in the Diaspora. An unprecedented partnership has been formed between Haitians living in America, Haitian Americans, and African-American Christians to advance an advocacy agenda. The advocacy priorities for the Haitian Diaspora/African-American Christian Coalition focus on areas of immigration as well as inclusivity and transparency in contracting. The Coalition is working:

- To secure a Haitian Family Reunification Parole Program that, modeled on the Cuban Family Reunification Parole Program, will allow Haitians who have immediate family members legally residing in the U.S. awaiting immigration processing to reunite in America. This provision exists for Cubans but not for Haitians. We continue to insist on a human rights policy that is fair.

- To ensure that Haitian entities be able to access grant and contract dollars awarded for



study confirmed that less than two percent of reconstruction contracts had been awarded to Haitians for work in Haiti.

- To gain greater transparency in contract and grant awards for work in Haiti. Better transparency will enable improved accountability concerning including Haitians and Haitians in the Diaspora in opportunities to contribute to the rebuilding of Haiti.

The earthquake shook some things apart. But it also shook some things together. This edition of the Lott Carey Herald is designed to offer a glimpse of how we can do more together than apart. I hope you will be inspired to more.

Dr. David Emmanuel Goatley is Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention.

AABMC: An 'Unprecedented Alliance' Renews Lives and Lifts Christ in Haiti

By Kathi L. Reid

It was called an "unprecedented alliance" when five historical Baptist Conventions of African-American heritage came together in January 2010 to respond to the earthquake that devastated the Republic of Haiti. Formed as the African American Baptist Mission Collaboration (AABMC), they pledged to rebuild and respond compassionately to Haiti's needs through advocacy, ministry and empowerment. The AABMC also pledged to make an

impact by creating synergies—collaborations with financial support and technical assistance—to aid relief and recovery in coming years.

Nearly three years later, we continue to engage in service delivery and sustainable development in Haiti. The AABMC's one-million-dollar investment in Habitat for Humanity's Haiti relief effort allowed for the construction of emergency and transitional shelters, the damage assessment of 4,000 properties, distribution of emergency

shelter kits, and the design and building of 150 permanent houses in the Santo community in Léogâne. About 8400 people benefited from our donation to Habitat and 700 jobs were created. Additional housing investments have allowed 12 permanent homes built for homeless families of the Lott Carey Baptist Church in Léogâne.

The AABMC's latest housing project will impact more than 300 beneficiaries with sustainable housing and community develop-



CELEBRATE SERVICE

HOLDING DAD—Likenson Henry, almost two years old, clings to his father Lucner Henry, 42, while visiting friends in their Santo community.



New Homes

Mark Fresh Start for Haitian Families

Photos and Text:

By Gabriel B. Tait / Mission with Visions

.....

The noonday sun beats down on residents as they go about their daily routines: up high two men stand on a metal container installing razor wire around the perimeter of the community; to the right, two ladies laugh while braiding hair, to the left of another lady stands in her make-shift addition selling snacks to the children, and a little further to the left is a lady washing clothes in a round blue tub singing in Creole, “Thanks to you Lord . . . If I am living it’s thanks to you Lord.”



These sights and sounds offer a glimpse of the residents of the new Santo housing community in Léogâne, Haiti, about five miles from the epicenter of the 2010 earthquake. The Santo community is comprised of three-room permanent housing units that include two bedrooms and a dining room. It

Continued on Page 5

Lott Carey Herald/August 2012



HOMEOWNER CHORES—A woman living in the Santo community cleans dust from the gravel road from her front porch.

Continued from Page 4

was developed through an AABMC/Habitat for Humanity partnership that was created as a humanitarian and missional response to the needs of the community. The project is now complete with Habitat in the Santo, and the AABMC mission has refocused its efforts to Grace Village in the Lambi community.

Remembering

It has been nearly three years since Marie Verolinela Antoine lost her father in the 2010 earthquake. Looking off to the sky her eyes become misty, “When the earthquake happened, I was at church and a block fell on my shoulder. I was injured but my father died when the house collapsed,” Antoine remembers. “It has been very hard for me and my family, but now, I have a new house and things are getting better,” she says with a grin on her face. Antoine represents one of more than 155 families who have been affected by the quake and have taken residence in the homes. As they move forward in their new community there are a few challenges but there is also a lot to celebrate.

“Things in the community have not always

been good,” says Antoine as she sits in the dining room area of her home. As president of the homeowners association and owner of one of the two houses that former U.S. President Jimmy Carter constructed, Antoine says the people have not always been welcoming. “Some people realized that the president (Carter) did some work on my house and they became jealous. They even stole the plaque that the president signed,” she adds.

Others have expressed a security concern with having just eight streetlights. Still others have said that there is neither a church nor hospital (or clinic) in the community. Kathi Reid, program manager with the African American Baptist Mission Collaboration (AABMC), says the concerns have been noted and a church was supposed to be there. Despite these challenges most residents have high praises for the work being done in the Santo community.

Celebration

Josaphat “Joseph” Jean-Baptists is grateful for his new home. “I moved in on February 14, it was my birthday,” says Baptists, a husband and father of two. “I have been able to work my garden and enjoy living here.”

Baptists works as a construction worker with Habitat for Humanity in Haiti.

Adner Pierre another resident, proudly stands in his corn patch. It is close to being harvested. “I offer some of my beans, bananas, and plantain to others around,” Pierre expresses. “It is our community!” Lucner Henry, 42, who is sitting on the porch with his one and a half year-old son Likenson Henry and other neighbors agrees that Santo is a community. Although the work at Santo is complete the spirit and legacy of the AABMC lives on in the hearts and minds of its residents. The work is now shifting to Grace Village a project in the Lambi community.

Grace Village

Nestled off the main road heading into Port-au-Prince sits a developing community. Making a right, through a narrow throughway, visitors are greeted by a crooked but inconspicuous sign that reads, “Grace Village” in the Lambi community, the newest AABMC sustainable housing project. Currently, there are six occupied duplex style homes on the Lambi property.

Cynthia Chaperon, her fiancée Chery

Continued on Page 14



TREES OF LIFE

LIFE ENDURES—Even erosion can't stop fields of crops from thriving during the rainy season in Kikwa.

Lott Carey

***PRAISE**—A Haitian boy watches a worship service led by AABMC and Haitian officials.*



Ecological Catastrophe or Green Opportunity?

**Haitians Fight to Preserve,
Expand Ecosystem**



***GRATEFUL**—Pastor Louis Gustave shakes hands with Dr. Carroll A. Baltimore, President, Progressive National Convention, after his \$50 donation to tree planting efforts in Haiti.*

Photos and Text: By Gabriel B. Tait / Mission with Visions

.....

Flying over Haiti during the rainy season one can see an ecological paradox. Intertwined in the miles of lush green forest are sections of deforested and eroded mountainsides. This paradox written about by Raymond A. Joseph, former Haitian Ambassador to the United States in a 2004 article, *Sad Return To Land Of Mountains*, presents, “an ecological catastrophe.”

Embracing its namesake from the Arawak, Native American language, Haiti, the “land of mountains,” is a jewel that has been greatly tarnished by poverty, floods, earthquakes, and now deforestation. For some, advocating against poverty and for better

Continued on Page 8



PREPARING—Haitian workers with shovels receive planting instructions.

Trees of Life

Continued from Page 7

preparedness for natural disasters maintains a high priority. But for others like Haitian District Representative and Pastor Andre' Louis Gustave, poverty and natural disasters are linked in part with the deforestation of Haiti.

He maintains that when the land is stripped of its trees, the community is more vulnerable to natural disasters (e.g. landslides) and the quality of agriculture development suffers. His communities in the Kenscoff region have been greatly affected by deforestation. Recently, the community of Kikwa, up in the mountains of Kenscoff in Gustave's region, suffered a major land shift, which triggered fears of another earthquake. According to Joseph, Haiti has fewer than five percent tree covering its land.

A Missional Plan

Gustave views this challenge as a missional opportunity that needs to be shared. During the president's visit, Gustave revealed how on Agricultural Day, May 1, he mobilized the community, including school children, to plant more than 8,000 trees.

Continued on Page 19



GREEN FOR GREEN—Members of the African American Baptist Mission Collaboration mission team, impressed by the work being done to rebuild the Haitian ecosystem, give generously. In the background is Dr. Stephen J. Thornton, President, National Baptist Convention of America.

PLANT, WATER, INCREASE—A young girl plants corn outside of her newly constructed two-bedroom home in the Santo community.

THROUGH THE LENS

HAITIAN ENDURANCE—

Repairmen inspect the Le Negre Marron (The Black Maroon) statue damaged in the earthquake. It depicts an early Haitian slave drinking water.



In Mark 8:22-25 a blind man has a transformational encounter with Jesus. It is through Jesus' double touch that the blind man is better able to understand his distorted perspective of his surroundings.

Like the blind man, I began this journey with one perspective of the post-earthquake service being done in Haiti. I perceived the work was isolated and that only a few were benefactors of the relief efforts. During my second visit to Haiti, I was able to gain a clearer picture of the rebuilding efforts of the people and realized my observations were narrow in focus.

Through the lens, I discovered that Haitians are culturally resilient and emotionally strong. My evidence?

- *A national band playing in front of the crumbling Haiti National Palace.*
- *Parents artfully arrange the colorful barrettes in their children's hair.*
- *The elderly carrying buckets of water on dusty roads to their homes.*
- *Families reaffirming their commitment to serve the Lord despite the hardships.*

These ordinary events frame a larger truth—life is on the rebound in Haiti.

My perspective is changed. The power of the photograph helps us understand God's mission and the power of transformation. Haiti is surviving and rising through its adversities. Amid the devastation, there is so much beauty—if you look through the lens.



*Photos and Text:
By Gabriel B. Tait*





BUMPY BUT AFFORDABLE: Commuters crowd the top and back of a transport truck traveling from Kenscoff to Port-au-Prince.

RISE & SHINE—
An elderly woman
polishes woodwork
at the First Baptist
Church of Port-au-
Prince.



Lott Carey 



SHORT-TERM MISSION OPPORTUNITY

INDIA



Register online at
LottCarey.org
or
Contact
Rev. Dawn Sanders
dsanders@lottcarey.org
202.543.3200

Lott Carey 

Celebrate Service

Continued from Page 5

Antoinier, and their children were the first residents in the village. Moving into their home in April 2011, the two said, "There was a time when we felt strange (living in the community), because we were the only ones here." Now they have settled in and are the veterans in the area.

Building relationships with their neighbors, Chaperon and Antoinier have taken to Jannette Marcelim, a single mother of three who lives next door. Marcelim has made a name for herself because of her cooking. She is known for sharing her food with the other residents.

During our visit she was making beans and rice. While stirring the pot, Marcelim says how appreciative she was to receive the key to her new home. "Life was a little hard living in the tent village. It was very hot! Moving from the tent with my family, I realized what I received (the house) was because of God's grace," Marcelim adds. Reflecting on her experiences, she is now going to church.

Life in Grace Village is offering a positive change for families affected by the earthquake. As the project continues to grow, Fitaud Jacques, president of association says, "We will have everyone feel at home in our village."



GIVING THANKS—Ferland Ben Aime in prayer with members of the AABMC mission team.

"Life was a little hard living in the tent village. It was very hot! Moving from the tent with my family, I realized what I received (the house) was because of God's grace."

THE 115TH ANNUAL SESSION OF THE LOTT CAREY CONVENTION



LIGHT & LOVE

NEW ORLEANS | 13-17 | AUGUST 2012

VISIT WWW.LOTTCAREY.ORG TO REGISTER

Reid

Continued from Page 3

ment. In partnership with Grace-Fuller Center, Lambi Village will be a community of 26 duplexes—Level 4 hurricane and earthquake resistant homes with a community center, latrines, gardens, playgrounds and open areas. To date, 12 of the homes are completed, and tenants have moved in, painted, planted gardens, and are learning job skills. They are excited and feel blessed to have a home.

To date, the AABMC has received monetary and material donations from numerous organizations to provide support in Haiti. Here are highlights:

- A grant of \$325,000 was recently awarded from a Greek fraternal foundation to the Lambi Village project.

- A commitment from Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Arlington, Va., to build the community center.

- Alfred Street Baptist Church, Alexandria, Va., funded the Lott Carey Baptist Church of Léogâne housing project.

- Friendship West Baptist Church, Dallas, has funded wells, orphanage reconstruction, provided funds for disaster relief and continues to make financial investments in Haiti.

- The Virginia Morticians' Association provided funds to build a house.

- Club Dejour, Inc. provided funding toward housing.

- The Links, Inc., of Dallas provided hundreds of packaged personal care items for the Girls and Widows Home.

- Several Women's Auxiliaries have provided hundreds of pillowcase dresses.

- First Baptist Church, North Brentwood, Md., provided school, hair, and bedding supplies to the Girls Home.

- Mount Carmel Baptist Church, Washington, D.C., donations to Grace Village supports yearly education for more than 40 orphans.

- The New Covenant Missionary Baptist Church, Chicago, supports the Dollar A Tree campaign.

The press on Haiti has quieted down, but the need is still great. Thanks to generous donations from churches, foundations, associations, fraternities, sororities and individuals, the AABMC continues to make a positive impact in Haiti. Your generosity is making all the difference. Please continue to give so that AABMC's work can glorify God's mission in Haiti.

Kathi L. Reid is Program Manager for AABMC.

Lott Carey Herald/August 2012



REUNION—AABMC Program Manager Kathi Reid is greeted by Josaphat “Joseph” Jean-Baptists, one of the first to receive a Santo community house. He currently works with Habitat for Humanity.

Earthquake Kicked an Already Struggling Nation

Here are some impact and aftermath estimates of the magnitude 7.0 earthquake that hit the island country:

- 3.5 million people experienced strong-to-extreme shaking.
- 222,570 dead.
- 300,572 injured.
- 2.3 million homeless, including 302,000 children.
- 4,992 schools affected, with 80 percent damaged or destroyed.
- Damages and losses, \$7.8 billion.
- 60 percent of government, administrative and economic infrastructure destroyed.



Even before the earthquake, Haiti's development challenges were formidable:

- 55 percent of Haitians live on less than \$1.25 per day.
- Per capita annual income is \$660.
- 58 percent of children are under-nourished.
- 58 percent of the population lacks access to clean water.
- Devastating hurricanes in 2008 affected 800,000 people.
- Deforestation has left the nation with less than two percent forest cover.

Source: United Nations Office of the Special Envoy for Haiti.



ROUGH ROAD—Drs. Baltimore and Thurston navigate a rocky road in Kikwa, the result of a recent landslide.

*Photos and Text:
By Gabriel B. Tait / Mission with Visions*

.....

Two Leaders Share

a

Healing Vision on the Ground in Haiti

Two men. Two organizations. One goal. To help the African American Baptist Mission Collaboration help Haiti rise again. Dr. Carroll A. Baltimore Sr. is President of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, spiritual home of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King. Dr. Stephen J. Thurston Sr. is President of the National Baptist Convention of America, an organization dedicated to spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ through preaching, teaching and healing. Thousands are alive and living stronger, thanks to the AABMC collaboration. While Drs. Baltimore and Thurston recognize the progress, both say there is more work to do. Both leaders understand building houses is one step in developing sustainable communities but they're also concerned about the hearts and minds of the people affected by the devastation. Houses address the structural needs of the community. Rebuilding a community requires addressing spiritual, social and cultural support. Here are some thoughts they shared while on their recent mission to Haiti.

Continued on Page 17



LEARN YEARN—
Several boys at Grace Village are eager to learn photography from Deacon Willie Whitehead of New Covenant Missionary Baptist Church, Chicago.



PRIMETIME—
Raymond A. Joseph, former Haitian Ambassador to the U.S., fixes his hair before appearing on a live television broadcast on Radio Tele Ginen (RTG).

Next Steps — Continued from Page 16

Baltimore Soundbites

“When I was elected president I made a commitment to our constituents and the people of Haiti that we will see this process through no matter how long it takes.”

“I’m a missionary. I’m very pleased with the progress I’ve seen from transitional housing to permanent housing but I think there need to be other components that must go side by side with what we’re already doing—the medical side needs to be strengthened; the church piece . . . that needs to be strengthened. We need a more holistic measure that reaches the total person.”

“The missing piece is youth involvement. Haiti is not going to be fixed over the next two or three years. It’s going to be a 10-15-year process. There must be youth engagement, particularly those from the African Diaspora. The Collaboration must begin mobilizing teams of youth for short-term visits. We’re going to have to tap into that energy if we’re going to remain relevant. Other groups are bringing youth, why not us?”

Thurston Soundbites

“This is my second time in Haiti. Our Convention has several churches here and a primary school that was devastated by the earthquake. But I was more (fascinated) by the element of community and what it will take to rebuild the lives of the people.”

“I was impressed by the (Santo) houses built . . . it is progress. Just being able to see some deliverables is tremendous. Any people that have a vision to achieve are certainly encouraged when they can actually see their vision come to reality. To see homes built and families occupy those homes is certainly part of that hope, and we know we need to go forward.”

“To see the rebuilding efforts focused on keeping families together and Grace International that have taken in children whose parents (were lost) in the earthquake . . . to see this home development piece struck a chord with me because I know the stability of this country is going to depend upon the strength of the family.”

TEXT TO SUPPORT LOTT CAREY'S MINISTRIES OF EMPOWERMENT



Aug. 12-17 Text **LOTT CAREY** to **20222** to donate **\$10** through your mobile phone.
Invite your friends to support your cause.

MEN'S BUILD TEAM **100 MEN = 10 HOMES**



**HAITI
2012**

November 3-10, 2012
November 10-17, 2012
December 1-8, 2012

Register Today at:
www.AABMC.org
under service

Lott Carey 

Contact: Kathi L. Reid
kreid@lottcarey.org
202-543-3200



RIDE—Dr. Thurston, left, and Pastor Gustave, during AABMC assessment tour.



INSPIRED—Workers huddle as Haitian pastor and District Representative Andre' Louis Gustav provides planting instructions. "The work is hard," said one worker, "but the reward is long- lasting and beautiful."

Trees of Life

Continued from Page 8

"We must care for the land by planting trees, and planting trees gives life," says Gustave. As a pastor he believes the passage in Zechariah 4:10 grounds his work: "Who dares despise the day of small things . . . throughout the earth will rejoice when they see the chosen capstone." While this work may be small now he believes in years to come the community will benefit. He says for one U.S. dollar, the public can buy a tree that will help Haiti.

Planting for Stability

Driving through the mountains nearly 5,000 feet above sea level, we notice small trees are systematically planted in Kikwa, a community about nine miles southeast of capitol Port-au-Prince. This is our intended next stop in our black government SUV with its small Haitian flag. But ironically our motor trip is cut short because of a major landslide that has made the road impassable. We continue the one-mile trek on foot, holding hands, leaning on one another, and praying the white lava type rocks do not continue to slide. It is currently the rainy season. Holding the arm of a local guide Dr. Baltimore says, "Now we are on a real mission."

Arriving at the current planting site, we see old men with shovels, pick axes, and hoes. The ladies, many dressed in various colored long skirts with headscarves, do not have tools but have tree shoots. There are nearly 50 workers who have been planting all morning. They take a short break to meet the AABMC team.

Sharing in the Gospel Through Trees

Following a brief presentation by Haitian officials, each member of the team shares words of encouragement. Deacon Willie Whitehead takes a break from shooting pictures to greet the group.

"You all are and the work you are doing is like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green," Dr. Thurston says through an interpreter. "You all are helping sustain your community and secure your future by planting trees. To support your efforts, on behalf of the National Baptist Convention of America, I want to offer \$50 to purchase trees."

The crowd claps and says "Amen!"

Dr. Baltimore and others also contribute. Deacon Whitehead, tears in his eyes, offers his support in memory of his deceased wife, declaring: "Most people think what we have given is a small amount but it isn't. It is hope for the future. I know there is always an opportunity if you just go a little further."

The \$300 collected will go toward planting 1000 trees.

"We must care
for the land by
planting trees,
and planting trees
is life."



TREES OF LIFE

The eyes of this worker reflect the toll the earthquake had on the environment and what it will take to restore Haiti's fragile ecosystem. Page 6.



Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention
220 Eye Street NE, Suite 220
Washington, DC 20002-4362
202.543.3200

LottCarey.org on the Web

www.youtube.com/LottCareyTV

Like us on Facebook—on.fb.me/NSF74a