



## **Eglise Methodiste d' Haiti**

**December 2023**

### **Christmas Greetings to One and All**

It is hard to believe that another year has come and gone. Most days are like the one that precedes and the one that follows. The unending grief from continuous gang warfare, with murder, rape, extortion, and robbery tends to lull us into complacent oblivion. It is sad to say that I do not get as much accomplished as I would wish because hope for the future dwindles. It seems easier to just go with the flow and do nothing rather than to try and change the unchangeable.

When I stop for a moment and look around, I see evidence that the Church, specifically Eglise Methodiste d' Haiti is moving forward. There are some church buildings, like St. Martin and Croix d' Boquets, that have been taken over by the local gangs so that the people are unable to worship in their own sanctuary. Other congregations are unable to travel through gang-infested areas to their normal places of worship. At the same time, I see congregations like Freres and Jeremie that are relatively safe, and their worship services are full every Sunday. Throughout the whole country there is the same pattern; some churches are hampered by the gangs and others remain as a light in a darkened world.

But then I am awakened by the Hope proclaimed by Jesus Christ and my faith in the future is renewed. Throughout the year there are births and deaths, weddings and funerals, there are still confirmation classes and Bible studies where people are coming to Christ and as a result are professing their membership in the Methodist Church of Haiti.

### **Christmas Eve Services at Freres**

Christmas Eve service at the Freres Church was much the same as it was across Haiti. Christmas Eve was on a Sunday to the day started with a traditional Sunday service. At Freres it was highlighted by the reception into membership of thirteen communicants followed by their first communion as members of EMH. There was a choir concert at 9:00pm followed by a light meal at midnight. After the service the congregation returned to their homes for family celebrations.

### **Annual Conference**

#### **Jeremie Haiti, January 22-29**

The 2024 District Annual Conference will be held in Jeremie January 22-29. Planning is now underway to conduct this important meeting for the Church. Logistics for the Annual Conference are particularly difficult this year because of violence in all parts of the country. The gangs have permanent roadblocks established on all of the major roads throughout the country. It is impossible to travel in any direction without encountering stoppages. Private vehicles are not allowed to pass, and commercial vehicles are required to pay a toll in order to pass. Sunrise Airways is the only local airline serving the country. Flights are often canceled with little or no notice and are booked solid weeks in advance.

The Jeremie Circuit is continuing to make preparation to host the 2024 Annual Conference of Eglise Methodist' Haiti.



## Christmas Shoebox Ministries

Christmas gift boxes are being distributed again this year. Christmas gift stockings have been donated and delivered by the South Carolina Annual Conference.

Over 1000 have been delivered to the Jeremie, Leon, and Dame Marie Circuits. Some were distributed at the Jeremie Church on December 24 and others will be delivered in the weeks to come to outlying areas.

More shoebox gifts have been delayed but are waiting to be delivered in the near future for distribution in the Port au Prince and Petionville Circuits.



## Events Sponsored by the Haiti District

Over the past year there have been several training seminars, and two youth retreats. It has been difficult to hold these meetings because of the travel restrictions imposed by the gangs. These have been possible because they were partially underwritten by contributions by several donors. To all that contributed their financial support, Eglise Methodiste d' Haiti gives a heartfelt thank you. It would not be possible for EMH to strengthen its leadership without the generous contribution of others.

## Disaster Response Seminar



## Youth Retreats



**Port au Prince**

**Petite Goave**

**Les Cayes**

## Construction Projects

### Olivier Clinic

The physical construction of the new clinic at Olivere is now complete. Thanks to the faithful support of Don Henderson and the people of Christ Church in Sugarland Texas. We are now moving forward with the next steps of supplying the clinic with furniture, equipment and supplies so that operations may begin. Staffing of the new clinic must still be arranged.

The new clinic at Olivere adds to the clinics in operation at L Saline (Port au Prince), Furcy (Petionville), Gebeau (Jeremie), Tovar (Cap Hatien), Siloe (Petite Goave), and Sous Phillippe (La Gonave). These clinics provide basic medical care to the poorest of the poor who cannot otherwise afford the most basic care. All of these clinics are in serious need of ongoing financial support, especially in these troubled times for Haiti. Several of the clinics do not have regular permanent staff but rely on part-time staffing from local doctors and nurses. In the past there were numerous medical personnel from the US who were willing to come and serve on a short-term basis to augment the medical care. First because of Covid and then because of the political turmoil in Haiti this supplemental help is no longer available. Many of the urban and rural poor cannot see a doctor and simple medical problems become crisis situations. Things like mobile medical clinics and midwife training and resupply have ceased to exist.

**Any financial assistance for Olivier or any of the other clinics would be greatly appreciated.**



**Olivier Clinic**

**.Violet Reconstruction**

Under a grant from UMCOR, the reconstruction of the Agricultural Center at Violet is well under way.

The Center was severely damaged from Hurricane Matthew in 2016. Violet, which was once a shining star for community development, has been inoperable since 2016. The plan is that as each part of the Center is restored, that it will be restarted and returned to service. The final plan is to have full operation of the hog breeding program, the chicken egg production and the chicken meat operation, tree nursery for reforestation and a vegetable and fruit production facility. The dormitories will be fully restored to house students as part of a fully developed training program. It is hoped that various universities will use the facility for the internship programs that they require of their students. Under this program, the students would be taught by university faculty, and all would live in the renovated dormitories. The student would attend class for half a day and work on the farm half a day in return for their room and board. The University would pay a fee for use of the property and the profits from the farm would be given to the Church.



**Training Center**

**Dormitory 1**



**Chicken House 1**

**Chicken House 2**

**Hog Barn 1**

## Manse for La Gonave

Construction has begun on a manse for La Gonave. The Manse is located in Anse A Galet and will provide the Superintendent with a place to live in the circuit that he/she serves. In the past, there has not been adequate accommodations on the island of La Gonave. This has required the Circuit Superintendent or the Minister serving La Gonave to live in Petionville and commute. Travel to La Gonave has always been difficult but with the current situation it is sometimes impossible for the Circuit Superintendent to be present with the people he serves. With a completed manse at Anse A Galet, the Circuit Superintendent will be more effective at serving the congregations by being physically present. It will also reduce the problems and expense of commuting to a remote location.

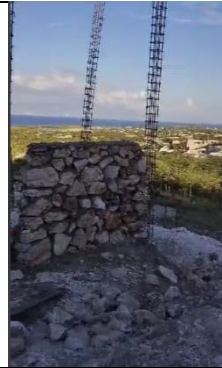
Gelin Rosemour, Circuit Superintendent is thankful to the people of the La Gonave Circuit, Pappa's Ministres, the Virginia Annual Conference, and UMCOR for their financial support of this project. There is a long way to go to completion, but a solid foundation has begun. If anyone is interested in seeing this project come to completion, please respond with a generous donation.



**Water Kiosk**



**Water from Well**



**Manse Construction**



**Manse 3D Model**

*David Draeger*

**EMH Mission Volunteer Coordinator**