

HCDF

The Fond-des-Blancs Update

Volume 7 Number 4

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A Quarterly Publication of the Haiti Christian Development Fund
P.O. Box 490127 Ft Lauderdale, FL 33349-9990 - 305-968-3977

Editorial

'Even for a good man some would even dare to die..'

These editorials have been rather political lately. With Aristide, the democratically elected president, out of the country and an economic embargo imposed on Haiti, every aspect of our life is affected by these political realities. I have always maintained that to impose an economic embargo against the poorest country in the western hemisphere is immoral and irresponsible.

Harvard University released a report putting most of the blame on the increase of 1000 more children dying per month in Haiti since the coup on the economic embargo. That day the U.S. envoy testifying before Congress said that they will not allow themselves to be intimidated by these kind of reports to lift the embargo. Can you see the immorality there. One thousand children in part or in all are dying monthly because of the embargo, but Mr. Pezzulo will not be intimidated by that. For the two years since the imposition of the embargo some 24,000 children may have died; possibly ten times more than the military has killed! Who will plead their case.

Others claim that the Haitian people are willing to suffer the hardship of the embargo for the hope that lies ahead. How many parents do you know who are willing to sacrifice their children for any price. No one who has spent more than six months out of Haiti can speak for what any Haitian in Haiti feels; least of all politicians. They may talk sacrifice and patriotism but it is their political career that comes first. In the U.S. everything is at your disposal. It is easy to forget what life back in Haiti is really like.

The embargo is the path of least resistance. To the American politicians it is risk-free. Anything to get Haiti off the political radar without creating another problems. Maybe the embargo did force the military to talk last June and again maybe it did not. The people being victimized are the victim themselves. The military only understands force. I was amazed at how fast the Haitian military responded to the hint that the international community may resort to force to solve the problem. An embargo will not affect them. The other partner in the coup was the business community. The embargo has played in their favor. Flooding the market with cheap material would be the sweetest revenge against them.

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J Lémec Thomas, Publisher and Senior Editor

Joy L Thomas, Editor

The Living Word!



Wise men still seek Him!

And the Word became flesh and lived for a while among us. We have seen (beheld) His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the father, full of grace and truth (John 1:14).

Some people have a way with words. They can take the dullest story or the simplest concept and make it sound good. They have the ability to make words come alive! They can take our imagination to a place of wonderment. Some achieve these feats with the pen; others with oratory. C.S. Lewis was a master of the former and Charles Spurgeon of the latter. The only limitation to this kind of excitement is that it is not sensorial. It is in the realm of the imagination. If you can't dream you cannot fully appreciate the depth of their message. It all happens in the mind.

The 'unfolding drama of redemption' has been in the mind of God throughout eternity. Even in the Old Testament the full impact of the meaning of redemption was only barely visible. Giants such as Moses may have had a good concept of what it meant to be redeemed. A lot of the other prophets could not even fully understand their own writings.

But all this changed when the deepest recesses of the mind of God was made flesh in Jesus Christ! Even the simplest mind could appreciate it because it was no longer conceptual but corporal. It was so real that you could fix your gaze upon Him until all of your senses can appreciate its reality.

A look at a few of the words in the above verse can help us appreciate even more the magnitude of the events that took place on that first Christmas two thousand years ago!

The Word: This is at the heart of the Gospel of John. Miss the meaning of this Word and you miss the message of the whole gospel. The truth of the matter is this Word is not a word at all. Words are directional signs to something. As John sums up his gospel he

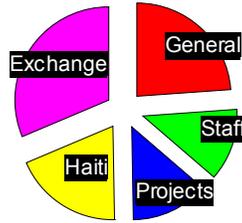
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Financial Corner

Profit & Loss Statement For Period Ending September 30, 1993

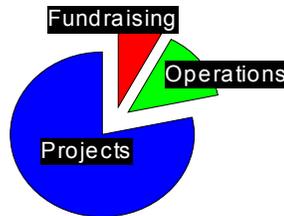
Income		
General	68,488.00	24.16%
Staff Support	34,741.25	12.26%
Project Support	38,482.01	13.58%
Haiti Income	53,246.31	18.79%
Other Income	88,473.80	31.22%
Total Income	283,431.37	100.00%
Expenses		
Fund Raising Cost		
Consulting Fees	12,611.31	4.45%
Printing	357.54	0.13%
Postal Fees	1,097.60	0.39%
Maintenance	584.00	0.21%
Telephone	2,885.37	1.02%
Office Supplies	184.12	0.06%
Legal & Accounting Fees	251.43	0.09%
Travel	5,401.45	1.91%
Executive Meetings		
Promotions		
List Rental		
Total Fund Raising Cost	23,372.82	8.25%
Operations Cost		
Travel	2,559.52	0.90%
Car Repair	7,364.50	2.60%
Maintenance -Chevrolet	839.29	0.30%
Office Supplies	986.53	0.35%
Utilities	2,965.55	1.05%
Salaries	18,413.37	6.50%
Insurance	447.00	0.16%
General Maintenance	105.00	0.04%
Shipping	1,913.13	0.67%
Visitors/Volunteers	525.90	0.19%
Housing	499.21	0.18%
Health Care	3,207.89	1.13%
Other	945.73	0.33%
Total Operations Cost	40,772.62	14.39%
Project Expenses		
Cost of Goods	1,116.48	0.39%
Animation		
Maintenance	3,802.40	1.34%
Training	8,823.47	3.11%
Rent	795.00	0.28%
Supplies	48,074.67	16.96%
Food	12,097.26	4.27%
Promotion	201.50	0.07%
Repairs	14,643.04	5.17%
Salaries	99,261.25	35.02%
Taxes	1,745.21	0.62%
Travel & Shipping	5,959.36	2.10%
Utilities	460.80	0.16%
Medical Care	2,516.01	0.89%
Assistance & Relief	2,299.40	0.81%
Other	1,997.00	0.70%
Total Project Expenses	203,266.65	71.72%
Total Expenses	267,412.09	94.35%
Profit/(Loss)	16,019.28	5.65%

Income



Our largest income block is still from gain on exchange. Our income is primary U.S. based. The Haitian currency is not worth much these day. The exchange factor was as much as 200% at one point. Once the currency stabilizes our basic income will have to increase substantially or we will face serious financial difficulties.

Expeses

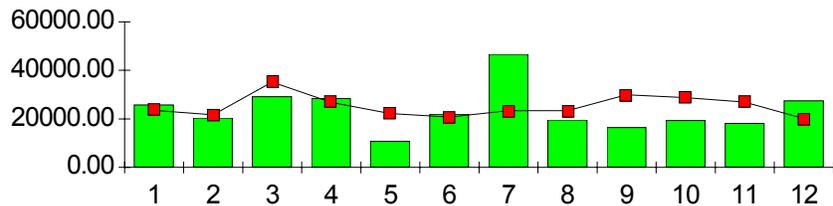


We strive to keep our administrative cost to a minimal. Again over three quarters of our expenses are for various projects in Fond-des-Blancs.

Balance Sheet For Period Ending September 30, 1993

Assets	
Current Assets	
Cash on hand -USA	529.80
Cash on hand -Haiti	3,033.14
Cash on Deposit	25,002.77
Accounts Receivable	3,173.58
Total Current Assets	31,739.29
Fixed Assets	
Land & Property	26,531.02
Furniture	1,257.24
Appliances	4,539.00
Equipments	13,962.61
Vehicles	49,071.08
Total Fixed Assets	95,360.95
Project Assets	
Cash on Hand	(4,808.11)
Account Receivables	130,909.33
Equipments	
Fixtures	1,000.00
Land & Property	98,231.66
Vehicles	7,059.20
Total Project	232,392.08
Total Project Asset:	359,492.32
Liabilities	
Voice of Calvary Loan	
Employee Withholding	
Credit Cards Account	1,357.78
Total Liabilities	1,357.78
Project Liabilities	
Membership Shares -CC	
Member Deposits -C	176,787.95
Total Project Liabilitie	176,787.95
Capital	
Retained Earnings -COI	178,145.73
Organizational Net Worth	1,164.76
Profit/Loss for period	164,162.55
Total Capital	181,346.59
Total Capital & Liab	359,492.32

Income vs Expenses



This is a chart of the income vs expenses for the period starting October 92. February and the summer months are usually our worse months in term of income. September has a positive balance because of a no interest loan that came in as income.

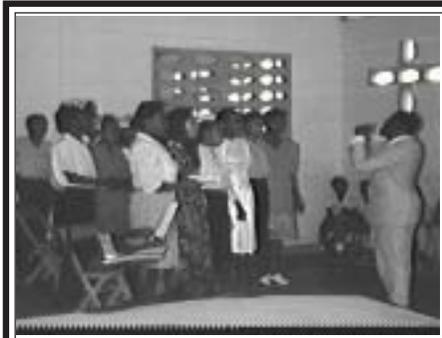
Happenings

SCHOOL - L'Exode got off to a great start on schedule this year in spite of the reinstated embargo and fear of violence in the city. Most schools did not start until after October 30 which was the date set for Aristide to return. As you know, that day came and went without his return. The other schools started opening around the middle of November. We did not fear the violence because most people leave the city to avoid the violence but bring it with them. There have been a couple shootings during robberies here, but no political violence.

During the summer we added 3 new classrooms and a library to the elementary school. First, second, and third grades are all now able to meet in the same building. Because the embargo has caused the price of cement to sky-rocket, we have not been able to smooth the walls and paint them so the building isn't exactly pretty yet, but useable.

We are very pleased with the quality of our teachers. The elementary school has two new teachers and pre-school and kindergarten have two new teachers. We now have a total of 11 teachers and 7 aides.

CREDIT UNION - The building we use for the credit union every Friday recently had a major face lift. It used to be a dingy room with a desk for the "bankers" and benches around the falling down walls for the people coming to deposit or borrow. Now it almost looks like a bank. The walls have been made sturdier and painted and there is a counter between the bankers and the customers. The porch was also fixed up



The Church's choir at its first performance

and painted. It is now one of the nicer if not the nicest looking buildings in town. It is located directly across from the police station which may or may not add to its security. The police are a part of the army. Financially, the credit union continues to do very well.

ROADS & EMPLOYMENT

Beginning in January we will once again be working on the road project, but this time it will be several side roads as well as the main road from the paved road to the beach. The Pan American Development Fund which is a sub-contractor for U.S.A.I.D. will be funding the project. In the past they have helped fund the tree project. We are very excited about this project because it will be able to employ up to 1,000 people for the duration of the project. PADF will provide the salaries, the equipment, and a part-time engineer. This will be labor intensive work rather than heavy equipment work. The equipment will be picks, shovels,

wheelbarrows, sledge hammers, drainage pipes, etc. For anyone who's been here, you know how badly our roads need help. This past year HCDF did some very important work just keeping a main road open. Now we can do that and more. Altogether the plans call for 125 miles worth of road improvement in the Fond-des-Blancs area. All this should begin mid-January.

CHURCH CHOIR - We once again have a choir director for our church and school. He was with us before, but had to leave for several months. He is back now with a wife and a 3 month old daughter. The church choir made its debut December 5. They sang two Christmas songs and 1 regular hymn. They sounded very good. The director's name is Etienne Chery. His wife's name is Sherlie. She is a teacher in our pre-school. Etienne will continue to work with the smaller groups that occasionally sing in church, but we are all very happy to be able to have an organized choir become a part of our church service.

School Needs

- ✓ Puzzles of all types and sizes for ages pre-school through adult
- ✓ Educational games not requiring the English language such as Candy Land, Uno and Chutes and Ladders.
- ✓ Educational toys that can be used in a classroom
- ✓ Pretend dress-up clothes and hats.
- ✓ Pens, pencils, erasers

Continued from page 1

writes "Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God..." (John 20:30-31). The miracles of Jesus, according to John, were not just wondrous supernatural acts. They were signs to confirm that Jesus is the Christ. To expound on the miracles without seeing Jesus as the Son of God is to miss the whole point.

In the grammatical sense, words are the

means of expressing a collection of things in the mind. In a more technical way the word could be referred to as the name of a thing or part. In the Bible a word (logos) never has that meaning. It is used to convey a saying of God or of men, a decree or a precept. Throughout the Old Testament the medium for delivering the decrees of God was usually the prophets and some times it is personified in the Angel of the Lord.

In the gospel of John the Word is not just the message of God but who God Himself made

alive. It is not the sign pointing to God but the destination itself. When you truly find the Word you should be standing in the presence of Jesus!

Flesh This is how the concept of who God is has become a part of human existence. The buzz word in the high tech world today is 'virtual reality'; an attempt at bridging the mind with reality. Virtual reality is a far cry from metamorphism: putting flesh on an idea! Even after his resurrection Jesus

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still was flesh. All that God is was made manifest in human form.

Lived: This amazing event lasted more than just a split second. The Living Word pitched his tent with men and camped out with them for some thirty-three years. Let a scientist perform a small miracle that lasts a few second and you will hear about it in all the scientific journals. But the greatest miracle of all was when the Word was made flesh and lived for a while with men. This is what we need to remember as we celebrate Christmas: Emmanuel, God with us.

Beheld: Words are for the imagination. The Living Word is for beholding. We can feast our eyes upon Him. Keep that gaze fixed on him until every detail sinks in. You can close your eyes, pinch yourself. It is not a dream. This is reality.

Glory: Though you cannot see God in all of his Glory with our human eyes, yet the Living Word is the closest we can get to it. There were several manifestation of that Glory in the Old Testament. It was the cloud

by day and the fire by night that led the children of Israel through the wilderness. It was the presence that Moses visited with in the tabernacle. After Moses had been in the presence of God the people could see a reflection of that Glory on his face. It was that glory that settled in the temple and later reluctantly departed as the children of Israel disobeyed God. When the Word was made flesh, the Glory returned.

Grace: This is not the 'unmerited favor of God' that produces salvation. This is the divine nature itself. This is the source for our own word graceful. Everything about Jesus was full of Grace.

Truth: Just like grace, truth is also part of the divine nature. There can not be any turning in him. He is the way, the truth and the life.

Let us not settle for a prototype when we can have the real thing. Let us not be contented with virtual reality when we can have the real thing. My greatest burden is in the volume of words about The Living

Word that produces so little reality in the Christian life. My only conclusion is that too many of us must still be following the signs but have not reached the Destination. This Christmas season let us go back and get re-acquainted once again with the **Word** who **Fleshe**d out who God is so that we can **Behold** Him! It is guaranteed that you will see His **Glory** full of **Grace** and **Truth**

Mailing Notice

Every time we do one of these mailings we receive a number of automatic address changes from the post office for people who have moved. We make the corrections to insure that the next issue reaches you.

Over the years we have accumulated the names of a lot of people who may not be interested in receiving our Fond-des-Blancs Update. If we have not heard from you in a over three years, you will need to send us a note if you would like to continue to receive this news update.

You do not have to send in a contribution but you should let us know that you want to continue to receive the update.

Thomas Family News

Christmas 1993

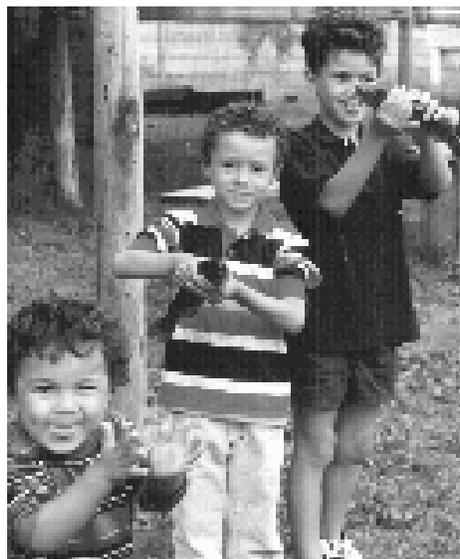
MANISE - Manise is in her last year of secondary school. Her school did not open until mid-November. We are glad it didn't wait any longer than that. It was somewhat scary sending her to the city, but she reports that all is well with her there. This past summer she had a few lessons in piano and driving. She loves practicing both when she is home, but won't be able to practice much over Christmas vacation without gas. (Even the piano needs gas as it is actually an electric keyboard.) After this year, she has one more year of post secondary education before going into the university.



FONIA - Fonia is in her last year of primary school here in Fond-des-Blancs. A secondary school started here last year. We have not yet decided if she'll start secondary school here or if we'll send her to the city. She walks 3 miles to school and 3 miles back home every day, but always seems to have enough energy left over to play when she gets home. She has girlfriends, but when not studying, she spends most of her time with our boys and the neighbor boys riding bikes, playing soccer, climbing trees, and their newest game, hopscotch. Last year we hired a tutor to try to help her improve her grades, but he didn't help much. This year Jean is working with her.



LEMEC - Lemec will turn 9 in January. He is in the third grade which in Haiti is called tenth grade. After a rough start at the beginning of the year he is doing very well in school. I think his rough start was because we'd just returned from our U.S. trip where he was in a totally English environment. It took him a while to adjust back into the French language which is his third language after English and Creole. It's amazing to watch what a young mind can do. He has lots of homework with studies in science, history, grammar, geography, reading, vocabulary, and mathematics. I sit with him most afternoons with my little English/French dictionary at my side to help him when necessary, but he is getting so he doesn't need me so much any more which is too bad for me. Helping him



was also helping my French. He seems to enjoy school, but he also looks forward to the weekends.

Jacques- Jacques is 6 years old and in the first grade which is known as the twelfth grade here. He is learning reading, writing, and simple addition. He has homework in reading every night plus he enjoys listening in on his big brother's homework and popping up with a correct answer now and then. He doesn't like to sit still for very long, but he somehow manages to do so in school.

During our trip this summer we camped at a place having a Harvest Festival. Part of the festival was a greased pig contest. Both Lemec and Jacques won in their age categories. Other highlights of the trip for them were staying in hotels with swimming pools, fishing and actually catching fish which we ate for dinner, driving miniature go-karts, and staying in people homes where they were often able to make new friends. They also enjoyed camping with Grandma and Grandpa Treharne who joined us for part of our trip.

JOSIAH - When Lemec was two, I remember asking myself, "What is so terrible about the 'terrible' two's?" Josiah has done his best to show me!

He is really a beautiful and lovable child, but he knows how to sit still even less than Jacques. He's very much a mama's boy when it comes to needing hugs, cuddles, and security, but when he is feeling secure, we never know what he'll do next. He thinks he can do whatever his brothers do; including climbing trees - and he does - while his mama and papa have heart attacks. We're going to miss the fun when he grows up.

JEAN and JOY - We both love being parents. Between the kids and HCDF projects and each other, we have full lives. Jean ordered a battery powered lap top computer so we are still in business even without gas. He is contemplating a solar panel for charging the batteries. He puts his glasses on to work at the computer and I must take mine off to see it well. We are a perfect match!



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Christmas 1993

ISAIAH 61: 1-3a — 1) The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives, and release from darkness for the prisoners, 2) to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, 3) and provide for those who grieve in Zion - to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.

For years we have used these words that Jesus spoke at the beginning of his ministry as recorded in Luke to explain why we do what we do in Fond-des-Blancs. We have, however, always stopped with verse two. This year I feel it is appropriate that we add most of verse three. Haiti is a place of much mourning and much despair. It has been so for years, but under the embargo, it has gotten worse. The doctor at the clinic tells me she has seen more cases of kwashiorkor in the last month than she has in all her previous months here put together. It is hard to watch the children suffer. The price of food continues to rise while the people's employment opportunities diminish. People are forced to stay at home or walk long distances because the available transportation is so scarce and expensive. All this will continue to get worse as long as the embargo continues. Without changes coming quickly, both the people and their little bit of resources will be exhausted.

ISAIAH 40: 28-31 — Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings of eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

In my NIV Bible chapter 40 has the heading, "Comfort for God's People." We are grateful that through you, God has given us resources that can possibly give comfort and renew the strength of at least some of his people in Fond-des-Blancs. He has blessed us with a wonderful pastor who is able to bring encouragement to others through his preaching and his teaching. We have a school with a feeding program already a part of it so that the children of L'Exode and the children of our associated church schools all receive a large hot meal every day. Because of our past success with our tree project we have a good working relationship with a humanitarian organization that will be giving us enough money to employ up to 1,000 people constructing 125 miles worth of roads in the Fond-des-Blancs area. This employment is temporary, but hopefully it will get them over the hardships of the embargo.

ISAIAH 9:6 — For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

It is our duty to strive to be Christ-like now. We do this by showing our love for Him by passing His love to us on to others. HCDF was created to help us do that in Haiti, but what a relief to know whatever we do is not the final result. In this Christmas season we rejoice in the birth of God's Son in Bethlehem. A Son whose life shows us how to live. A Son who is coming again. A Son who will do away with all these false governments and truly bring Peace on Earth. We look forward to His coming, but in the meantime we will look to Him to give us strength for the work for today. Thank you for your part in enabling us to follow Him in a place where His Hope and Peace is surely needed.

Yours in God's Peace,

Joy Thomas