Global Mission Updates

FBS group to travel to Guyana and Suriname

Pastor Kit Robison, chair of the Guyana-Suriname Mission Team will be leading a small group to Guyana and Suriname from May 5 – 12, 2018. The group – including Chris Klafs, Marcee Wilkes, and PJ May - will be attending the Annual Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana (ELCG) as they observe the *275th Anniversary of the Lutheran Church in Guyana*. They will then spend time with the other part of a trilateral Companion Church relationship and travel to Suriname to visit congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Suriname(ELKS).

***\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* Planning underway for Caribbean Consultation 3 \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \****

**The Florida Bahamas Synod Global Mission Committee will host a Caribbean Consultation for 2 days before the 2018 Synod Assembly in Kissimmee, Florida. Delegates from 3 of our Companion Church relationships, as well as the seminary in Jamaica, will be attending and share progress on the goals and projects developed at the International Consultation in Peru in November 2016. All members of the Global Mission Committee and sub-committees are invited to participate. The conference will begin Wednesday evening, May 30th and go through noon, Friday, June 1st. Several delegates will be presenting workshops at the Synod Assembly and be available to speak with Assembly participants at the Global Mission table at the Connection Café.**

The Florida-Bahamas Synod is Companion to the Lutheran Church bodies in Cuba, Haiti, Guyana & Suriname. While Guyana and Suriname are in the northwest of South America they are included in the Caribbean. In addition, the Synod has a relationship with the seminary in Jamaica, where many pastors from Haiti, Guyana, and Suriname have received their education.

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**+CUBA update+**

**As this newsletter is being written, Rev. Dr. Rafael Malpica and Pr. Jaime Dubon, of the Global Mission division of the ELCA in Chicago, are returning from an important trip to Cuba. They will be reporting on their visits to Santiago and Havana and meetings with Bishops Laborde and Benito and the Cuban Council of Churches as we seek to clarify the future relationship of the Florida Bahamas Synod and the Lutheran Church in Cuba. Please stay tuned!**

*As in the Florida-Bahamas Synod and elsewhere, Haitian Lutherans expect their church leaders will respond in times of crisis. Unfortunately, the resources in Haiti are overwhelmed by crisis after crisis and church leaders must continually look elsewhere for help. Be it a hurricane and flooding, lack of food and jobs, Zika virus or cholera epidemic, or forced eviction from the Dominican Republic – Pr. Livenson, President of the Eglise Lutherienne D’Haiti, has been present with the other Lutheran pastors and deacons to offer comfort and hope to a hurting people. The Global Mission Committee wants you to know that Pr. Livenson’s ability to stay connected with his Executive Council and Deacons to know what is going on in their communities is because of YOU. The plantings and seeds that provided food and livelihoods for communities in Les Cayes and Jean Rabel that were devasted after hurricanes and flooding – was because of YOU. The goats that were purchased and now provide milk for hungry children – were purchased because of YOU. The vehicles that are used to bring food and hygiene supplies and Pr. Livenson to outlying areas are running because of YOU.*

*It’s because of people like YOU, who read this and share this information with others and give generously to Global Mission, that there is any hope and help at all in Haiti, where it is so desperately needed.*

*THANK YOU!*

“Seeds For Haiti” Vacation Bible School Challenge

*All Florida Bahamas Synod congregations that have Vacation Bible School programs are invited to participate in this special project to raise money for seeds for Haiti. Donations collected during the week of Bible school will be used to purchase seeds in Haiti for the fall planting season. Please send your checks to the FB Synod office (3838 W. Cypress St., Tampa, FL, 33607 – Attn. Kim Raymond) with “Seeds for Haiti” on the memo line.*

*The Global Mission Committee will match donations up to $2500.*

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