

MISSION
TO NORTH
AMERICA

Presbyterian Church in America

Multiply

Profiling God's Great Work in North America

Dear Friends:

Dony St. Germain ministers in two countries – his homeland of Haiti, and the country in which he is a naturalized citizen, the United States. On these two fields, Dony works to spread the truth of the Gospel among Haitians and introduce them to his Savior and theirs – Jesus Christ.

In this issue of *Multiply*, you will read about MNA Haitian Ministries, led by Dony. You will see how, through church planting, community development, and practical support in the United States and Haiti, this ministry is reaching the multitudes for Christ. Many have heard the Gospel and believed. But there are still many more who need to hear Christ's truth. The success of this fruitful endeavor depends on a coordinated effort supported by the entire denomination.

As you read about MNA Haitian Ministries, I ask you to pay particular attention to page three, which lists areas of need. Please prayerfully consider how you can be a part of this outreach. Please also pray for Dony and all those involved in Haitian Ministries, that the Lord will bless and guide them, that the Lord will call churches and individuals to participate, and that the Lord will open the hearts of Haitians to believe the truth of the Gospel.



Jim Bland, MNA Coordinator



Haitians Find Hope in Christ

One year ago, hurricanes and tropical storms

rocked Haiti. Floods washed away entire villages. Hundreds of thousands of people lost their homes, and more than 3,000 people died, leaving many children orphaned. The country was devastated. But to Dony St. Germain,

MNA Haitian Ministries coordinator, what many people viewed as only a tragedy, he saw as an extraordinary opportunity – to raise the orphaned children, Haiti's future, in the knowledge of God so that they might make a difference for eternity.

Immediately, Dony reached out to PCA churches and individuals to help expand the already existing orphanages, giving the children a new home and a chance to experience Christ's abundant love. Dony's reaction in the wake of the storms clearly demonstrates his deep faith and passion for furthering the Lord's Kingdom among Haitians.

In addition to his role with MNA, Dony is church planter and pastor of El Shaddai Presbyterian in Miami, Florida. Born and raised in Haiti, Dony knows firsthand the struggles facing this people group. "There are one million Haitians in the US and about ten million in and around Haiti. The need for ministry is tremendous. Through church planting and leadership development, as well as community and economic development, we seek to spread Christ's love with spiritually healthy churches and Gospel-centered ministry."

Most Haitians who come to the US are trying to escape the poorest country in the western hemisphere.

In overpopulated Haiti, the daily reality includes inadequate health care, deplorable living conditions, little education, and the considerable influence of voodooism. According to Dony, "Sixty-five percent of people in Haiti are unemployed. Eighty percent of Haitians in US have no health insurance, and Haiti's illiteracy rate is about 70 percent."

"Religious beliefs are also a serious issue," Dony reports. "Haiti's

(Continued)



Every year, 40,000 Haitians come to North America. Many are searching for jobs to support their families. They settle all over, with especially large groups in Florida; New York; Massachusetts; New Jersey; Washington, DC; Pennsylvania; the Midwest; Illinois; and Quebec City. MNA Haitian Ministries seeks to meet the needs of this growing people group by planting Gospel-centered churches, offering practical support, and demonstrating Christ's love.

Haitians Find Hope in Christ *(Continued)*

national religion is Roman Catholicism, but it's not what Americans are familiar with. Because the influence of voodooism is so high, the church too often allows aspects of it into their practices. **About 70 percent of Haitians live in the fear and bondage of voodooism.** Reformed teaching is so important among this population. They need to know that Christ alone saves."

With the opportunities for ministry so great, MNA Haitian Ministries focuses on planting churches in areas in the US and Canada where the Haitian population is large, as well as in Haiti. Currently, there are five PCA Haitian churches and mission churches in the US, and 15 mission churches in Haiti. El Shaddai Presbyterian provides a home base for the ministry and for leadership training. The church's outreach includes a school, adult education classes, tutoring services, small groups and Bible studies, and seminary training for future church planters.

Dony explains that the school not only offers quality education for the Haitian children in the community, but it also presents an open door for evangelism. "The children are taught the basic school subjects and Christianity. They learn of the hope of Christ and believe. They then tell their parents what they are learning. The parents come to us and say, 'My child knows more about Christianity than I do. What can I do?' This allows for Gospel outreach with the parents in a very personal way."

Over the years, 80 students have come to Christ. The school's strength in evangelism speaks to a greater truth: Evangelism is extremely fruitful among Haitians. "Haitians are very relationship oriented," Dony says. "About 75 percent of the people who come to the churches come through developed relationships with family members or friends. They can't resist the power of the Spirit to revive the heart. They learn the responsibility they have to the Gospel and share their faith. Through this ministry, we've seen more than 3,000 people come to know the Lord."

Helping Dony oversee the ministry efforts in Haiti is his brother Louis, a PCA pastor. **In Haiti, the goal for each church plant is to be self-sustaining by starting local businesses, or "profit centers", which generate revenue to support church operations and new church plants.** Even though the Haitian people give generously, their incomes are so low that the churches are not supported by offerings alone.

Spanish River Church in Boca Raton, Florida, has worked with Dony for nearly 12 years and has played a vital role in helping these churches support themselves. "When they first approached us for support, we declined," Spanish River Pastor David Nicholas recalls. "We wanted to plant churches that would be able to be self-supporting, but we couldn't see how these churches could be in such a poverty-stricken area. A year later, Dony and Louis came back to us with a strategy to do this. Since then, we've funded 13 churches and are helping to expand the orphanages. It's phenomenal to see what God is doing through this ministry. It's what the Great Commission is all about."

An integral part in furthering this ministry's efforts has been and will continue to be strong support from PCA churches and individuals. Dony's prayer for the future of the Haitian Ministries is

to continue to reach the unchurched Haitian population by expanding the leadership training and church planting efforts in the US, Canada, and Haiti. But he stresses that this is a denomination-wide endeavor, "It's important for PCA churches and individuals to embrace the Haitian Ministries and join us as partners. We need to be united as we help change lives by sharing the hope found in Christ." ■

Opposite: El Shaddai Presbyterian welcomes more than 500 people for four worship services each weekend. With those attending being a mixture of both first and second generation Haitian immigrants, three of the services are conducted in Creole, Haiti's official language, and one service is conducted in English.



Dony emphasizes the central component of the success of MNA Haitian Ministries is a collaborative effort with individuals and churches within the PCA. Above, Gordon Marriage and Danielle Lamari of Spanish River plan for future mission trips to Miami and Haiti.

Below, (from left) church planting apprentice Dorsainvil Sainvil; St. Sauveur Wadsene Anozar, who is training for ministry; Dony and Sharon St. Germain; and Spanish River Pastor David Nicholas work together to enrich communities and build connections to Christ.



Minister Among the Multitudes for Christ: *Join MNA Haitian Ministries*

The wreckage of last year's natural disasters in Haiti only served to magnify already existing problems in one of the world's poorest countries. The PCA has a remarkable opportunity to continue the outreach to Haitians living in the US, Canada, and Haiti. Here are several areas of need:

Teachers. The educational enrichment afforded by El Shaddai Christian School in Miami is changing lives. Two elementary teachers are needed immediately for the children already enrolled; additional teachers will be needed in the future as the school expands to meet the growing need.

Financial Support. Your gifts provide valuable resources for ministry. Several projects currently in need include expanding the orphanages in Haiti, which are over capacity, and the school in Miami, which has more than 50 students on a waiting list. Please prayerfully consider how you and your church can respond to this challenge.

Work teams for Miami and Haiti. In addition to expanding current facilities in Miami and Haiti, further support is needed to continue rebuilding efforts in Haiti after severe storms in 2004 and 2005. Also, teams are needed for Vacation Bible School, sports outreach, and leadership training.

Medical teams for Haiti. Because health care professionals are in severe shortage in Haiti, teams are needed to work in local medical clinics.

Prayer. God alone can change lives and hearts for all eternity. Please commit to regular, fervent prayer, that God will work in great ways so that we will see many more come to Christ in the US, Canada and Haiti.



El Shaddai Christian School in Miami opened three years ago. The school offers Haitian children an education tailored to their specific needs. Dony, whose wife Sharon is the school's principal, explains that the children get lost in the public schools, and their parents don't know what to do about it. "Within about six months at our school, the parents see dramatic changes in their children."

Spanish River Church is a faithful partner to MNA Haitian Ministries. Pastor David Nicholas illustrates how the strategy to include profit centers with each new church in Haiti has shown great success:

"In the beginning, we were able to plant a church for \$15,000. To make a living, the church pastor worked the land in some way – one pastor built a fish farm, another grew roses, another raised pigs. Last year, we gave money to build bakeries. We built three bakeries for \$20,000-\$30,000 each. Right now, we are helping to build three new churches with bakeries for \$35,000 each. In this way, all the churches are self-supporting. Three years ago, we helped purchase an ice factory in Haiti. Its profits are going toward building a church facility in Cayes that will seat 5,000 people and will be the only air-conditioned building in the city. We also were able to provide equipment for a filtered water well in front of this church. Each day, 700 or more people line up to get free filtered water."

In Miami, part of the financial support given to MNA Haitian Ministries provides valuable job training classes to new Haitian immigrants. The experience gained translates into more marketable job skills, which is a critical stepping stone for Haitian families trying to build their lives in their new home.



The continued outreach to Haitians depends on the faithful support of the body of Christ. Gordon Marriage, a member of the pastoral staff at Spanish River, strongly encourages other churches and individuals to get involved in this ministry. "Over the years of our involvement we have seen this ministry grow in tremendous ways. We are thrilled with the work of the Gospel that these men are engaged in. Thousands have come to Christ and dozens of new church planters and leaders have been trained." *For the latest on MNA Haitian Ministries, contact Dony St. Germain at 786-543-2004 or dstgermain@pcanet.org or go to www.pca-mna.org. ■*



PCA Chaplain Michael Stewart Makes Hospital Rounds for the Gospel

Being in the hospital can be a very scary time for both patient and family members. PCA Chaplain Michael Stewart is there to bring comfort and support. Michael is the director of pastoral care at Columbus Regional Healthcare System in Columbus, Georgia. Together with his associate chaplain, Michael attends to families in the emergency room who are dealing with traumas, prays with patients before surgery, and makes daily rounds in the intensive care units and cancer center.

Michael is also available for the staff: "I coordinate the employee assistance program for about 2,600 employees, offering assistance after the death of a loved one or during a difficult time. I also do debriefings with the staff to help after stressful cases, and I pray with physicians and nurses before they go on duty. Sometimes we gather right by the nurses' station and several nurses join hands while I lead in prayer asking for Christ's guidance and blessing on the day." Michael is just one of the many PCA Chaplains working in various settings in the name of Christ through MNA Chaplain Ministries. *To find out more about this outreach, visit www.pca-mna.org.*



MNA Disaster Response

Ron Haynes and his wife Judy are working diligently within the PCA to prepare congregations and communities for disasters. Ron and Judy, assisted by volunteers from churches throughout the country, responded to the devastating hurricanes that hit Florida last year. As we went to press with this issue of *Multiply*, there was every indication that we will see great challenges again this year. The Haynes leadership not only offered practical aid to individuals and families but also spread the love of Christ to neighborhoods in despair. Order the MNA Disaster Response DVD at www.pca-mna.org to learn about Disaster Response, and please prayerfully consider how you can be a part of this ministry.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

From Embers to a Flame will be held on Sept. 22-25, 2005, at Briarwood Presbyterian in Birmingham, Alabama. Visit www.embersto aflame.org for more information. . . . **The 2005 MNA Hispanic American Ministries Convocation will meet Oct. 20-21, 2005, at Park Cities Presbyterian in Dallas, Texas. For more information, visit www.pca-mna.org.** . . . The *Christian Community Development Association* will hold its annual conference on Nov. 16-20, 2005, in Indianapolis, Indiana. For more information, visit www.cdda.org.

MNA Staff Appointments

Over the last year, MNA has been blessed with the addition of several individuals who are heading up new ministries. Please call on these staff members to assist in the development of ministries in your church or presbytery:

Chuck Garriott leads MNA Capitol Service, a ministry to people working in the state capitols of the US; Washington, DC; and also – through missionary contacts – the capitols of other nations. Chuck's role is to assist PCA churches and presbyteries to share the Gospel with those who serve in government positions. This is a non-partisan, non-political Gospel ministry.

Nancy Booher serves as English as a Second Language (ESL) Ministries Director. Nancy works with PCA churches throughout North America to organize ESL programs, train leaders and teachers, examine and choose curriculum, and assist programs as they grow.

Arklie Hooten is serving the Lord as MNA ShortTerm Director. With many years of experience in short term missions, Arklie leads the development and implementation of short term ministry opportunities within North America. He also identifies PCA churches who can offer direct services that address the needs of other churches through short term ministry – helping to strengthen churches throughout the denomination.

Brian Kelso leads Leadership and Ministry Preparation (LAMP). In order to respond more effectively to the rapidly changing demographic environment in North America, LAMP offers training for leadership developing and mentoring of potential church planters who cannot attend a traditional seminary.

Shari Thomas serves MNA as Church Planting Wives Coaching Director. In this role, Shari offers support, encouragement, and mentoring to wives of church planters in every region of North America. **Tami Resch** is assisting Shari in this service.

For more information on these and other ministries of MNA, visit www.pca-mna.org.

MNA Revitalization and Evangelism

offers valuable resources to help enrich our churches in Christ and to assist in planting biblically healthy churches. For additional information on helping to build and grow more vital churches throughout the PCA, please visit www.pca-mna.org/revitalization/revitalization.htm.

Mission to North America (MNA) serves the churches and presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), providing leadership in church planting initiatives, as well as placement and training services for church planters in the US and Canada. In addition, MNA coordinates Revitalization and Evangelism, Chaplain Ministries, Mercy Ministries and Disaster Response for the PCA in North America.

For a list of MNA staff, visit our Web site: www.pca-mna.org.

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