



Sixteenth Episcopal District of The African Methodist Episcopal Church

Haiti: Restoration and Rebuilding

Report No. 3 to Council of Bishops and African Methodist Episcopal Church

June 26-29, 2011 – ~~One Year Later~~ **18 months Later**



St. Paul AMEC - ~~Jan. 12, 2010~~
June 26, 2011 (18 months later)

St. Paul AMEC - ~~January 12, 2011~~
June 26, 2011 (18 months later)

January 12th marked the one year anniversary of the most devastating natural disaster that the country of Haiti has seen in 200 years. The quake killed over 250,000 people, leaving a large portion of Haiti in ruins. The historic St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church in downtown Port-au-Prince was totally destroyed. Today, eighteen months later, only a stick and wire fence, surrounding the land on which the church used to stand, remain to remind one of the church that was before January 12, 2010. **Four of the nine AME Churches in Haiti were totally destroyed and the estimated rebuilding of these four basic structures is \$ 1.497 million U.S. dollars.** Three of the damaged churches can be repaired and renovated. Repair and renovation costs are under review for two of the three Churches while one church, Bethel AME, Cabaret is ready to begin the estimated **\$ 40,000.00 USD** repair work as soon as building permits can be obtained.

More than a million displaced people “still” live under tents and tarpaulins. Reconstruction has barely begun. An outbreak of cholera last October and the political unrest over a disputed

presidential election in November added to already challenging situations in Haiti. Haiti's new **President, Mr. Michel Martelly** who has been well received by the masses, has vowed to rebuild Haiti. The full complement of his Administration was not yet in place as we left Haiti for our seventh non-Annual Conference visit since January 12, 2010.

During this church year we have had persons from the 16th District to join us on the grounds in Haiti. Presiding Elders **Reverend Dr. Millard Lloyd Davis** and **Reverend Uklyn Hendricks** traveled to Haiti to provide training, encouragement and to witness first-hand what can be done by their constituents in Jamaica and Virgin Islands respectively for Haiti. Additionally, associate Minister **Reverend Erla Allenye from Bethel AME, St. Croix, VI Conference**, traveled to Haiti and taught classes for four days in four of our Churches. Our **16th District YPD'ers** presented a **gift of \$ 700.00 USD** to the Bishop for Haiti at the 2011 Leadership Empowerment and District Planning Meeting, April 29, 2011, in Guyana. These funds have been earmarked for scholarship for our young people.

You will recall that our initial **focus in 2010 (February thru June) was temporary shelter, food, water and medical needs**. The next initiative was focused on Education for our young children and young adults. We worked with the Presiding Elders and Pastors in identifying the children with the greatest need and encouraged donors to give to the scholarship initiative.

The 2011 Annual Conference held in February of this year at Mary Beckett AMEC, Croix-des-Bouquets was like no Conference anywhere else in the 16th District. The people came with a mind to praise and worship the Lord. Not having had an official Conference since 2009, people came from all over Haiti to Mary Beckett. The Reverend Samuel Jenkins (4 EPD) preached to us and encouraged us during our Friday special service of Thanksgiving! During the Closing worship there were five choirs in uniforms and Mary Beckett could not seat or hold the crowd that came.

During the Women's Missionary Society Convention, Dr. Carol T. Mitchell, President of New Era Baptist State Convention of Nebraska, Inc., brought the Missionary message and then taught during the Annual Conference Institute addressing this year's theme: "INNOVATIVE PEOPLE WITH INNOVATIVE MINDS FIND INNOVATIVE WAYS TO SHARE GOD'S TIMELESS WORD".

Despite the gloomy backdrops all around us in Haiti, we are finding some equilibrium as we innovatively explore ways and means to rebuild, renovate, repair and readjust our focus.

The deeds to the St. Paul property have been properly filed with the Haitian Government, we continue to wait in hopeful expectation that we will be either allowed to rebuild on our property in Port-Au-Prince or that we will be reimbursed for our property which is now a part of

the Government's massive expropriation. We continue to lobby for the historic St. Paul AME Church, Port-au-Prince, to be allowed to be rebuilt in Port-au-Prince.

Temporary renovations for safety reasons have been made at the (a) Hilderbrand Clinic/Education building of St. Paul AMEC; (b) Christ Revient AMEC and (c) Loula Brokenton AMEC. Worship and work are continuing to go on at these sites.

Our Schools at (1) Rosetta Lee AMEC and (2) Loula Brokenton AMEC and (3) Christ Revient AMEC are opened again despite declined enrollment. We have paid all back pay for all the staff and teachers which has helped getting teachers back in the class rooms.

MOVING FORWARD

The work before us is massive and success directly relate to our ability to multi-task and stay focused. The key initiatives identified by the Strategic Planning Team in Augusts 2010 continue to be our way forward:

- **Health (with emphasis on supporting and strengthening AME SADA)**
- **Education (Scholarships made available for students)**
- **Spiritual/Mental Care**
- **Agriculture**
- **Housing and Development**
- **Disaster Preparedness/Risk Reduction**
- **Social Action**

We are currently working with an Advocacy Group comprised of **Haitian Americans, Americans, African Americans of 8 of the 9 black mainline denominations, and Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention. On March 10-12, 2011, approximately 50 persons from this population** came together in **Washington D.C., for a Summit on Advocacy for Haiti**. Joining me from the African Methodist Episcopal Church were **Sister Elvire Douglas** and **Mr. Robert Nicholas**. The meeting and discussions challenged us to identify substantive areas for policy advocacy to help build a safe, strong, and sustainable Haiti in the aftermath of the earthquake. The Summit was successful in bringing various communities together to embrace this initiative and adopt certain specific resolutions to influence significantly the policy and legislative agenda of the United States toward Haiti in various areas. Since the summit we have been working in sub-committees to address the three central priorities identified by the group at this first gathering of its type: a. Agriculture, b. Reconstruction, and c. Immigration.

Mr. Nicholas is focusing on Agriculture (one of our identified strategic areas); Sis. Elvire is working on Immigration and I serve as co-chair of the Reconstruction sub-committee. The

Advocacy Group is seeking to craft a coherent and clear advocacy agenda to advance with the United States Government and the international community.

The Haiti Annual Conference Steering Committee continues to oversee the reconstruction work and related post-earthquake activities. The building plan announced by the Steering Committee (once building permits are issued) is as follows:

PROJECTED COST - REBUILDING & REPAIRING DAMAGED & DESTROYED CHURCHES

<u>Church and Location</u>	<u>Construct Start Date</u>	<u>2010 Estimated Cost of Construction in USD</u>
1. Lula Brokenton AMEC Mariani Carrefour, Haiti		\$ 352,000.00
2. John Hurst AMEC Gressier, Haiti		\$ 164,000.00
3. St. Paul AMEC Formerly in Port-Au-Prince *St. Paul AMEC School/AME SADA Clinic Complex		\$ 230,000.00 Undetermined
4. Canaan Christ Revient AMEC Tombe Gateau Jacmel, Haiti		\$ 317,000.00
=====		
Repairs		
5. Bethel AME – Cabaret		\$ 40,000.00
6. *Christine Smith AMEC Kenscoff		Undetermined
7. *Rosetta Lee AME Church/School		Undetermined
8. Wall Fence and Walk and Drive Gates at John Hurst AMEC		\$ 11,000.00
9. Projected Engineering and Contractor Fees		\$ 44,910.00
* Available Funds for 2 churches and 2 schools and Clinic		<u>\$ 383,000.00</u>
TOTAL PROJECTED COSTS		\$ 1,541,910.00

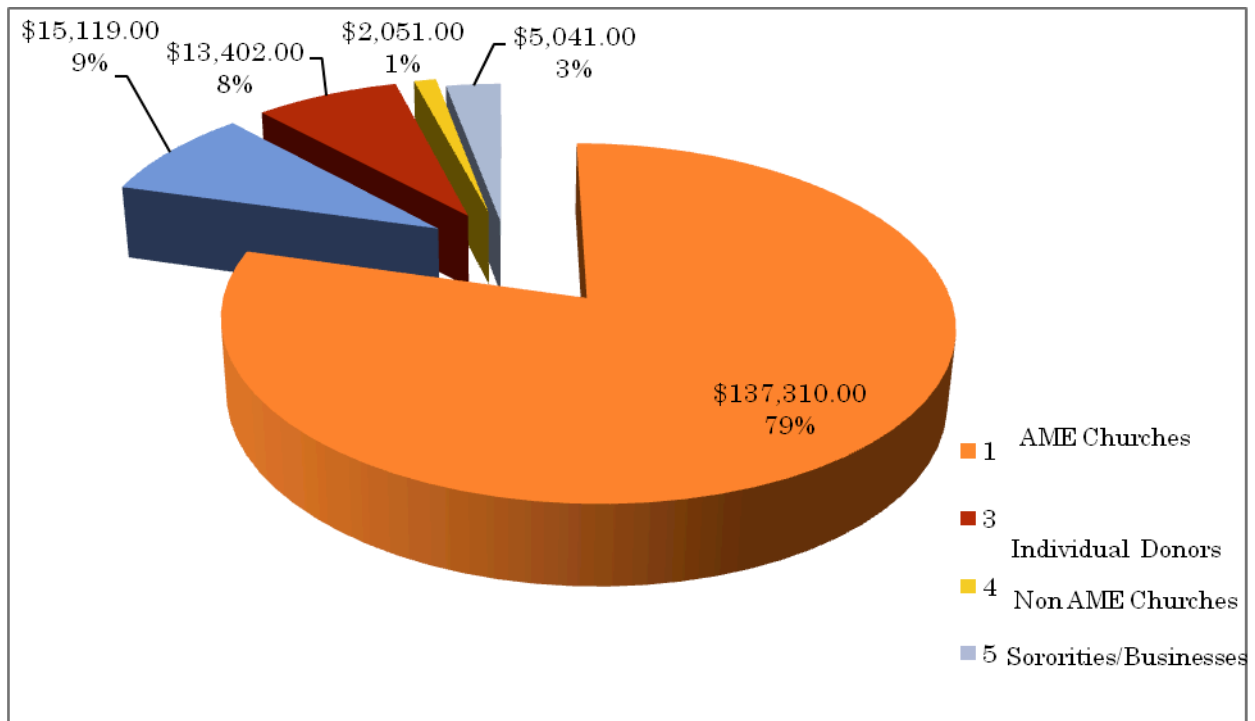
*Monies received by Mr. Lewis, CFO, (i.e., donations from African Methodist Episcopal Churches (Districts 1-20) and others outside the AME Church), are **restricted funds** to be used in the restoration and rebuilding and repairing of our destroyed and/or damaged Churches. Rosette Lee AMEC and Christine Smith AMEC are not shown above since the estimates on the repairs needed at each of these Churches have not been completed.*

DONATIONS JUNE 2010 THROUGH MAY 2011

Continued Supporters of Haiti

AME Churches, Conferences, Districts	\$ 137,310.00
Individuals	13,402.00
Non- AME Churches	2,051.00
Businesses & Sororities	<u>5,041.00</u>
Total Income	\$ 157,804.00

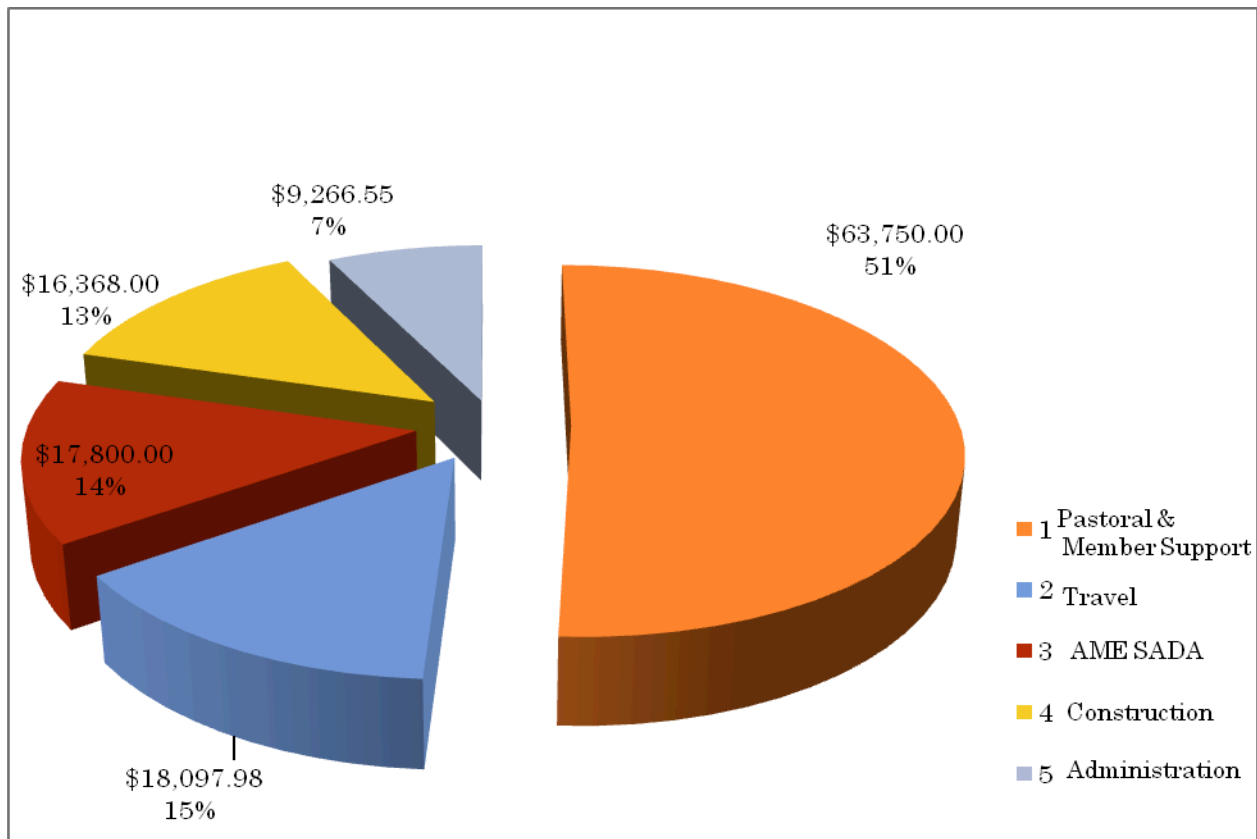
Donor Income



EXPENSES JUNE 2010 THROUGH MAY 2011

Expenses Type	Amount
Pastoral and Member Support	\$63,750.00
Travel	18,097.00
AME SADA Support	17,800.00
Construction Projects	16,368.00
Administration	<u>9,267.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$125,283.00

Distribution of Funds



Sarah F. Davis
 Bishop – 16th Episcopal District AMEC
 June 25, 2011

