

## HAITI 2012.....2 YEARS LATER

### *January 10, 2010 Earthquake Anniversary*

It has been two years today since the earthquake happened in Haiti, yet not much has changed. “Haiti looks like the earthquake happened two months ago, not two years. Over half a million people remain homeless in hundreds of informal camps, most of the tons of debris from destroyed buildings still lays where it fell, and cholera, a preventable disease, was introduced into the county and is not an epidemic killing thousands and sickening hundreds of thousands more.” *January 3, 2012 by [CommonDreams.org](http://CommonDreams.org)*

However, we in the 16<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District are pleased to be able to share good news of our forward movement in Haiti with our AME Church communities and with SADA. We cannot cease expressing our thanks to our African Methodist Episcopal Church family all over the world and to all those other persons who have been so generous with sharing of their time and funds for Haiti. We give praise to God for all He has done and continues to do for Haiti through each of you!

### **THE RE-BUILDING OF OUR CHURCHES HAS BEGUN!**

Construction of one of our totally destroyed churches commenced on December 19, 2011. The first church rebuilding is taking place now in Mariani at Lula Brokentong African Methodist Episcopal Church. On December 9, 2011 the Steering Committee of the Haiti Annual Conference signed the construction contract and presented a check in the amount of \$ 150,000.00 to Mr. Vernald Guerrier of Achicodec Plus of Haiti. The final payment will be due upon completion of the Church. Mr. Vernald Guerrier assured the Steering Committee that once the main work commenced on December 19, 2011, the church could be completed by summer 2012.



*Steering Committee Co-Chairpersons Engineer Dulas and Sis. Elvire Douglas give first payment check to Mr. Guerrier as Presiding Elder Jean Joel Maurice and Presiding Elder Joel Mehu look on.*

The other three destroyed Churches to be rebuilt are John Hurst AME Church, St. Paul AME Church, and Canaan Christ Revient AME Church. Christine Smith AME and Bethel AME both have major renovation work needing to be done. The work at Bethel AME in Cabaret has already begun and work at Christian Smith will begin in February 2012. The total projected rebuilding and renovation work has been estimated at \$1.497 million dollars. Disputes over verifiable property rights and the Government claims to particular sections of property in Port-Au-Prince, keep the historic St. Paul AME Church in Port-Au-Prince unable to move forward.

### **EMPOWERMENT AND DEVELOPMENT TRAINING**

“BLESSINGS”, “JOY”, “UNITY”, “SATISFACTION”, “LOVE”, “GRATITUDE”, “HUMILITY”, “SHARING”, “ENCOURAGEMENT”, “TOGETHERNESS”, “KNOWLEDGE”, “MARVELOUS”, “GLORY”, “FATERNITY”, and “WISDOM” are the words the 17 clergy persons used in responding to Bishop Sarah Davis’ request for each to describe with one word their two and a half days Retreat experience.

The first ever Retreat for the Haiti Annual Conference Clergy was held September 28 – October 1, 2011 at the Act Alliance Guest House, Port-Au-Prince, where the Reverend Dr. James Wade, Executive Director of Church Growth and Development was the featured guest teacher. Others who assisted in facilitating the Retreat were Presiding Elder Jean Joel Maurice, Supervisor Claytie Davis, Jr., and Bishop Sarah Davis.



*AME CLERGY LEADERS IN RETREAT LED BY DR. JAMES WADE*

Feeling that the morale, training needs and building of “togetherness” of preachers in the post 2010 Earthquake season was lacking, Presiding Elder Maurice asked Bishop Sarah during her meeting with the Steering Committee earlier in the year to consider bringing all the preachers together for a Retreat where they could have time to be together for two or more days to download some of their post-earthquake experiences, to share and get to know each other better for the sake of unifying the Church; to have teachings on Methodism, how Methodism differs from other families of faith, what we believe as Methodist, how to share Jesus with the unsaved and how to prepare a message for God’s people.

Dr. James Wade was invited to come and be our guest teacher. Dr. Wade came and brought the teach materials in French and English which was presented in binders to each attendee. Additionally, Dr. Wade facilitated getting Creole Bibles for each of our preachers. Each Presiding Elder was given 20 binders each with the lessons in French so that the lessons could be taught to the lay persons of the Haiti Conference.

Bishop Sarah and Supervisor Claytie thanked Dr. Wade for bringing the 8 tub containers filled with clothing, blankets, towels, sheets and children underwear which is to be shared with AME Church members and the non-AME Yaweh Orphanage which Bishop Sarah and the 16<sup>th</sup> District pledged to support after the 2010 Earthquake.

### **YOUTH TRAINED IN PARASEISMIC CONSTRUCTION**

Lula Brokentong AME Church of Mariani organized a training program in earthquake resistant construction for the youth of the Church. The program was named: Para seismic Training. There were many reasons for this program but some of the most motivating ones were: (1) education is a step essential to the development of a New Haiti; and (2) because our youth have need of coaching and training and the country needs qualified human resources to participate in the economic and territorial reconstruction. Young Christians must contribute their share to get Haiti back on her feet. The training program at our AME Church of Mariani taught young people the construction skills based on seismic and hurricane to contribute to the improvement of social infrastructure and habitat in the country. The 13-week program was supported technically by the Administration of the Church and financially by the 16<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District AME Church.

#### Specific objectives

- Train professionals of the **construction to earthquake-resistant** practices
- Increase the availability of construction professionals
- Contribute to the training and education of the youth of the Church
- Enable young people to have a current and useful to their Community trade.

#### Beneficiaries of the project

The beneficiaries of this project are the young people of the Lula Brokenton AME Church of Mariani with initial training as masons, supervisors or engineers. These young people had no initial vocational training and with at least the 9<sup>th</sup> fundamental year (4<sup>th</sup> secondary). At the end of the training, these young people will have a certificate which must sanction the qualification

acquired during 50 hours of courses. At the end of this training, young professionals will have the capacity to participate sections of the reconstruction of Haiti in General and our AME Churches particular.

### **LOOKING AHEAD IN HAITI**

We will continue to have as priorities in Haiti: (1) **Healthcare** and cholera prevention and control via **AME – SADA**; (2) **Education** [funding for scholarships for children to attend primary and secondary schools; and salaries for teachers in our AME Schools; and (3) **Reconstruction** (i.e., rebuilding and repairing our 9 AME Churches).

We must continue the advocacy for Haiti as we continue to support Haiti. Your prayers and your help continue to sustain our AME Church families and communities in Haiti. Please continue for there is yet much to be done.

Bishop Sarah F. Davis  
[bishopsdavis126@gmail.com](mailto:bishopsdavis126@gmail.com)