



## Triumph and Tragedy in Haiti

In the summer of 2015, our 49th in Haiti, ICCM experienced unprecedented joys and sorrows. June witnessed the historic occasion of the Free Methodist Church becoming a General Conference and electing ICCM alumnus Rev. Eliodor Desvariste as bishop. July saw the largest North American mission team ever, when over 140 “missioners” converged on the campus of the new Haiti Providence University to serve in a variety of ways. At the same time, our team in Haiti and around the world experienced a month of agony from July 4, when Education Coordinator Barthelemy Luce disappeared, until August 7, when his body was laid to rest and a memorial service honored this man of God. His senseless murder angered and saddened our hearts and devastated his family. Additionally, it caused the cancellation of our annual Teacher Training Seminar for this year. This edition of *Reflections* captures a glimpse of all of these conflicting realities.

Please pray for Carlyne Luce, Barthelemy’s widow, ICCM’s Deputy Finance Director, and for their three children (in order of photo), Corinne, Ryan and Carl.



## Raising the Standard of Education

Valerie Hall, US Coordinator for Education for Haiti

After 17 years of working with my friend Barthelemy, I am honored to share about his special gifts and the contributions he has made to education in Haiti.

Barthelemy was a great partner in ministry. He was very passionate about education and taught me many things about Haiti and the culture. He would not let me make test questions easier for our teachers. He insisted, “They need to be challenged.” When we visited schools, he delighted in showing me the best teachers but also where improvements needed to be made. When I was concerned about losing some of the teachers we had trained, he replied, “We are still helping Haitian children because those teachers are using their knowledge for good in other schools.”

He was a perfect example of a lifelong learner. When I first met him, he had a Bachelor’s in Education. Over the years, he continued to study, completing a Master’s in Education through a university in the U.S. When he finished his Master’s, he began his Doctorate.

Barthelemy wanted to pass his passion for learning on to others. After a visit to schools in Ethiopia, he began implementing ideas from his observations. He determined to reward directors and schools who were doing

good things for education. He said, “Matthew 25:21 is my guide in how to reward the schools.”

Barthelemy was committed to serving the Lord and providing the best education possible to the children of Haiti. In our plans for teacher training, we always incorporated biblical instruction within the context of the school curriculum. Barthelemy constantly raised the standards of our ICCM teachers and required more from them as educators. As he taught in the Free Methodist Bible School and at our university, and as he continued his own studies, he gained more knowledge to share with the teachers. Barthelemy’s work was not in vain. The Haitian education program has grown and improved under his watchful eye. I believe God will multiply Barthelemy’s work and continue to provide for ICCM schools in Haiti.

Memorial gifts to establish Barthelemy’s legacy of continuing education for our teachers in Haiti would be deeply appreciated. Please mark your contribution “Haiti Teacher Training.”



## Goats, Trees, Desks, Pumps, And ... Sponsored Children!

Haiti Providence University stretched to its limits and beyond to host a *giant* mission team this summer. The results were pretty colossal!

About 140 desks for school children were constructed. Hundreds of goats were tagged, dewormed and deloused. Thousands of trees were tended through Eden Reforestation Project. Sports competitions and VBS were conducted with local children. University students interacted with American visitors, dispelling stereotypes and forging lasting bonds. A broken pump was repaired, restoring

essential water to the university campus in its desert environment.

The highlight for several team members was the opportunity to meet their sponsored children and their parents.



*Even if we can't help everyone, we can help someone. Meeting Eliezer and Susan was definitely one of the major highlights of my GC15 mission trip experience.*  
— Maiya Lueptow

Meanwhile, back at GC15 in Orlando, ICCM was celebrating our 50th Anniversary. Nothing could have pleased us more than dozens of people who arrived

back from this short trip to Haiti and rushed up to our display to sponsor a child. Some were so moved by their experience in Haiti they had tears in their eyes. We thank God that so many first time visitors now have Haiti in their hearts and prayers.

Our enduring partnership in Haiti continues to educate over 20,000 children, including sponsored children, students on scholarships, and unsponsored kids who receive meals through the Haiti Food Fund. Thank you for standing with us to strengthen and improve all we do as we partner broadly and deeply with our Haitian brothers and sisters.