



*February 2014*

## MISSION GRANT STORY

### REBUILDING NORD EST HAITI LUTHERAN SCHOOL \$100,000

Nord Est Haiti Lutheran School began as a result of the relationship between Rev. Daniel Paul, a native Haitian, and Rev. Sam Wiseman, an American, who attended seminary together at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana. They made a commitment to support the Lutheran church through Rev. Paul's work in Haiti after their graduation in 2001. Rev. Paul established Nord Est Haiti Lutheran School in 2001. The orphanage was begun in 2003 and Rev. Wiseman's church Lamb of God, in Lake Stevens, Washington sent short-term mission teams to help with construction. When Rev. Wiseman took a call to Faith Lutheran Church in La Grande, Oregon, they too sent teams to help. Together the two churches established an organization to support the ministry of Rev. Daniel Paul, the orphans, and the school.

When Haiti suffered the traumatic earthquake in 2010, many schools were completely destroyed with students losing their lives. Those schools were not properly built but with greatly changed standards and recommendations, construction for the new building should keep this from happening again. The 2011-2012 school year registration was over 180 children including children from the orphanage and

the community. One kindergarten class through fourth grade meets in the church building, two kindergarten classes meet in the office building, and the fifth and sixth grades meet in the orphanage. Often the daily activities of the school conflict with the operations of the orphanage. It is for this reason that more school space is needed.

The school teaches in French and the students study math, science, social studies, French grammar, Creole, history, and geography. They begin each day with prayer, which follows the Sunday order of worship and is led by the older students. They also memorize Bible verses and prayer is intertwined throughout the school day. Attending church on Sundays is a requirement. They wear uniforms, and for many, these are the nicest clothes they have. The school provides a daily hot meal for students through Trinity/Hope Feeding Program. For some this is the only food they receive each day.

Nord Est Haiti Lutheran School reaches out to the Haitian children through education. They also share God's Word with future generations and prepare productive members of society.