

## AMERICAN BAPTIST HAITIAN CAUCUS ANNUAL REPORT 2014 - 2015

FROM: Rev. Dr. Edgard Nicolas, President

Our goals from the previous year were to be more visible and closer to the Haitian churches. Some leaders complained about our lack of connection with them. One of the possible ways these issues can be addressed is to set up a strategic plan to establish a stronger bond between the Haitian churches and the Haitian Caucus. A visitation committee was designated to serve as a bridge between Haitian churches and the Haitian Caucus. This is due to some resentment manifested by some of our Pastors when they were contacted either for meetings or special events. We strongly believe that this can bring change in our relationship with the Haitian churches because their support is greatly needed.

The following are some activities that we have previously undertaken:

### 1. ANNUAL GATHERING - 11/28 to 11/29/14

Last November we met at Faith Baptist Church located at 60 Pennacook Street, Manchester, NH 03104-3558. It is an American congregation where the Haitian French Speaking Church fellowships. When we got there the ground was covered with snow. It was a very cold day, but it was also a blessed day. Rev. Renaud Dumont is the Pastor of the above named Haitian congregation. His loyalty is remarkable to ABC/USA, the region, and to the Haitian Caucus. It was a dream that came true For Rev. Dumont to see us in New Hampshire. We had an estimated attendance of three hundred people consisting of twenty five pastors and an entire congregation. A delegation of four members from La Convention Baptiste d'Haiti, (Haitian Baptist Convention of Haiti), the Executive Minister from New Hampshire, and the Rev. Dr. Lee B. Spitzer, Executive Minister from New Jersey, all came to support the Haitian Caucus. It was at that meeting the new committee was elected.

### 2. ATTENDING PRISON RE-ENTRY TRAINING 12/5/14

Rev. Fela Barrueto invited us to attend a prison re-entry training in Valley Forge at the Mission Center. Four members of the Haitian Caucus were present. We want to be involved in such activities because it is unknown in our Haitian communities. This presentation has led us to a new phase of Ministry.

### 3. LEADERSHIP RETREAT 3/20 to 3/22/15

Thirty church leaders including twelve pastors, were present at the leadership retreat held at CAMP LIEBENZELL, Long Valley, New Jersey. The theme was: UNITED TO PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS - Acts 2:46.

It was truly a time of renewal, fellowship, and vitality. The key elements of these presentations were as followed:

To effectively proclaim the Good News of the Gospel:

a) "A SPIRIT OF CHRISTIAN UNITY" Rev. Joseph Pierre Louis from Haiti. Acts 2:44 and Ephes. 4:3

b) "A SPIRIT OF CHRISTIAN ALTRUISM"

Rev. Daniel N. Auguste from Massachusetts.

Acts 2:45

c) "A SPIRIT OF CONSECRATION AND SUBMISSION"

Rev. Dr. Francel Jacques from New Jersey.

Acts 2:46 & 47

d) "CHURCH ADMINISTRATION AND TAXATION"

Rev. Dr. Elmo Familiaran from American Baptist Churches of New Jersey

4. INMATES RE-ENTRY

5/12/15

Meeting with Virginia Dudley, MSW-LSW, from ESSEX COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS, Director of Re-entry Programs, to talk about the inmate Re-entry program. Mrs. Dudley explained how important it is for these people to have this program. Presently, there are one hundred twenty five participants in need of job-readiness & training, mentorship, anger management, and GED program. This is something that we have in our agenda to present and recommend to our constituents.

5. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

In January 2015, Rev. Dr. Jose L. Ortiz, former ABC/USA staff, Director of the Hispanic Ministries called to request financial assistance to support the Universite Chretienne du Nord d'Haiti. The water reservoir is currently dysfunctional so we were asked to donate money for repair. Members of the Haitian Caucus contributed a check payable to the Hispanic Church in the amount of \$835.00 which Dr. Ortiz will forward to Haiti.

Another pledge was made for a newly arrived Pastor from Haiti who was seeking political asylum for his family. While he was in the USA, his wife, sister in-law, and cousin who were left behind were savagely beaten and raped. His infant twin girls were threatened to be killed by the bandits. His immigration lawyer required \$1550.00 to process the case. The amount was collected and handed to the Pastor.