



The 2012 Diocesan Lenten Project: **Nickels for Nurses -** **Bringing Health Care to La Resurrection School in Haiti**

About the Haiti School Nurse Project: Two of the major challenges in Haiti are poor health conditions and lack of education resources. Working in partnership with La Resurrection Episcopal Parish in Gros Morne, Haiti, the Haiti School Nurse Project seeks to address both issues. It will provide a nurse for the Parish school which has 829 students from grades K-12..

The project has four objectives:

1. Bring immediate health care and health knowledge to the students at La Resurrection School
2. Establish a strong working relationship with the local hospital and other local health resources
3. Extend health knowledge and access to community health resources to the students' families, especially mothers.
4. Create a partnership between the two communities - La Resurrection Parish and the Gros Morne Community partnering with parishes in the Diocese of Maryland.

For every \$20 collected, a day's worth of the nurse's salary can be provided for the school. All funds donated will go to help pay for the salary of the nurse, equipment and furnishings for the nurse's office, and medicines and medical supplies. This project is for an initial three year period.

Very few schools in Haiti have a nurse, and those are only located in the country's capital Port-au-Prince. The vision is to make the nurse project at La Resurrection School a model that can be replicated across the country.

This packet includes two curricula - one for pre-K and elementary children and a second for middle school and high school students. You may find that resources in one are helpful in the other, so we encourage you to review both. If you have questions or would like further assistance, you may contact Hugh Davies at 410-326-0370 or daviesh@comcast.net.

A nurse in Haiti will cost La Resurrection school \$20 every day. \$20 is 400 nickels.

We suggest that you use mite boxes or jars to collect donations. A jar cover is included with this material.

Send your collections to:

The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland
4 E. University Parkway
Baltimore, MD 21218
Attn: Lenten Project

Please note on the memo line: 2012 Lenten Project

Curriculum for Middle School and High School Students

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Sunday February 26, 2012, the 1st Sunday of Lent

Lesson 1: Why Haiti?

This project is about providing a school nurse for La Resurrection Parish School in Gros Morne, Haiti. Gros Morne means big mountain, and it is in the mountains of northern Haiti. The star is Port-au-Prince, the capital of Haiti.



Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Over 80% of their population lives in poverty. Together with extreme poverty, health conditions are poor. Access to clean water and sanitation systems is very limited.

The earthquake in 2010 killed nearly a quarter of a million people in Haiti, and left nearly a million people homeless. Conditions which were poor before the earthquake are much worse now.

There are Episcopal Parishes in Haiti, just like in our country. In fact the Diocese of Haiti is part of the Episcopal Church USA. The Episcopal Diocese of Haiti administers 150 schools across the country. This makes it easier for one Episcopal parish in the USA to reach out to another Episcopal parish in Haiti. The **Nickels for Nurses** program is reaching out to La Resurrection Parish and School in Gros Morne, Haiti.



We seek to respond to the needs of Haiti because Jesus asks us to do so:

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me [...] Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." **Matthew 25:35-36, 40b**

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Sunday March 4, 2012, the 2nd Sunday of Lent



Lesson 2: About Gros Morne

Gros Morne is the region where La Resurrection Parish is located as well as the name of the town.

There are no paved roads to get to Gros Morne, and only one small paved road in the town.

Few homes have electricity. People go to public places, outside, to use electricity, watch a television or charge their cell phone batteries. It is very dark at night with no street lights or lights in houses.

The people cook outside. They do not have stoves, dishwashers, refrigerators or sinks. They use charcoal to cook their food. They use the water from the community well or the river to wash the dishes.

There are no public water or sewer systems.

There is a well at the school where people can go to get filtered water. Family members go to get the water which they carry home on their heads. Before they can drink the water or use it for cooking it must be treated.

Agriculture is the base of the economy - growing mangoes and bananas.

People of all ages walk everywhere. A few people have motorcycles or donkeys for transportation. There are very few cars or trucks. There are some old brightly colored busses called tap-taps that they use for long trips to places like Port-au-Prince.

About 7,000 people live in the town of Gros Morne, and 130,000 live in the region (with much growth due to people fleeing earthquake damage)

Life in Gros Morne:



Yet the people of Gros Morne are hopeful and optimistic about the future. Just as we do, they care about their families and want their children to have a good education and to go on to successful lives.



Jesus cared about the children:

¹³ People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴ When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. ¹⁵ Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." ¹⁶ And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them. Mark 10:13-16

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Sunday March 11, 2012, the 3rd Sunday of Lent

Lesson 3: About Education in Haiti and La Resurrection School

There is no legal mandate for school attendance beyond 6th grade in Haiti. Only 20% of potential students attend secondary school.

La Resurrection School includes grades K through 12.

The students in grades 6-12 come not only from the town of Gros Morne, but from five other elementary schools in villages around Gros Morne. Some, whose families can afford it, ride an old bus, but many walk miles to school. They must walk through a river to get to Gros Morne. If the river is high, neither the bus or the students can get to school.

The school receives financial support from St. Martin's in the Field Episcopal Parish in Severna Park, Maryland. St. Martin's done so for over 25 years and helped the school grow to its present size.

There are currently 829 students, 299 in high school and 530 in elementary school.

La Resurrection uses the French system of education. Students are required by the Ministry of Education to pass exams before moving to the next level and the students do very well. Many who graduate are qualified to go on to higher education and colleges. The new Suffragan Bishop of Haiti graduated from La Resurrection School.

Children speak Creole, but study French and English.

Classes are overcrowded. Some science classes have almost 100 students. There are very few books. The teacher writes all the information on a blackboard which the students then copy into a notebook. There are no lights, copy machines, windows, desks or libraries.

400 students pay full tuition of \$200/year. Over half of the students are on scholarship. All students receive uniforms and daily lunch. For many, this is their only meal for the day.



For in books is the spring of understanding, the fountain of wisdom, and the river of knowledge. **2 Esdras 14:47**

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Sunday March 18, 2012, the 4th Sunday of Lent

Lesson 4: Health Care in Haiti and Gros Morne

Health conditions in Haiti are poor, and in rural areas like Gros Morne they are even worse.

- ✓ Only 60% of the population receives health care, and a much smaller percentage in rural areas.
- ✓ There are only two doctors for every 10,000 people. In the US, there are 26 doctors for 10,000 people.
- ✓ In Haiti, there is only one nurse for every 10,000 people. In the US, there is a nurse for every 900 people.
- ✓ Nearly 18 times more women die in childbirth in Haiti than in the US.
- ✓ 12 times more babies die in childbirth and through age five in Haiti than in the US.
- ✓ Babies born underweight - 33%, Children underweight for age - 22%
- ✓ In the town and region of Gros Morne, many people never see a health care worker. 3,000 people have contracted cholera, and 200 have died.



Alma Mater Hospital in Gros Morne
preventing cholera



Head Nurse



Sign instructing people on

There is a little hospital in Gros Morne, but it is underfunded and doctors come infrequently. People must pay a lot of money to receive care and wait a long time to be treated for only basic illnesses. The people there do their best to help. Many families cannot afford to go to the hospital.

For the students, a school nurse for La Resurrection school would mean:

- Students would have someone to go for help when they are sick
- Someone to give them medicines when they are needed
- Someone to identify illnesses that are communicable and prevent them from spreading to others in the school
- Someone to write referrals to the hospital to get them help
- A health record for them
- Making sure they get all their shots to prevent illnesses
- Checking their hearing and vision tested regularly and a way to get glasses or hearing aids if needed
- Teaching them about nutrition
- Teaching them about their bodies and good health habits
- Having someone talk to about their needs and problems
- A trained health professional to work with the teachers
-
- Help for their families to live healthier lives

Jesus Heals the Sick Mark 5:2-41 Jesus wished to bless the people and lead them to faith in God. Because he was the Son of God and God's power came upon him, he was able to bless the people with miracles of healing. He caused many who were blind to see, restored hearing to the deaf, made the lame to walk, and healed many of their sicknesses. He even brought some back to life.

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Sunday March 25, 2012, the 5th Sunday of Lent

Lesson 5: What we can do to support the Haiti School Nurse Project?

- ❖ **Pray for all of the children in Haiti**, especially in Gros Morne, that they may receive God's grace, remain healthy, grow in knowledge, and continue into successful lives. We also need to pray for their brothers and sisters, and mothers and fathers.
- ❖ **Learn about what life is like** for young people in a part of the world that is in many ways different from ours, yet their daily lives are not so different from ours. They go to school, play sports, enjoy music, help their families, and worship in the Episcopal Church in their community. They are acolytes, go to Sunday School, and follow the services in the Book of Common Prayer - just in French.
- ❖ **Support this project** with your nickels, dimes, and dollars so that better health does come to their community.



Remember what the Bible tells us.

1 John 3:17-18

"If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth."

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Addendum:

Some ideas on how to raise the money are:

- Discuss how your class can raise money and raise awareness of the need
- Talk to your family about what you can do to help as a family
- Write an article for your church newsletter or bulletin asking for parish support
- Create a bulletin board or a display to raise awareness in your church
- Ask your local health care workers (doctors and nurses) to support your fund raising
- Have a birthday party and ask for donations for **Nickels for Nurses** instead of presents.
- Give up something for Lent and give the money saved to **Nickels for Nurses**
- Put it on your Facebook page
- You have good ideas, what do you think you can do to support **Nickels for Nurses**?