

Pastor Luc Deratus. Founding Minister of Harmony Ministries

Luc Deratus, the founding minister of Harmony Ministries, was born in Leogane, Haiti in 1950 and was adopted and raised by an aunt and uncle in the capital of Port-au-Prince. At age 24, with the help of an American missionary, Pastor



Luc began his formal ministerial training at the Christ for the Nations Bible School in Dallas, Texas. After graduating, he worked briefly in Dallas and helped start a Christian radio station, which was broadcast in Haiti.

In 1981, he returned to Haiti and began his first church. By 1985, with the help of American friends, he had built the New Harmony Ministries Church in the Cite Militaire, one of the poorest slums in the capital. He then began satellite churches in the mountain town of Thoman and in his hometown of Leogane, with the important assistance of churches from Texas, Florida and New Jersey. By 1988, he had established schools for children in all three locations and in 1992, he set-up a medical clinic at the Port-au-Prince church and hired a part-time physician.

Now, the church in Port-au-Prince has over 1000 members; there are over 250 students in the school; and, when it is safe for the doctor to get there, the ill are treated in the medical clinic. The satellite churches each serve about 300 members and over 120 children attend the schools.

Pastor Luc, his wife Ronide, a trained medical assistant, and their children, Priscilla and Timothy, are forced to divide their time between Haiti and United States because of direct threats to them from kidnappers. Over the years, Pastor Luc has trained a number of lay leaders in his churches and hired principals for his schools; these people continue Pastor Luc's work when he is not in Haiti.

The Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville's Involvement with Harmony Ministries

In 1986, a member of the Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville, who after learning through a friend about Pastor Luc's work in Haiti, introduced him to Dr. H. Dana Fearon III, pastor of the church from 1960-2002. In 1988, Dr. Fearon traveled to Haiti to learn more about Pastor Luc's ministry. We soon began to support his work in small ways.



Since that time, six groups of church members and friends have traveled to Haiti carrying with them each time more than a ton of supplies including: medicine, books, musical instruments, typewriters, school supplies, personal hygiene items, and even wedding dresses. During each trip the group held medical clinics, played with the children, and painted the Harmony Ministries' churches and schools, including the huge sanctuary in Port-au-Prince.

Over the years, the Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville has financially supported Harmony Ministries in a variety of ways: helping to put a roof on one of the Port-au-Prince buildings, adding additional classroom space and a library, a rarity in Haiti; helping to add a second story to the medical

clinic building in Port-au-Prince; helping to support the food pantry and to purchase medicine for the medical clinic; and helping to support the schools so additional teachers could be hired, school supplies could be purchased and lunch could be given to the students.



The Current Situation

In the fall of 2006, Pastor Luc sent letters to members of the Haiti Task Force with good news about all three of his churches and schools. After months of dangerous turmoil, caused by violent gangs, during which it was unsafe for him to go to his church in Port-au-Prince, he had been able to return. But less than two weeks later, Pastor Luc called to report that he had been contacted twice by thugs and told he had to pay them \$150,000 or he would be kidnapped. He and his family immediately went into hiding and began to make plans to leave Haiti.

In October 2006, Pastor Luc, Ronide and Priscilla traveled to Florida and moved in with a relative in North Miami Beach; they shared one room. Timothy spent the school year in Canada with an aunt. (Timothy was born in Canada and therefore a Canadian citizen.) In March 2007, the Haiti Task Force secured a grant from the Lower Fund to supply funds so that the Deratus family could find their own housing in Miami. In May, they moved into their own apartment and Timothy joined the family in July. Ronide and Priscilla only have temporary visas and therefore must return to Haiti periodically. Pastor Luc is now back in Haiti on almost a

full-time basis, occasionally returning to Florida to visit his family.



The Need

"...living the surviving life that we live here in Haiti."
Pastor Luc Deratus

Haiti is the poorest nation in the western hemisphere. In many ways, it cannot even be called a third world country. Without a functioning government to provide basic services to its people, violence, unemployment, illiteracy, and early death are the norm.

Pastor Luc is a man of great vision. For over 25 years he has been called by God to help alleviate some of the desperation that is so common in Haiti. He educates the young, provides vocational education for adults, and tends to the widowed. He provides medical services and a food pantry.

Pastor Luc is focused on maintaining and growing his churches and schools in Haiti, while at the same time securing the safety of his family. He is back in Haiti permanently, but is also maintaining a residence in Florida where his children are receiving their education.

Needs for Financial Support

- Support a Student Program
- Rice and beans for Food Pantry
- Medicine
- New roof for the Port-au-Prince sanctuary, which is riddled with bullet holes from gun battles between UN forces and bandits
- Teachers of English in Port-au-Prince
- Sewing teacher
- Goats for church members in Thoman
- Lunch twice a week for children in Thoman
- New satellite church in the hills near Leogane

Joining the Mission Partnership

The Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville has established The Deratus Fund to support Harmony Ministries as a mission of our church, providing a yearly stipend to Pastor Luc.

To become involved:

- Become a Mission Partner with a yearly gift to Harmony Ministries
- Join us on our next trip to Haiti
- Make a financial contribution to The Deratus Fund at the Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville, NJ
- Invite members of the Haiti Task Force to come speak to an Adult Education Class or to your Mission Committee



For more information on how you can join us in this ministry, please contact Joan Semenuk (609-883-4585 or joanwsemenuk@verizon.net or Ann Wiley (609-896-0548 or awiley@pds.org)

A Mission in Haiti Building a Partnership



Supporting Harmony Ministries Under the Leadership of Pastor Luc Deratus

A Mission Project of the
Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville,
New Jersey



The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he hath sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

Isaiah 61: 1-2