OFCB US Partnership Committee Meeting Notes and Minutes

September 15, 2009 at Myers Park United Methodist Church in Charlotte, NC

I. The meeting was called to order and opened with prayer at 6:05 pm
II. Newcomers to the group were introduced. Thold Gill of First Presbyterian of Charlotte will be serving as the group's Economic Development coordinator. Rick Rogers of First Presbyterian of Charlotte will be serving as the group's treasurer and financial coordinator
III. Allen Smith of World of God announced that his organization's board approved a motion for the following regarding child sponsorship: Every person who has been sponsoring a child at a given level will be allowed to continue with their sponsorship method and amount. New sponsors will be asked to sponsor a child at a cost of $35.00. $20 will go to OFCB as unrestricted funds, $10 will go to support projects in Bayonnais, $5 will be used by WOG to recruit more sponsors.
IV. Clinic Taskforces were finalized with the following designations:
    a. The Finance committee will be comprised of and led by David Nichols and Bob Westeroff
    b. The Fundraising committee will be comprised of Hugh Prather, Pat Christopherson, Pat McDonell, and David Cribbs.
    c. The Implementation Committee will be led by Eddy Leger, Dr. Greg Underwood, and also staffed by John Blackwelder and Tom Massey.
    d. Any other individuals interested in serving on one of these taskforces is encouraged to contact Kevin Wright immediately so that they can be directed to the appropriate contact person.
V. Jim Smith gave a report on the agronomy trip. The following information was shared:
    a. The soil in Bayonnais lacks phosphorous, which accounts for the poor crop yield. Fortunately, phosphorus is found in pig manure and compost pile pilot project has been initiated in Bayonnais overseen by Vilette and Wallace.
    b. An agronomy lab to hold the agronomist's tools will be needed soon
    c. Money for the construction of animal pens and coops is also needed at some point.
    d. LSU would like to invite the Haitian agronomists to their campus for on sight training. They will handle the visa process. 2 tickets for airfare have been covered already by a donor at First Baptist of Huntersville. One more donation is needed.
    e. Jim would like to see our churches advocate for money allocated for Haiti by the US government to be redirected to projects in Bayonnais.
VI. Pat Hopkins of South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church presented an idea to ship another bus down to Bayonnais in the future. His proposal ideas included
    a. Raising $16,000 to buy and ship the bus ($10,000) and using extra money for another project or for future bus maintenance ($6,000)
    b. Send the bus to various churches with each church filling part of the bus with a designated item.

c. Existing OFCB buses could then be utilized for investment income by renting them out to be tap taps.
d. Pat will go back and speak with SMPC and then return to the group with a formalized proposal

VII. Thold Gill shared about his hopes for the economic development team. He would like to meet with individuals who have ideas. Rick Rogers shared about his desire to help formalize the OFCB Churches' finance process and give OFCB greater knowledge about their financial outlook

VIII. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

IX. The next meeting will be at 6:00 pm on October 12, 2009