

## Missions and Ministries Liaison Report – Fall 2007

In May I traveled to Miami with my new Companion Diocese co-chairman the Rev. Deacon Dave Drachlis to attend the Haiti Connection Conference. This is a meeting with representatives from the Diocese of Haiti and their partners: churches, dioceses, and groups such as Rotary Clubs and medical groups who work with the Episcopal churches in Haiti in areas of education, community development, health care, and other ministries. The agenda was packed, so, in spite of being in sunny, vibrant Miami for three days, we never left the hotel! Dave and I were able to meet with Bishop Duracin and spent much of our time planning with our partner the Rev. Fritz Valdema. We learned a tremendous amount and made good contacts with other groups working in the same areas. We have already benefited by staying in touch with these other partners and are coordinating our efforts in a well-building project for the church and school we are working with in Thomazeau.

Our committee is now organizing two mission trips to Haiti. A mission to construct classroom furniture for village schools is scheduled for Oct. 13-21, and a medical mission is planned for Feb. 2-10. Estimated per-person cost is approximately \$1,500 to cover transportation and lodging. For more information contact me ([hanahanford@yahoo.com](mailto:hanahanford@yahoo.com)) or Dave Drachlis ([dave@stthomas-hsv.org](mailto:dave@stthomas-hsv.org)). We are also happy to come speak to your church groups about Haiti.

In June I was able to travel to the Province IV ECW retreat in Kanuga, thanks to the generosity of our ECW board who provided me with a scholarship for registration. Thank you, so much. I really appreciated the opportunity to go, especially since there was an emphasis on missions. A group from St. Michael's (Charleston, S.C.) gave an extensive presentation on their mission to Ukraine. More generally, there was a power point presentation on the mission work of the various dioceses, for which we provided photos and text in advance. Many of the delegations also brought mission displays, which were set up in the back and along the sides of the meeting hall. It was very interesting to see the types of mission work and places where other dioceses were involved.

I created a display with photos of ECW women participating in missions. Featured were: our companion relationship with Haiti; missions to Honduras by Montgomery churches; Katrina relief and clean-up work by churches in Huntsville/Madison; Sis Levin's Peace Education work in the Holy Land; the Amistad Mission in Bolivia; missionary Alexandra (Alex) Martin in Germany; the Jubilee ministries in Alabama; and parish ministries represented by photos of the Moses' Basket ministry at St. Luke's, Scottsboro (provides layettes for low-income Moms and babies) and the Sucarnochee Purls of St. James, Livingston (knit prayer shawls, chemo caps and sweaters for those in need). I also included an updated handout sheet about international mission involvement in the Diocese of Alabama. Thanks to Alleen, who was able to transport easels and posters from Carpenter House, we were able to make an even bigger impact with the poster-size photos of Haitian schoolchildren, which we had previously exhibited at convention.

In addition, I was able to attend a workshop on mission by Jackie Robe, Mission Chair of Province IV. I think it was a valuable session. None of the other women in attendance had ever been on a mission trip and seemed very receptive to the information discussed. Afterwards I met with Jackie and some women from Florida, to exchange ideas, which was also helpful.

I continue to collect information on parish and community ministries in which ECW members are involved. Please, let me know of any of these worthwhile ministries in your area.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Kimzey  
Missions and Ministries Liaison