

## Report of the Global Missions Commission

181<sup>st</sup> Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of Indianapolis

November 17, 2018

The Global Missions Commission meets monthly and is comprised of both clergy and laity throughout the Diocese of Indianapolis. The commission works to educate, support and encourage the active participation of our diocesan household in our existing companionships with the Diocese of Brasilia and St. Andres, Mithon, Haiti, while enhancing and sustaining programs that the diocese has both created and sustained, historically. In the last year, at the direction of our bishop, our primary focus has been in strengthening our relationships with our existing companions, while holding open the possibility of a new relationship in South Sudan.

### Diocese of Brasilia

In July of this year, Global Missions helped fund the presence of Bishop Mauricio and Sandra Andrade at General Convention. In addition, Global Missions has allocated an additional \$6160 of support to the Diocese of Brasilia to sustain the programming of the social agencies that support education, nutrition, healthcare and other programming for children and families.

To that end, we are pleased to announce an anonymous gift that has been made to Global Missions for the purpose of developing a new project in the Diocese of Brasilia. It is a two-year matching gift of \$12,500, annually. With this \$25,000 and an additional match from the diocesan household, we expect to break ground next year, developing a sports complex and gathering space for the community of Pedregal, adjacent to the social agency that already exists there.

At the invitation of Bishop Mauricio, Fr. Jeff Bower will preach at the 15-year celebration of Bishop Mauricio's consecration and diocesan retreat in late November.

Finally, Global Missions is planning a pilgrimage to the Diocese of Brasilia in early July. This pilgrimage is open to all clergy, laity, and youth, 14 and older, accompanied by a parent or guardian. Our primary focus will be in relationship building, visiting the parishes and social agencies of the Diocese of Brasilia, exploring the culture and traditions of the people, worshipping together and celebrating with them at the annual diocesan festival. The dates and costs will be posted on the Global Missions page of the diocesan website, during the first week of December and information will be made available through the weekly ENews.

The Diocese of Brasilia, along with the Diocese of Bor and the Diocese of Indianapolis, entered a five-year, three-way covenant of mutual relationship in 2010. As designed, it should have been reviewed every three years and renewed every five. That has not happened, due in part because the Diocese of Bor ended our relationship in March of 2015, just as we were preparing

for the election of our new bishop and it was uncertain whether we would continue in our established companionships after the election of Bishop Jennifer.

With the bishop's consent, the commission will plan to prepare a new covenant between the Diocese of Indianapolis and the Diocese of Brasilia, for ratification at next year's diocesan convention.

#### St. Andres Mithon, Haiti

In January 2018, Bradley Ayers, Marilyn Day and The Rev. Jeffrey Bower traveled to Mithon, Haiti to continue nurturing our diocesan relationship with St. Andres and the people of Mithon, a relationship that was established in the wake of the 2010 earthquake. Our specific work was to evaluate the work that had been accomplished through the use of the Haiti fund (a restricted fund established after the earthquake of 2010 to be used to rebuild Haiti) to develop and support the rebuilding of crops after Hurricane Matthew.

Working with an agronomist, the people of Mithon came together to plant, fertilize, irrigate and grow, hundreds of acres of beans and other crops that would provide food and income for their rural village atop a mountain some 1.5 hours from the closest city of Leogane. The joy of their accomplishments, evidenced on their faces and in their voices, as they shared their progress and celebrated what they had done together, with our help.

We were fortunate last year to have additional funds, both from the Haiti fund and from our General Global Missions account to help support our efforts to fund the Lunches and Lessons program at St. Andres. This program was established through the efforts of Trinity, Bloomington, in 2011. Now in its 7<sup>th</sup> year, it is a program that serves over 150 children, K-5<sup>th</sup> grade, employs 8 full-time teachers, numerous others who help with the program, and costs in excess of \$30,000 annually to fund. Without the support of parishes and individuals in our diocese, this program would not be sustainable, as the people of Mithon, Haiti are among the poorest people of the world. This is a program that matters and one that needs our attention and support.

Last year, combined with a few reserves from the Haiti Fund and a \$7500 matching gift from the Global Missions General Fund, and your generosity, we were able to fund this program for the academic year during our 303@99 Campaign.

This year we do not have the reserves of the Haiti Fund to help support our efforts as we resurrect our 303@99 campaign. Just 303 gifts of \$99 will fund Lunches and Lessons for the entire year. To give us a boost as we launch this year's campaign, Global Missions has already made a gift of over \$9000 to support our efforts. You can make your gift today by going to [indydio.org/donate](http://indydio.org/donate) and selecting 303@99 in the drop down menu. You can also mail checks to the Diocese of Indianapolis (1100 W. 42<sup>nd</sup> St., Indianapolis, IN 46208; memo: Lunches and Lessons).

Early in 2018, the commission planned a pilgrimage to Mithon, Haiti, to visit our companions. In all, 10 individuals, along with our Bishop, were scheduled to leave on July 29<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, just two weeks prior to our scheduled trip, political mayhem ensued due to a unilateral decision to raise gas prices 35-50%, an attempt to raise government revenues on the backs of the poorest of the poor. This action resulted in a civil uprising in the streets and eventually, the resignation of the Prime Minister. Travel alerts were issued by the US Consulate for those traveling during that period. The decision was made to postpone our trip. It is now scheduled for January 9<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>. Registration has been reopened and will be finalized on November 30<sup>th</sup>. Please contact the Rev. Jeffrey Bower for the application packet and requirements.

In other news, a recent election was held to elect a bishop coadjutor for the Diocese of Haiti. The Ven. Joseph Kerwin Delicat, Dean of Holy Trinity Cathedral in Port au Prince, Haiti, was elected June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Pending the canonical approval by the church's bishops and the diocesan standing committees, he will be consecrated on January 5<sup>th</sup>, succeeding Bishop Duracin who has served as diocesan bishop since 1994.

The Global Missions Commission is hopeful that with the election of a new bishop, the Diocese of Indianapolis might expand our relationships in Haiti, beyond St. Andres, opening the possibility of parish-to-parish companionships, while evaluating the potential for a broader companionship with the Diocese of Haiti.

#### Diocese of Athooch, Sudan

In March of 2018, Global Missions hosted the Rt. Rev. Moses Anur Ayom and Mother Rebecca Koryom from the Diocese of Athooch. Our principle work together was to continue a conversation that began in 2017, just prior to Bishop Jennifer's consecration. It was a conversation that was initiated by Bishop Moses (a product of the Diocese of Bor and the bishop of the newest diocese in South Sudan) to understand the fracture in our relationship with the Diocese of Bor and to explore the possibility of a new relationship with the Diocese of Athooch.

Over an 8 day period, Bishop Moses and Mother Rebecca traveled over 950 miles, were hosted by 9 parishes, multiple social agencies that many of our parishes are involved with, and two cooperating ministries of the diocese. On behalf of the entire Global Missions Commission, we give thanks for the hospitality and care that many of you extended to host our guests.

We are still hopeful that we might continue this conversation, recognizing that to enter into a more meaningful relationship with the Diocese of Athooch, will take considerable work and intentionality, so as to not develop a relationship that is transactional at best, giving little hope for our active involvement.

The civil discord among the people of Sudan and the tribalism of the cultures make our practical presence with them questionable. The costs of travel, uncertainty of communication, competing needs of our established companions in the Diocese of Brasilia and Haiti, and limited

financial resources, make our relationship difficult, though not impossible. We will continue to discern our work in Sudan in 2019.

To that end, we continue to support AFRECS (American Friends of the Episcopal Church in Sudan). In May of this year, while Bishop Moses and Mother Rebecca were on tour in our diocese, Pat Griffin, member of the Global Missions Commission and her husband Lance, attended the AFRECS Conference in Denver, Colorado, meeting with Bishops and missionaries work in Sudan, and learning best practices used to continue to support ministries in Sudan.

In addition, two members of the Global Missions Commission participated in the Global Episcopal Missions Network Conference at Virginia Theological Seminary in May. Again, learning from other dioceses and global partners, of the important work that is being done. If you are interested in learning more about GEMN, simply google GEMN.org. Incidentally, this year's conference is in the Dominican Republic.

The Global Missions Commission is excited about our ongoing work. We invite each of you and your parishes to join us in this new year, as we reach beyond our borders to celebrate our companions, as we imagine new possibilities for our relationships, and as we explore within and beyond ourselves to discover the places where God's Spirit is calling us, to discover something new that we can celebrate through our important work together.