



DAYSRING MINISTRIES

Walking Hand in Hand with the People of the Light & Peace Missions in Haiti

Amazing Facts about the Annual Convention

It happens every year at the same time and in the same place: **revival begins Dec. 26th** and ends the Saturday night of the **Annual Convention at the Light & Peace Mission church**. The results of the **42 Days of Revival? One hundred and thirty new believers!**

The **Annual Convention** is when pastors, church leaders and choirs come from all of the 30 Light & Peace churches from all around Haiti and converge on Pastor Ronald's church, the **Big Church**, right there in Bon Repos. Pastor Ronald and the church leaders try to put limits on the number of people invited from the other churches, but **hundreds of people** still show up, all needing **meals and beds** for the three nights they spend in Bon Repos.

Exactly how many people showed up for the convention? Well, if 10 people from each of the 30 churches came, that's 300 people right there. And the choirs are sometimes extra—like **the 80 person choir from Cornillon!** That's almost **400 people** sleeping on the church pews, on the school floor, in the homes of church families, and some people probably slept in the tents at the orphanage. **One huge pajama party!**

Pastor Ronald said **the kitchen staff cooked day and night for three days**. Coffee and a little bread for breakfast (6 am), rice and beans for lunch (1 pm) and maybe a little spaghetti later on for dinner. They used paper plates, plastic forks and spoons, napkins and **wrist bands** given to the delegates to prevent local folks from wandering in and eating all the food! **What amazing organizational skills the L&P staff have!**

What did all those folks do all day? After breakfast, they attended morning service where the various choirs performed and the pastors preached. Then they attended seminars on leadership responsibilities, worship, teaching skills, and Bible Study. By the end of the evening worship service, even the school floor felt comfortable enough to sleep on.

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There were about 2000 people at the closing Sunday morning service that started at 6 am. Some people were baptized, the choirs sang and sang, and the pastors preached and preached. The service wasn't over until 1 o'clock. **A really good seven hour service!**

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New Little Boy at the Orphanage

Despite our grandest attempts to be organized and have all of the orphans named, aged, and sponsored, we've somehow come up with 54 orphans even though we know there are only 50! We finally figured out that when we take the kids' pictures and ask them their names, they give us their nicknames. Then we put those nicknames (which have no resemblance to their real names) on the list, but then we end up with more names than actual kids! It will still take us some major "list management" before we get it all straightened out!

However, we don't have to worry yet about our new little guy's name because **Pastor Ronald couldn't remember it** when he told me about him. **He's six or seven years old** and arrived with the convention delegates from Cornillon...the church that had the 80 member choir. Maybe he hid among the choir robes, because when the delegation left, he was still there, with permission, of course, to join his new family at **My Father's House Orphanage**.

Rest and Relaxation in Tampa

After preparing for the Christmas services, the New Year's services, the 42 Days of Revival, and then the three-day Annual Convention, Pastor Ronald was pooped! He asked if he and Leona could take a week and visit their family in Tampa. Of course they could! If anyone needs a rest it's Pastor Ronald and Leona who are Mom and Dad to those 51 kids!

But soon after Pastor Ronald arrived in Tampa, he was already calling me and verbally answering my numerous emails questions. We chatted about the new house that's being built on the orphanage property for the orphanage directors—who just happen to be Pastor Ronald and Leona for now. When the house they were living in nearly collapsed during the earthquake, they moved into a tent on the orphanage grounds. They've been there over a year now, but soon their new house will be finished—constructed with more rebar in the walls than even the Presidential Palace!



Trinity Methodist Mission Team Reunites with the Orphans



On Friday afternoon, February 25th, the people from the **Trinity Methodist Mission Team in Hackensettown, NJ**, will reunite with their young friends who were with them during the earthquake in Haiti, a little over a year ago. The Mission Team was supposed to be at a guest house having dinner, but instead, they were still at **My Father's House Orphanage**, playing with the kids on the orphanage grounds.

Amidst the activities, there was a loud boom. The ground started rolling and a white cloud of dust rose from the direction of Port-au-Prince. The missionaries and the kids dropped to the ground. The adults inside the building grabbed the kids that were nearby and staggered toward the doors. The **youngest orphan stood alone**, crying, before a team member scooped him up and carried him out to the front yard. Before anyone really knew what was happening, it was over...for the moment. The kids and the adults huddled together in a circle on the front grass.

Aftershocks brought terror to everyone in Haiti for months afterwards. It took a long time to recover from the **traumatic event** that had just occurred. Now, a little over a year later, the Trinity Methodist Mission Team will return to Haiti to visit the kids at the orphanage. **A grand reception will await them**, and hopefully, the stress and anxiety that both the kids and the team members have lived with this last year will be changed into joy and a quiet peace. **Tears will flow as memories return**. Maybe some of the fearful feelings they had will return momentarily, but as hugs and kisses are exchanged, **the very special bond** that had developed a year ago will remind everyone of how they comforted one another during that tragic experience.

The guest house where the missionaries were supposed to be eating dinner collapsed. The rented building where the orphans had been living collapsed. The new orphanage building, the kids and the missionaries were all fine!

To God be the glory for the things He has done!