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CILA Update: News Briefs

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CILA Update:

News Briefs

Regent University Library Goes Global

Regent University is widening its horizons in its efforts to prepare globally competent leaders to change the world, and the library is making significant contributions to help reach that goal, with a little help from CILA. I would like to share some of the ways in which CILA and the Regent University Library are working together to improve libraries around the world.

Love and Hope Ministries

Rev. Jabez Rapaka, who is serving in Regent's ILL department while working on his Ph.D. in Divinity, heads up Love and Hope Ministries along with his wife Gloria. Jabez is from India and Gloria is from Haiti, and they are involved in a variety of ministries in both countries. The Regent Library has supported their ministry in the past by donating the proceeds of one of our semi-annual book sales. Library staff members Patty Hughson, Paulette Thompson, and Meghan Lane also provided their personal support of the ministry when they traveled to Haiti with Jabez in August 2008.

Of special interest to librarians is the Love and Hope Bible School (Institut Biblique D'Amour & D'espoir) in Carrefour, Haiti, where 15 current and future pastors are being trained for the ministry. The current students are in their third year, with the first class expected to graduate in 2011. The school's small library currently contains about 80-100 books. About 20-25 of these are in French, and the rest are used books in English, donated by Regent's library from among our discards and unneeded duplicates.

From these small beginnings, Jabez hopes for the school to continue to grow to at least 150 to 200 students. In order to attain accreditation, the library will also need to grow. Jabez is hoping to gradually acquire at least 4,000 to 5,000 volumes. Before this can happen, he faces two major obstacles: identifying good theological books in French and finding a way to purchase them and get them to Haiti. That's where CILA can help.

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Regent University Library staff members with students and faculty at Love and Hope Bible School in Haiti.

Latin America/Caribbean Library Services (LACLS)

Several years ago, when Jabez first told me about his desire to improve the Bible school library, I asked other CILA members for any advice they might have on acquiring French theological books. At that time, no one had any ideas. Then, during the ACL conference in Springfield, MO in June 2009, CILA members had an opportunity to visit the office of Latin America/Caribbean Library Services (LACLS) and learn more about their ministry. When we had met with them in the past, we had only talked with them about their work with Spanish language libraries in Latin America, but on this visit we learned that they can also provide French materials to libraries in Haiti.

The mission of LACLS is to facilitate the development of libraries for Bible schools, childcare schools, and Teen Challenge Centers throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. They do this by putting together basic collections of resources for various types of libraries, in English, French, or Spanish. The materials are shipped to their office in Springfield, where they are cataloged and processed. The shelf-ready books are then sent to the libraries, most often hand-carried in duffle bags by ministry team members. Selling pre-selected collections of processed books is a great help to small libraries that may be staffed by people who don't know how to begin developing a library, and having the books hand-carried to the foreign locations helps to avoid the high cost of shipping and possible problems going through customs. Jabez was



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