

# Jim Boynton's Mission in Haiti Moves From Relief Efforts to Education

By Ted Booker

When Jesuit Brother Jim Boynton, a native of St. Ignace, arrived in Haiti last November on a mission trip for Jesuit Refugee Services, he never fathomed one of the most devastating earthquakes in the history of mankind would strike the country two months later, or that he would be part of one of the first American response teams to arrive in the capital, Port au Prince.

But that's precisely what happened while Mr. Boynton, a former teacher for the University of Detroit Jesuit High School and Academy, was stationed at the Jesuit Novitiate in Tabarre, a suburb outside of the capital.

"When the earthquake hit, we felt it," he said. "All of the pots and pans on our stove fell off."

Because of poor communication in the region, Br. Boynton called his parents in St. Ignace, Ollie and Patty Boynton, who informed him about details of the quake they learned from television reports. Shortly thereafter, he received an e-mail from a Jesuit friend who was organizing an emergency relief operation called "Team Rubicon," and looking for a contact in Haiti.

Eager to help, Mr. Boynton joined the eight-man team of ex-Marines, soldiers, and medical experts in the Dominican Republic, and the group soon set up a makeshift camp with the Jesuits stationed in Port au Prince.

"We were really the first American responders," said Mr. Boynton of the team, which arrived in the capital five days after the quake. "We would go out in trucks to the neighborhoods and set up camps."

Team Rubicon was constantly on the move during the next several weeks following the January 12 quake, offering aid to those who required medical attention the most.

"Most of the hospitals were full, not to mention crushed, so they would discharge amputees who would have medical fixtures with double-headed nails coming out of their legs," he said.



Missionary Jim Boynton, a Jesuit Brother from St. Ignace, stands in the middle of a crowd of Haitian children at a tent camp in the capital of Port au Prince. Mr. Boynton has recently been working as a member of an eight-man emergency response operation comprised of health care professionals, ex-Marines, and soldiers who provided medical assistance for people following the January 12 earthquake.

The team also helped dispose of dead bodies, which were strewn over the city's streets. Wearing medical gowns and rubber gloves with Vicks VapoRub under their noses to block the stench, the team used an old truck to pick up bodies in the street.

Br. Boynton said it was a surreal experience. At one point he asked himself, "How did I, Jim Boynton from St. Ignace, end up here doing this?"

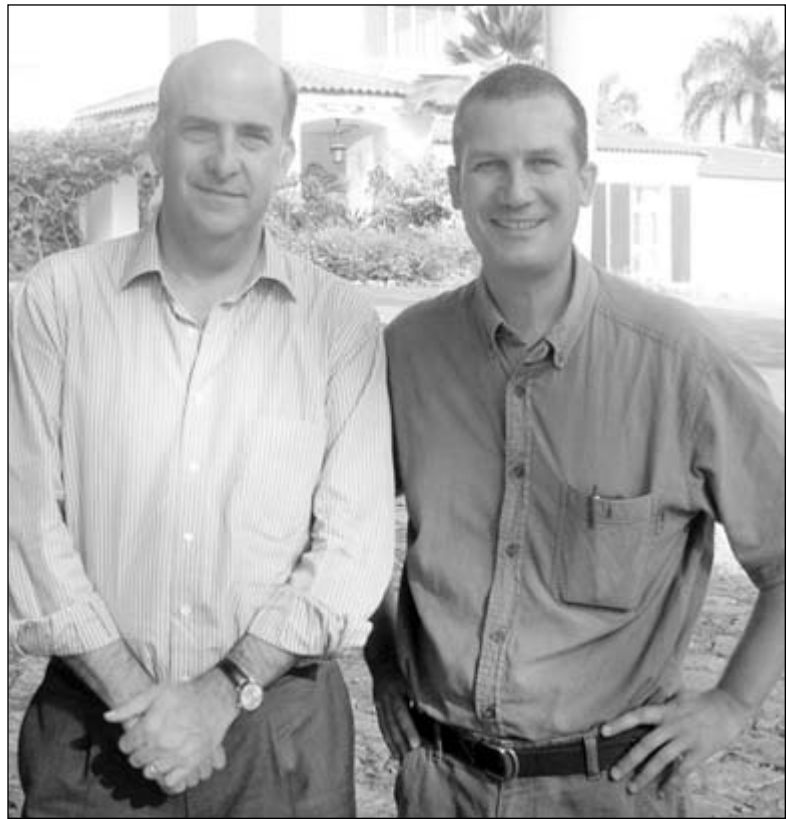
Now that Team Rubicon has left the country, Br. Boynton's focus has shifted from medical to educational. Working with a school system called "Foi et Joie," which means faith and joy, he is setting up a network of refugee schools in Port au Prince's largest displaced area, with the goal of educating

approximately 7,000 students. The earthquake has impacted roughly half of the schools in the capital, according to Br. Boynton. "Education is very poor here to begin with," he said. "Some of the schools look like dungeons."

Along with Haiti's department

of education, Br. Boynton is collaborating with a team of engineers from the University of Detroit, the Dominican Republic, and Spain.

"My immediate hands-on work in the last couple of weeks has been organizing the structure



Missionary Jim Boynton (right) with Kenneth Merten, the U.S. Ambassador to Haiti and a graduate of Walsh Jesuit High School. They met while serving in Haiti and discussed the rebuilding of schools in Port au Prince.

of the physical schools in Port au Prince," he said. "Right now we're trying to do a sweep of the schools to see how they've been affected."

Next, Mr. Boynton, who has lived under a tent since the earthquake, will serve as the principal at a school in the east side of the country. He continues to appreciate the support he's had from St. Ignace.

"The messages of support and

prayers I've gotten from all over, but more importantly from St. Ignace, has just been incredible," he said. "I've never needed support like I've needed it now, and I've gotten it."

St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church in St. Ignace is collecting donations and school supplies (crayons, paper, erasers) for Mr. Boynton's efforts in Haiti. Donations may be dropped off at the church's vestibule anytime.

## County To Hire One Full-time Assistant at Animal Shelter

Meeting Thursday, March 11, the county commission decided to advertise for one full-time animal shelter helper after discussing the matter with Ginger Valentine, the shelter's manager. Mrs. Valentine said she could work under either arrangement, but she needs someone to help at the shelter soon.

The position was posted at the county building Monday, March 15, and will remain posted for

seven days. The worker will earn \$12.72 per hour for 35 hours a week.

No interview date for the full-time position was set during the meeting. The current helpers will be retained until the new hire is made.

The commissioners have grappled with the hiring decision for the past month. They interviewed Donna DesJardins and Vickie

Patson, who already worked part-time at the shelter, for two positions Tuesday, February 16, when commissioners revealed they may be classified as temporary workers rather than part-time.

The move was considered to avoid the county's nepotism clause, commissioners said, as Mrs. DesJardins is related to Mrs. Valentine. Commission Chair Dawn Nelson said during a meet-

ing that smaller communities can make exceptions, and the commission is no longer concerned about the matter.

Commissioners later discussed hiring one full-time employee during a special meeting Thursday, March 4. With Animal Control Officer Lorie Thompson helping at the shelter every day, the commission mulled whether a single helper would be enough.

## First Golfers of the Season Hit the Links at St. Ignace



St. Ignace golfers Chum Frazier and Gene Massey enjoy an early day of golf at the St. Ignace Golf Club under sunny skies and a temperature of 56 degrees Monday, March 15. Snow has largely disappeared from the ground, but ice floes still remain in the Straits and Moran Bay.

## Animal Control Officer Is Certified

Lorie Thompson of Cedarville has met the Michigan Department of Agriculture's training requirements for becoming an animal control officer, and is working at the Mackinac County Animal Shelter full time.

The Mackinac County Board of Commissioners hired Ms. Thompson December 30, but at that time she was not certified by the Department of Agriculture. Her qualifications, which included 30 years of experience working in a variety of

roles with animals, were submitted to the department for review. In the meantime, the Mackinac County Sheriff's Office responded to emergency animal complaints, while Ms. Thompson helped at the shelter.

On February 3, the department notified the county it had reviewed Ms. Thompson's training and found it met the required 100 hours of training. Ms. Thompson has since been active as the county's animal control officer.

## Snyder, Malaski Receive Degrees from Ferris State University

Landon Snyder of St. Ignace and Alex Malaski of Rudyard received degrees from Ferris State University in December 2009.

Mr. Snyder earned a Bachelor

of Science in business in resort management.

Mr. Malaski was graduated with an Associate in Applied Science in general business.

## Pickford Pajama Party Is March 20





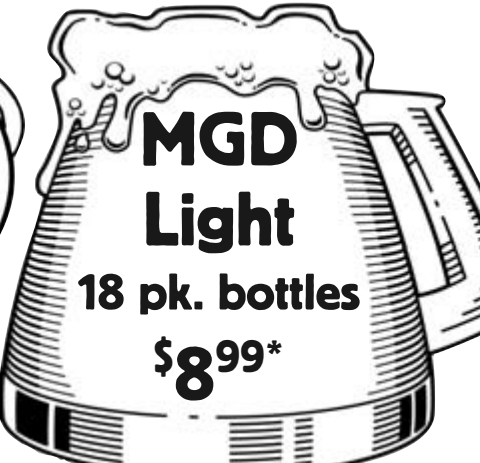


A Pajama Party for children will be Saturday, March 20, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. in the lower level of the Pickford United Methodist Church. The activities

are geared toward cooking with children. It is free of charge.

This is sponsored by Great Parents Great Start in collaboration with EUP Great Start.

# St. Patrick's Day SALE-ABRATION

March 17 thru March 21

 <p><b>Miller High Life</b> 24 pk. can <b>\$8<sup>99</sup>*</b></p>	 <p><b>Busch</b> 24 pk. cans <b>\$13<sup>99</sup>*</b></p>	 <p><b>Bartles &amp; Jaymes</b> 24 pk. bottles Melon Splash <b>\$8<sup>99</sup>*</b></p>
 <p><b>Parrot Bay</b> Party Pack 12 pk. bottles <b>\$5<sup>99</sup>*</b></p>	 <p><b>MGD</b> Light 18 pk. bottles <b>\$8<sup>99</sup>*</b></p>	 <p><b>Smirnoff</b> Ice Light 24 pk. bottles <b>\$11<sup>99</sup>*</b></p>
 <p><b>Budweiser</b> Select 55 12 pk. bottles <b>\$9<sup>95</sup>*</b></p>	<p>*Plus Deposit Where Applicable</p> <p><b>bp Express Markets</b> <b>M-134, Cedarville (906) 484-2275</b> Sun thru Thurs. Open 6 a.m. - 10 p.m. Fri. &amp; Sat. Open 6 a.m. - 11 p.m.</p> <h2>Cedar Pantry</h2>	