



And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." Matthew 28:18

I like the way that Matthew's Gospel describes with ample details the death of Jesus on the cross. After the sponge soaked in sour wine touches Jesus' lips, he expires. Immediately the veil of the temple, the one which separated the holy place from the most holy place - according to the belief of the Jewish people, the dwelling place of God on earth - was torn in two from top to bottom. With Jesus' death and resurrection, the barriers between God and humankind break down. The destruction of the temple was a prelude to a new era, the beginning of a new dimension in God's relationship with us and our relationship with each other.

Those thoughts were on my mind as I was analyzing the situation of Haiti divided by opposing political currents. The election of our President and Representatives will not guarantee us peace if we do not first understand that reconciliation and forgiveness are the foundation of a new start for Haiti, a solid base for political, economic and social development. The infighting among political rivals who refuse to sit together around the negotiation table must come to an end in order to save our country.



The Easter message carries hope for all of us Haitians who would like to see in the nearest future deep transformations in our society. We would like to live in a secure country where together we can work for the improvement of our institutions, infrastructure and environment, where every Haitian can bring his or her talents, knowledge and experience to the development of our beautiful country.

In Terrier Rouge, that dream is becoming reality. We are striving to provide the finest education to our children - not only an academic education but an education that teaches them to live as brothers and sisters working toward the betterment of Haiti. The first anniversary of the earthquake was an occasion for the students to meditate on the fragility of life and what it means to live in community. They then had an opportunity to actively participate in a community building activity by volunteering in the cholera prevention campaign, an education and prevention campaign that benefited tens of thousands of Haitians. The school is currently in full swing, preparing for the community wide Earth Day celebration and the anniversary of our Flag.

I want to thank you once again for your continued prayers and your generosity. The children and the staff join with me to wish you a blessed Easter.

Jeannine Brunel



CLINIQUE ESPÉRANCE ET VIE

Just a few short weeks ago, Bethlehem Ministry received notice of an ophthalmology challenge grant from the SG Foundation. It will benefit the regional eye assessment program in Terrier Rouge. They will match dollar for dollar all funds we raise up to \$10,027.50. I had just sent a text message to a friend in Haiti that the joy of the Lord is our strength. I got the SG Foundation letter and immediately thought of the Philippians passage to Rejoice in the Lord. How? Always.

Clinique Espérance et Vie has been so blessed this year and our joy is creating our strength. We have had many visiting healthcare professionals who have practiced medicine alongside our Haitian doctors and nurses in our clinic. Other visitors have come as well, ready to help with hammer and paintbrush! They have painted walls, built benches, and one church even created a St. Paul's labyrinth to help our patients lower their blood pressure. Another wonderful supporter donated a much-needed 30 Kw generator that we hope will carry us far into the future as we mount our Capital Campaign for the additional second floor and transportation for the clinic.



The most exciting thing for me, however, was the clinic staff asking that we open our doors 5 days a week! They work such long hours on the 3 days we are currently open so beginning in mid-April *Clinique Espérance et Vie* will be open Monday through Friday. In their excitement the clinic staff have insisted on receiving only their 3 day salary for the first two weeks! They love the clinic so much, proclaiming the joy that is there and rejoicing always that people are being served. This is the beginning of Haitian sustainability. This clinic is theirs, they want the best clinic in Northeast Haiti and I thank God everyday for the joy, love, and respect that is there.

We also joyfully announce that we are hosting a medical conference May 6th-8th in which the clinics and hospitals in our area will be invited to participate. "Progress through Cooperation" will encourage clinics to work together in community, with each clinic filling a specific niche - such as ophthalmology - to better serve the population. Pere Bruno, Bob Gore, EMEDEX, Social Workers of UGA, and Interdevelopmental Bank will be some of the participants. It should be a time of great joy and a new energy will emerge for our region. Once again, *Clinique Espérance et Vie* is leading with new ideas. This is the joy we have of energizing many for the betterment of the whole. Rejoice at this Easter-tide with renewed energy, strength and hope for improving life in Terrier Rouge and all of Northeast Haiti.

Berry Rice



JATROFA PEPINYE

2011 started off with a bang - our new tractor arrived! You can't imagine what a difference it is making already and you can't imagine the love and care it is receiving - it gets wiped down every day after coming in from the fields along with a check to make sure all is mechanically well. To think that it runs on the biodiesel we produce, well, that's pretty cool. The tractor arrived just as we were wrapping up our best harvest ever and it was put to work plowing between the rows of Jatropha to aerate the soil and prepare it for intercropping with companion crops - pigeon pea, sweet potato, squash, etc.

But the tractor is only part of the story for the first three months of 2011. On March 28th our new agricultural training center was dedicated. United Nations and agricultural officials joined our proud farmers to cut the ribbon on our 2-story facility, which is surrounded by more than 100 acres of Jatropha. It is used to train farmers in techniques of sustainable agriculture. It is also the venue for classes in basic business, money management, literacy, and cottage industries. Where to put money, how to keep track of income and costs, how to get a loan, etc. are important to this farming community as it steps away from a subsistence economy.



With the agricultural component flourishing, the JP team is addressing the industrial component - i.e. making saleable products from our harvests. We have demonstrated value-added production (biodiesel, soap) on a pilot scale, but now it is time to scale it up to match our growing harvests. A Bethlehem Ministry donor recently stepped forward for a new seed conveyor system, which is on its way to Haiti. Now we must join it with a high efficiency oil expeller to extract the oil from the Jatropha seeds. This is a cornerstone piece of equipment, which costs \$10,000 (including shipping), but can crush 500 pounds of seeds per hour. To put this in perspective our farmers' harvests are pushing toward 1.5 tons per hectare. This kind of success begs another piece of equipment we urgently need- a pickup truck to haul harvests from the field to the plant, as well as haul compost, fertilizer, etc. We spotted a nice used truck we can get in the Dominican Republic (no shipping cost!) for \$9500.

A growing child needs more food and bigger clothes is how I view the needs that flow from our success - one that is tethered to the hard work of Haitian farmers and your generosity. On behalf of the JP team, thanks for your support.

Rob Fisher



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Making a Difference in Haiti

Bethlehem Ministry is a 501(c)3 Corporation
Donations may be sent to
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