

Summer 2009

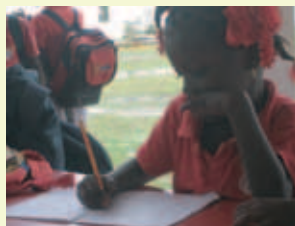
Children's children are a crown to the aged. Proverbs 17:6

Three different activities undertaken on July 4th weekend have left an indelible mark on the history of École Saint Barthélémy. We began on the evening of July 4th, when the school's graduating classes performed plays, native dances, poems, songs, and classical music to a full audience of parents and teachers. Their success exceeded our expectations. Six year old children recited speeches in perfect French, leaving people stunned in their seats.

On the morning of July 5th, we inaugurated the newly completed third floor of the school (see article on page 2). More than 500 people gathered in our new auditorium to participate in the graduation ceremony of 84 children - 61 from the preschool and 23 from the sixth grade. It was an occasion of joy for parents and the children themselves who saw their work crowned after three years in preschool and six years at the elementary level.

The achievements of our children can be credited to the diligence of our experienced and well educated staff. These heroes make miracles. Because most of the parents cannot supervise even their child's homework, school personnel have gladly taken on greater responsibilities such as this.

The progress of the school is also due in large part to your investment in these children by sponsoring their education. The scholarship program is absolutely essential to provide a good education, pay a decent salary to the teachers, and feed a substantial lunch to the children.



With the new school year beginning in September, now is the perfect time to sponsor a child from Terrier Rouge. Just \$200 a year educates and feeds a child in need. Please visit our website at www.BethlehemMinistry.org to learn how your investment in a child is an investment in the future of Haiti. Thank you and God bless you.



With our newly rising 7th grade class and the registration of 89 more children, our school population will reach 608 this September. The challenge is to find more sponsors. Currently, we have 300 children sponsored by various individuals and churches, leaving 50% still in need of some souls of good will to support them in the coming years.

Our scholarship numbers have certainly been adversely affected by the current economic downturn but with the Lord's help we have survived. We hope to be able to forge ahead and continue our success. **We need to be able to count on those who sponsor children to renew their scholarships. We also want to exhort new friends to give a hand to a child by providing the means for him or her to attend school. Please invest in a child with \$200 for a school year and you, too, will be blessed.** The child will receive a uniform, books, school supplies, and a nutritious lunch every school day. For those who wish to continue to sponsor their child for the 7th grade, the tuition is \$250.

École St. Barthélémy needs your support to maintain the high quality of education it gives to impoverished children. By sponsoring a child in our school you are helping to fight illiteracy and hunger and you are providing the tools for the future development of Haiti. Imagine what your sponsorship can accomplish.

I look forward to hearing from you either to renew a scholarship or to sponsor a child.

This comes with the assurance of my prayers,

Completion of Third Floor on École St. Barthélémy



the completed building

Construction on the St. Barthélémy school began in 2001 with a single floor. A second floor was added in 2004, and construction on the third floor began in 2007. Finally, the third and final floor is complete and on July 5, 2009, was dedicated by Rev. Pere Jean Monique Bruno and Rev. Berry Rice.

The new floor houses a large auditorium, seven classrooms, two restrooms, and space for a lab. The classrooms may be used during after school hours for adult education, the auditorium is open for use by the community and the kitchen feeds visitors as well as children. Altogether, it is a grand monument to our commitment to education, progress and democracy in Terrier Rouge.



Pere Bruno's blessing

Clinique Espérance et Vie

THE TRIUMPHS . . . I have just returned from Terrier Rouge witnessing once again the amazing work being accomplished there. *Clinique Espérance et Vie* is running smoothly, serving and healing patients every week. Our staff and facilities are top-notch, resulting in possible collaborations with USAID, public health departments, hospitals, and American physicians, among others. Two physicians from Kings County Hospital in Brooklyn, New York, Dr. Robert Gore and Dr. Jonel Daphnis, were so moved by their visit to the Clinic in April that they have energized their fellow physicians in the States, mobilizing a new team of doctors to make the pilgrimage to Haiti and be transformed by its people as they were. Dr. Gary Fleming, pediatrician from Athens, continues to be my stalwart support as do Trey Scott, physical therapist and Bob Gore, photographer. Yes, Haiti continues to be a blessing to all of us who have come and seen.



filling a prescription at the clinic pharmacy

THE CHALLENGES . . . Because Haiti lacks a unified infrastructure, electrical power must be generated through solar panels. The Clinic currently receives power from the school's generator but that is faulty and unreliable. As you can imagine, our clinic needs electricity for virtually every aspect of its operation – for the sterilization of medical instruments; in the use of microscopes, computers, lab and surgical equipment; for operation of the water pump, lights, and air coolers; and for the refrigeration of pharmaceuticals. We are currently engaged in a campaign to raise the \$15,000 necessary for solar panel installation to ensure the Clinic will be operational in the future. God continues to work miracles here, though, and through Him *Clinique Espérance et Vie*, once a dream, is now a reality. His love has shone through all of our supporters over the past two decades and it is a love without end. In His name, and for the people of Haiti, we will continue to dream big and pray hard.

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Dr. Gustave treats a patient suffering from a machete wound.

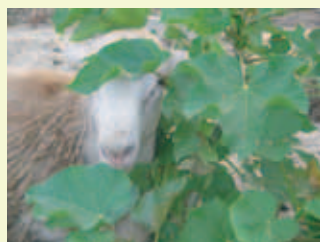
Making a Difference in Haiti



Jatropha Pepinye

The Jatropha Pepinye was a co-convenor of the Haitian Jatropha Stakeholders meeting held in Port au Prince on June 23rd and 24th. The meeting was a great success. Our manager, Georges Rodelin, spoke at the meeting detailing jatropha production in Northeast Haiti.

After the meeting, we traveled to Terrier Rouge with Emmanuel Prophète and Arlan LeCorps, both scientists with the Haitian Ministry of Agriculture. We were met by Joe Pickowitz from the University of Illinois. During our stay we were able to demonstrate the entire 'jatropha value chain' for the first time. We separated seeds from the husk using a FullBelly Project dehusser, extracted oil (very limited quantities from jatropha seeds we harvested using a British designed expeller), and the Haitian team produced two batches of biodiesel (still using waste cooking oil) under Joe's tutelage. In addition, soap was made from the glycerin and we now have sheep grazing among the jatropha.



Sheep know not to eat jatropha, a poisonous plant.

We still have a long way to go, but it was a giant step. In late October, following the next harvest, we expect to hold our 2nd Jatropha Festival, again sponsored by Digicel, where we will be able to make biodiesel from jatropha oil. Additionally, we expect to be able to demonstrate plant oil stoves and lamps, honey from the bees which pollinate the jatropha flowers, and charcoal produced from the jatropha husks.



Generations of hope - John, a jatropha farmer from Phaeton, and his three sons

We are also expanding our work into the area of Phaeton, just outside Terrier Rouge. Phaeton is an impossibly poor rural area where Bethlehem Ministry currently has a feeding program. We are working with farmers there on a 25 acre tract. One of the farmers is a wonderful young man named John who has three sons - Genexly (10), Emanuelson (11), and Claudeson (12). The boys, already wise in the ways of plants and nature, accompany their father everywhere and are Haiti's next generation of farmers. Jatropha Pepinye is reaching out to that next generation, where the problems of poverty will be solved.

Rob Fisher

The Embroidery Project

One of the many projects that help to employ Haitians is the Embroidery Project. Creative and skilled women of Terrier Rouge are provided linens from the United States as a medium for their artwork. These artisans embroider traditional designs onto children's clothing, table linens, tea towels, and other high quality linen and cotton pieces. Each item purchased helps to support a Haitian family in need while providing the buyer with a unique and beautiful heirloom. The embroiders have been so successful that one of the women is now able to pay for her child's tuition at the school. If you are interested in selling these linens at your next church or civic function, please contact Betsy Candler via e-mail at bdsoan@att.net; via phone at (770) 253-5168; or via U.S. mail at 8601 Highway 54, Sharpsburg, GA 30277. These charming pieces sell quickly and are a great choice for a Fall fundraiser as they make wonderful Christmas gifts. Small discounts are available for purchases of \$300.00 or more and all of the embroidered pieces are issued on consignment so we will gladly accept the return of any items you are unable to sell. We hope you'll take this wonderful opportunity to support the people of Northeast Haiti.

Betsy Candler



Four year old Savannah models her dress embroidered in Haiti.

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American Physicians Helping to Heal Haiti



At *Clinique Espérance et Vie* we open our doors to visiting physicians who wish to share their gifts of healing with the people of Northeast Haiti. This is a rewarding and beneficial time for both the doctors and the Haitian community they serve. The following is a day in the life of R.N. Cathy Spragins, who traveled to Terrier Rouge in April with her husband, medical assistant John Spragins. They were accompanied by ophthalmologist Bob Brown and his wife, Susan, an R.N.; and Jeri Schaller, R.N. If you are a physician who feels called to support our ministry in this way, please visit our website at www.BethlehemMinistry.org. We welcome and encourage medical professionals in all fields to make this life changing - and life giving - journey.

5 am The sun is up. A rooster crows to announce the new day and we arise to take quick cold showers in our private bathroom (a rarity on mission trips).

6 am Dressed in scrubs, we walk to the outdoor picnic table in the courtyard of École St. Barthélemy. We gather for early coffee and a banana as the cooks are busy in the kitchen preparing breakfast. A newborn calf frolics in the soccer field while nearby puppies tumble over each other under their parents' watchful eyes. We are joined at breakfast by ophthalmologist Dr. Carmelle Lucien, the wonderful caring Haitian CEO of *Clinique Espérance et Vie* (Hope and Life), and Berry Rice, R.N., the American co-founder of Bethlehem Ministry at Terrier Rouge. Our bountiful breakfast arrives, consisting of papaya juice, plantain porridge with anise, rolls, peanut butter, and fresh pineapple.

7:15 am After gathering lunch items, we walk five minutes to the Clinic, passing school children dressed in colorful uniforms, "grandpere" the gatekeeper, and women spreading out clean laundry on the bushes to dry. At the Clinic, six post-op cataract patients with bandaged eyes and walking sticks wait alongside today's eight pre-op cataract patients, ID tags around their necks. As soon as the

post-op patients have their eye patches removed, they sit in stunned silence, seeing sunlight and family members for the first time in many years. Then the rejoicing begins - praise to God, prayers of thanksgiving and even dancing! Joy, joy! God has worked miracles for these grateful Haitians. Who needs a walking stick when ONE CAN SEE!

8 am Jeri begins giving antibiotic and dilating eye drops to the pre-op patients, many in their 70s, 80s or 90s, while Susan and I set up sterile supplies in the OR and John sterilizes instruments. Dr. Bob takes measurements to determine the lens size needed for each of today's patients. Our first patient, Mme Saintane Ancel, a 79 year old lady having a left cataract removed, dons a patient gown and cap, removes her shoes, and is assisted onto the OR table as our excellent native interpreter, Arry, offers a prayer for successful surgery.

9:30 am Madame Bruno, wife of Episcopal priest Pere Bruno, comes in to observe the surgery. Madame and Pere Bruno have been involved with many aspects of the building and operation of

the school and clinic. Their vast knowledge, warm people skills and delightful sense of humor elicit our admiration and pleasure.



11:30 am After Dr. Bob's two surgeries, Dr. Carmelle takes over in the OR on the next two patients while Dr. Bob examines folks waiting in the eye clinic.

1 pm Time for a 10 minute break to quickly eat lunch and then return to four more surgeries today - on Mme. Ducasse Pierre, aged 96, Henry Jacque Saint, age 60, Marilene Joseph, aged 19 and Ulrick Eugienne, age 80.

5 pm Surgeries are finished, we clean up and say good-bye to the post-ops who will spend the night at the Clinic - a few sleeping on a wide PT bed and others on a carpet on the floor. We return to our rooms to relax, nap or read until dinner, enjoying the breeze and watching the dark clouds in the sky which seldom bring rain on this side of the mountains.

6:30 pm Dinner tonight is roasted corn-on-the-cob, marinated beets, cooked greens, spicy rice and beans plus roasted chicken legs. Hot tea brewed from herbs from the garden finishes our meal. Stories are told, the day's events are reviewed, and friendships deepen around the table. We meet Dr. Gary Fleming, a pediatrician from Athens, GA, who is helping to create a midwifery section on the second floor of the Clinic. What amazing things have been done in the spirit of Christ for this community in northern Haiti!

8 pm Tonight we have special musical entertainment by local musicians singing, dancing, and playing the drums, recorder, keyboard. A little while later it's off to bed with tired bodies but happy hearts full of love for the Haitian people and thanksgiving to God for bringing us to Terrier Rouge to do His work in helping the blind to see.



Cathy Spragins with Obed Lafaille and Andrelle Pierre-Louis, both employees of *Clinique Espérance et Vie*.



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