



"Life is hard but God is good." I recently heard these words from Marie Jeanne, a woman of strong faith who lost almost everything in the devastating earthquake in Port-au-Prince, the capital of my country. A mother of four, Marie Jeanne witnessed the death of her husband and her newborn baby when the building in which they rented their one bedroom apartment collapsed on January 12, 2010.



That day began like so many before it. Leaving her husband and newborn baby home, Marie Jeanne, with two children in tow and a third at school, walked to the corner of her street to cook rice and beans and her favorite stew of meat, vegetables and nuts for the many people of her neighborhood. It was through this small business that she was able to support her family. Suddenly, she felt the earth shake and she was thrown 10 feet. When she came to, saw the devastation around her and realized it was an earthquake, Marie Jeanne ran to her house frightened for her baby and her husband. She was devastated by what she found - the four story building was reduced to rubble, under which were buried the bodies of her husband and child.

On my first trip to Port-au-Prince immediately after the earthquake, Marie Jeanne and her three surviving children rode back in our truck as it returned to Terrier Rouge. I did not know her then nor did I know her story. I could not figure out how she came to be in the truck. I later learned that a compassionate neighbor invited her to join the crowd which was traveling to the Northeast.



A week after she was settled in the community, her friend brought her case to my attention. Our organization provided immediate resources to her and her three children, who now are enrolled in our school. Almost two months after her arrival, Marie Jeanne received a grant from us and started a small business which is now providing the basic necessities for her and her children. It was during one of our many conversations that she said with faith and conviction, "Father Bruno, life is hard but God is good."

Marie Jeanne is just one soul among more than 1,000 we have welcomed into our Terrier Rouge community since January 12th. Although many have now returned to Port-au-Prince, the Committee of Aid to the Victims reports that, according to their latest census, 876 people have decided to stay. Through the Committee, we continue to work with the refugees, providing food, a place for their children in school, medical care, spiritual and pastoral support, and aid through a small program of micro finance.

In the name of the many people like Marie Jeanne, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to all of our friends who have supported us and are still doing so. After six months the problems still exist. The situation of our brothers and sisters has not changed in Port-au-prince and its surrounding communities. We

continue to send food and other resources to the tent cities in the capital. We rely on you to continue our ministry here in Terrier Rouge and in Port-au-Prince.

At Saint Barthélémy School, the academic year concluded with great success. We were proud to have our first-ever marching band play during our graduation ceremony. For the past two years, we have been cultivating a music program at our school. Thanks in part to a large donation of instruments, our marching band - four trumpets, two trombones, two saxophones, one flute, one clarinet, and one drum - is a reality and the first school band in our area. Additionally, our first music camp was held this summer in conjunction with our vacation Bible school.



Another big event took place at our school this past Spring. Nine elementary schools in our area joined with us in organizing the first community soccer championship at the school level. Twice a week our soccer field was full of visitors and supporters of the different teams who came to applaud their heroes. This

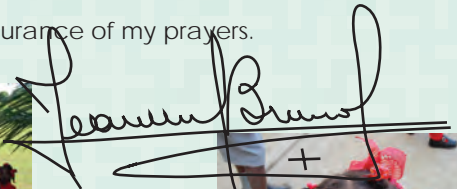
prelude to the South Africa World Cup was a rousing, fun-filled way of creating community solidarity.

Our new academic year will open the first week of September with 90 new children. This will bring our enrollment to 720 students. As is our custom since the foundation of the school, we will add an additional grade, this year to accommodate our rising 8th graders. Remember, a scholarship costs \$200.00 for an elementary child and \$250.00 for a secondary student. This includes a uniform, books, supplies and a hot lunch every school day.

Each day, the challenge is bigger and bigger. "Life is hard but God is good." We face our reality with faith in the Lord and determination to reach our goal. We stay attached to our vision and mission: serving the less fortunate by giving them a quality education. Praise the Lord who has used you as instruments to provide the means for His work.

We thank you again for accompanying us during the past school year by sponsoring children or responding positively to our plea. We are always grateful to you. We count on your prayers and generosity for the coming year. Our needs are great but we are convinced that with God and you on our side, everything is possible. May the Lord continue to bless you.

This comes with the assurance of my prayers.




Clinique Espérance et Vie

Can any nation truly be prepared for such a cataclysmic event as an earthquake? I suspect not. But Haiti, a nation unable to meet even the basic needs of its people prior the earthquake, was rendered stunned and helpless afterward. Now, six months later, life in the "tent cities" of Port au Prince seems paralyzed as Haiti's government is unable to facilitate the enormous amounts of aid pouring into the country. This lack of a functional government has resulted in thousands of refugees fleeing the capital in search of safety and stability for themselves and their families.



Following the earthquake, Terrier Rouge welcomed over a thousand refugees from Port au Prince, many of whom needed medical attention. Clinique Espérance et Vie never missed a beat. Because of the generosity of our friends, we were able to respond quickly and effectively, making home visits and opening the clinic an additional day each week. This exemplified our solidarity with the men, women, and children who came to Terrier Rouge with only the shirts on their backs.



Our visiting volunteers - board members, physicians, students and teachers - arrived on schedule, undaunted by the difficulties in travel created after the earthquake. Dr. Robert Brown and his wife, Susan, brought a wonderful group to assist our own Dr. Carmelle Lucien in removal of cataracts. What a wonderful way to experience miracles in a time of distress! Groups from Monsignor Donovan High School and Athens Academy helped immensely with the clinic and school. The students were led by physical therapists, physician's assistants, and teachers. One of the students who visited will be entering college this September and has chosen to declare premed as one of her majors. Two professors from the School of Social Work at the University of Georgia taught a 2-day seminar on responding to catastrophes. Doctors from King's County Hospital in Brooklyn volunteered their services for a week. They are returning at the end of August, along with Bob Gore, to host a 3-day program on Basic Life Support and First Aid for tap-tap (taxi) drivers. This is very important as the highway is now finished and accidents are occurring more often there. The tap-tap drivers will also be taught basic first aid in the event they have to transport a woman in

labor or an accident victim to a nearby hospital. Clinique Espérance et Vie will be the leader in regional emergency health care.

The wonderful Haitian obstetricians who are volunteering their services have presented a proposal to host a prenatal clinic every week. I am so excited about this, not only for the health care of our women in Terrier Rouge, but for the fact that Haitians are beginning to assume responsibility for their health care. We will need your prayers and donations more than ever. Rather than simply treating preventable diseases, we want to create a proactive family health care and education program, becoming a leader in Haiti for this approach to medicine.

Our solar panels are working beautifully, however, on long rainy days it is more difficult to keep lab equipment running and to keep pharmaceuticals cool. We are currently raising funds for a Kubota diesel hospital generator, a cost of \$15,000. The administrator of the clinic, Richard Estimable, is a marvelous mechanic and informed me of this need. Later this year our friends in Warrenton, VA will again host a 5-K race with a portion of the proceeds earmarked for clinic electricity.



So, all in all, the earthquake has not slowed us down. We have been blessed immensely with your gifts of love, caring, and sharing. You have added tremendously to the trust that our clinic is building. I hope to have the funding to keep the clinic open 5 days a week by the beginning of the year. I will do my best to keep you informed every step of the way.

Faithfully,
Berry+

a cataract patient's story



prepped for surgery
(with nurse Vernie Roberts)



a short surgery
(with Dr. Bob Brown)



a long wait . . .



joy at new found sight!

Making a Difference in Haiti

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105 Rocky Road,
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After the earthquake, people pushed out of Port au Prince to return to family and friends throughout Haiti. Within months the rural area around Terrier Rouge, where Jatrofa Pepinyè is

located, swelled by a thousand refugees, sharing cramped quarters and meager meals with local families. No one was turned away but strain showed quickly as the pain of grieving was coupled with the frailty of subsistence living. In less than 3 months after the earthquake, Jatrofa Pepinyè mobilized to provide temporary employment to 25 displaced persons, who in turn have to support scores of dependents. For

cash and good meals, they are working on a variety of projects, including land preparation, planting, and construction. The funding for this relief effort comes from our

supporters who understand that Haiti's recovery must happen in its countryside as well as Port au Prince. Thirty years ago mass migration from Haiti's rural areas created the overcrowded city that was toppled by the earthquake. Now, along with the incredible pain, there is a unique opportunity to create a balance between city and country. We are working hard to do this. We want displaced people to find a permanent home in a new agricultural economy in northeast Haiti



The Embroidery Project has grown considerably since the earthquake, partly due to the increasingly expanding markets but mostly because of the interest in Haiti spurred by the recent media exposure. Since January 2010 our three "embroidery ladies" have earned nearly \$800! This supplemental income has empowered them to make better lives for themselves and their children. Please keep these deserving women and this ministry in your prayers and continue to promote linen sales in your area through your churches, charities, and local stores. You may contact Betsy Candler via phone (770-253-5168) or e-mail (bdsocan@att.net) to order embroidered guest towels, girl's dresses, table linens, and other items.

Good News from Haiti



Haitians are a creative, resilient, and beautiful people. American photographer Bob Gore celebrates that unique spirit in his book, *Good News from Haiti*. Focusing on the relationship of Bethlehem Ministry with the people of northeast Haiti, Gore tells this compelling story with beautiful photography and text. We are currently accepting pre orders for autographed copies of the book which will be available this Fall. The cost per book, \$50.00, includes shipping and handling. You may send your check to the address listed below or visit our web site at www.BethlehemMinistry.org to pay securely via PayPal. Everyone can use a little good news from Haiti!

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Christmas Shoe Box Ministry

This December we will once again bring the joy of Christmas to the children of Terrier Rouge, Haiti. Won't you help us fill our sleigh? Your little boxes with Christmas inside bring immeasurable joy to children who have so little. And the joy inside is not just the playthings but the love they experience when they know they are cared for and cared about.

To participate in this ministry, just follow the simple guidelines below. And please remember that the children live in small houses with large families, no electricity, and usually very little in the way of toys.

THE CONTAINER: A plastic box, called a "shoe box" in some stores, which is about the size of an actual shoe box. Please do not use an oversized box - they are very hard to pack and ship.



THE DIRECTIONS: 1. A few nice toys, not lots of small toys, and please no fragile items. We have included a list of suggested items below. 2. Do not seal the box, but if the lid refuses to stay on, use a small piece of tape or a rubber band to keep it in place. 3. Mark each box according to the sex of the child and age range (3-6, 7-9, 10-12). If you want a particular scholarship child to receive your box, clearly label the box with the child's name. 4. Pack shoe boxes in a shipping box which is not too large. Big, heavy containers break in transit, damaging the contents. For bulk shoe box shipments a standard 18x18x16 shipping box holds 9 shoe boxes perfectly. If possible, please pack boxes with loose Dollar Store/Goodwill balls and/or SAFE lightweight items that Pere Bruno can use to hand out to the children in Terrier Rouge who do not attend school and therefore do not receive a shoe box. You may also use crumpled newspaper but **please DO NOT use styrofoam packing peanuts and DO NOT allow UPS to use them if they will be packing your boxes.** 5. Ship boxes to:

Bill Grow 3012 Brookmont Drive Tallahassee, FL 32312

THE SHIPPING COSTS: Shipping items to Haiti is costly so we are asking that you please send \$5.00 to offset some of the shipping costs. Mail your payment (not the shoe boxes) to Bethlehem Ministry, 386 Milledge Circle, Athens, GA 30606. Please note in the memo line of the check that it is designated for the Shoe Box Program.

Suggested Items for Shoe Box

- Hats and sports caps
- Balls of all sorts
- Toy cars, trucks, and planes
- Legos
- Binoculars
- Tattoos and stickers
- Dolls and stuffed/plastic animals
- Ponytail holders and barrettes
- Jump ropes
- Sets of beads to make jewelry
- Musical instruments
- Kitchen sets
- Makeup kits
- Nice church socks with lace/ fun clothes
- Small bars of soap and washcloths
- Art supplies and coloring books
- Games such as dominoes and marbles

If purchasing items for older children, please consider including calculators, compasses, protractors, and other school supplies.

THE DEADLINE: Boxes must arrive in Tallahassee by **October 15, 2010.**

What NOT to Include

- Used items
- Guns
- Liquids, including shampoo, lotion, liquid soap, and bubbles
- Perishable food items
- Chocolate or any type of candy - it is HOT in Haiti and candy melts
- Medicines: vitamins, cough drops, ointments, etc.
- Breakable items such as mirrors and snow globes
- Animals that "grow" when placed in water (these often come in candy shaped capsules that children like to eat!)



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