



"I will bless you with a future filled with hope - a future of success, not of suffering." Jeremiah 29:11



In 2000, I shared with some of my friends, faithful supporters of the Ministry in Haiti, the idea of founding a new school in the farming town of Terrier Rouge, in the Northeast of the country. They liked the project and promised as always to support it by their prayers and generosity. My three-fold vision was to improve the system of education in that community, to give access to education to 3-year-old children, and to limit the school to the elementary level. In September 2002, the dream became reality and École Saint Barthélémy opened its doors, in a building that was still under construction, to 30 children recruited mostly in our poor neighborhoods. Our original staff consisted of just two Montessori teachers and a janitor.

Over the years, the vision has grown and the school has grown in proportion and excellence. As of October 31st, after thirteen years in Terrier Rouge, the assessment is very positive:

- Student body: 961 from Pre-k to thirteenth grade
- Faculty members: 54
- Administrative staff: 5
- Cooks: 7
- Other staff members: 9
- Two three-story buildings
- A 40 member marching band

In our community, the approach to education has changed. We have created a model for the other schools. A new mentality is emerging, mainly among the farmers, that one does not have to wait until their children reach the age of 8 to 10 to send them to school.

This academic year we began an experiment teaching our first graders practical English using DVDs and CDs. They are excited about that. When you come for a visit, ask them their name in English. The progress noted at the middle school academic level is very encouraging. On many occasions - and it is becoming almost routine - our students have received recognition from the Ministry of Education for their performances in the National tests given to the sixth and ninth graders. As for high school, a big event will take place at the end of this school year. The 13th graders (22 of our first 3-year-old students) will graduate and move on to college. This will be a ceremony of mixed emotions. We will inform the student sponsors of the date of the graduation in the coming months.

History shows me that my vision was too limited when I conceived the establishment of the school in 2002. The Lord has blessed us, "with a future filled with hope - a future of success". We have a long way to go but we are taking it one step at a time.

Dear friends, you have been supporting us by your prayers and through scholarships, visits to our school, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. To maintain the high level of education, we are launching an urgent appeal asking that you consider renewing your scholarships or passing on the word. The Lord has been using you, our partners, to provide the means for the work.

Please remember that a scholarship for \$300.00 covers a uniform, books, school supplies, a hot lunch every school day, and medical care for a student for a year. Here are our most pressing needs:

1. More scholarships. As you are thinking about your Christmas shopping, consider giving a friend or a family member a precious present: a scholarship to a child. Make the difference. A short biography and a picture of the student will be sent to the recipient of the gift.

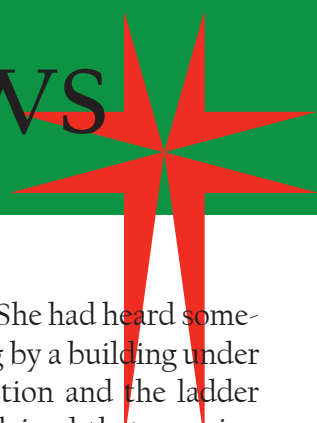
2. The construction of a building, which will house a good library and a good science laboratory.

3. If you feel the call to work as a volunteer (short or long time) in a school setting, please make your desire known to us.

I take this opportunity to wish you a Blessed Christmas Season!

This comes with the assurance of my prayers,



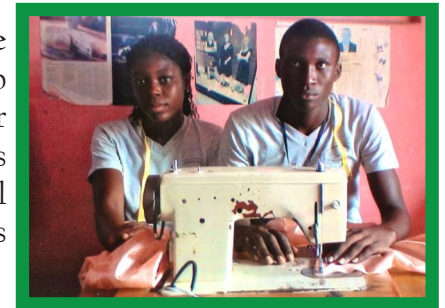


The other day an almost stranger on the street asked me what does JATROFA PROJENOU do? She had heard something about planting trees in Haiti but wanted to know more. As it happened, we were standing by a building under repair, and there was a ladder going up to the roof. Without even thinking, I put her question and the ladder together and answered, “**Jatrofa Projenou builds economic ladders out of poverty.**” I explained that growing Jatrofa trees is part of it, as are goat herds, and a facility that processes farmers’ harvests into marketable products, but that the bigger purpose of Jatrofa Projenou is to create accessible economic opportunities for people to get control of their lives. Poverty does not rob a poor woman, man, or child of dreams but it denies them the means to reach them. They need ladders and JP’s programs represent them. Let me report to you on three of them.



The first is the **JP Goat Program**, which started a year ago. It is different than Heifer International’s insofar as our emphasis is on developing community herds, which means individuals don’t own individual goats. When goats are managed as a herd there can be better animal husbandry and range management, which produces more income security over the long haul. One year ago JP gave 11 goats to a group to start a herd. It has more than quadrupled to 48 and is producing income for the group at an accelerating rate. It’s a ladder out of poverty for them, which we made even sturdier with business coaching, a bank account, and a computer to keep books.

The second program you should know about is a new one. It is the **JP Apprentice Program**. It sets up apprenticeships with local tradesmen to teach their craft to young people and also to grow their businesses, which leads to more jobs. (Even for those who have finished school, youth unemployment is astronomical.) This month with a donor’s help, JP put two commercial sewing machines into a local tailor shop to create two apprenticeships and helped the tailor develop a business plan and learn to use a laptop, given by a Bethlehem Ministry donor.



The third program is **Liquid Soap for Schools and Healthcare**. JP makes an excellent product that has been certified by an independent lab, but we’ve found that schools and clinics in Haiti lack the funds to buy it even though they know they should. To fix the problem we are soliciting donations to allow JP to sell it at a big discount to help schools and clinics get the soap they need for public health. This in turn helps the soap-makers, which in turn helps the farmers who grow Jatrofa. That’s an economic loop that provides benefits for Northeast Haiti.

JP’s economic ladders are there for Haitians who want to reach their dreams. If you or a group want to get together to find out more, I’m happy to help. Send me an email at rob@peopleandplace.org.

Rob Fisher, Director of Jatrofa Projenou

Making a Difference in Haiti



Clinique Espérance et Vie

Clinique Espérance et Vie is very thankful for the opportunity to serve close to 200 patients a week. That's almost double from when we first opened the clinic 6 years ago. We've come a long way! When I reminisce about this, I think of all the Saints who have gone before us, preparing the way for us to excitedly minister to so many people. Our work has transformed the lives of local Haitians, those who visit on mission trips, and extends to all of us, who make the mission possible. There are families who have 3 generations coming to our clinic.



I continue to give thanks for all of the people who are working diligently on behalf of the Clinique. So many of you have discovered the hidden treasures of Haiti. The kindness and love that is shown to all who enter the clinic is a special gift the Haitians give us. A special thanks goes to Melissa Hamlin (pictured left) for being on the ground in Terrier Rouge a great part of the year. She is working with the staff on long-term sustainability of the clinic. The clinic now generates 30% of their operating budget through income from pharmacy, labs, ophthalmology, and dentistry. The pharmacy and lab are now both fully stocked. We increased our Ophthalmology program from 2 days a week to 3 days a week due to local demand. The addition of an auto refractor has allowed this program to generate income. We are also assessing our lab so we can offer

more testing for malaria, poor nutrition, cervical cancer screening, women's health issues, and many different infections.

Our medical doctor, Dr. Saintvil (pictured right), recently visited the US to promote the Clinique. He continues to attend his local patients and also reaches out beyond the clinic. He focuses on health education for patients with high blood pressure, diabetes, asthma, and gastritis. He also tends to the school children from St. Barthélémy's as well.



I would need extra pages to list all that is going on at Clinique Espérance et Vie. Please consider visiting us in Haiti to see first hand the lives that are being transformed due to health care and education. The more who come, the more the word about mission and ministry is spread. There is something for everyone. When I think of my family's participation in Cap Haitien and surrounding areas since 1985, I am filled with the overwhelming presence of the Presbyterians in Athens and Houston setting a direction that has been an indispensable tool in the development of the Terrier Rouge project. We have dreamed big and we invite you to help materialize our dreams of keeping a healthy environment in Terrier Rouge. Come and see!



Blessings,

Berry Rice

Shoe Box Ministry 2015



We just shipped 2.4 tons of Christmas shoe boxes down to Haiti! Thank you so much for bringing Christmas joy to the children of Terrier Rouge. May your holiday season be filled with peace, love, and joy!
Jwaye Nwèl!

What Matters Most

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We are reflecting on so many blessings this time of year. We are grateful for every bite of food we have, for access to education for ourselves and our children, and for health and access to quality healthcare. We are thankful for gifts we have received from our friends in Haiti. We have learned lessons about the power of faith, hope, love, and resilience as we work with our Haitian partners. And, we are thankful for you! With you and because of you Bethlehem Ministry has accomplished so much in Northern Haiti. We have loved, healed, educated, and fed our neighbors.

In a recent forum in Miami, the Canadian Ambassador to Haiti, Paula Caldwell St. Onge said, "Haiti's economic development is the single most important issue the country faces." Bethlehem Ministry has been working with Haitians to promote sustainable economic growth for many years. At the core of our mission is the empowerment of Haitians to build a brighter future. Through St. Barthélémy, Clinique Espérance et Vie, and Jatrofa Projenou, Haitians are employed and educated.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we ask for each of you to please give what you can to improve the daily life of the Haitians in Terrier Rouge. Each dollar you give makes their future a little brighter. We hope you and your family have a blessed holiday season.

Trey and Anna Scott,
Co-Executive Directors

Bethlehem Ministry is a 501(c)3 Corporation.
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