

Spring 2015

"Do you understand what I have done for you?" He asked them... "Now that I, Your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet." John 13:12-14



At the Saint Barthélémy Center, we love to receive visits from our brothers and sisters from all over. Our hospitality is the best way for us to serve them as they come to serve us. It is a small token compared to what they do for us. It is our way to express our gratitude to those whom the Lord has sent to transform the lives of the people here by working side by side with us, sharing their skills, time, love, their generosity and their spirituality.

Receiving visitors is a very important part of our ministry here. We want our guests to feel at home and experience in our midst the real face of Haiti by discovering the hidden treasures of a country known worldwide for its material poverty. The contribution of our friends to the work being done in this part of the country cannot be measured. Since the beginning, the testimonies of those who have seen the country and lived with us has had a big influence in

the shaping of the ministry. Their firsthand experience shared with friends and families back home inspired others to come and be part of God's work here.

Today, we want to thank first of all our Ambassadors who have spread the word about the mission and the ministry. We thank those who responded positively to our call to support the schoolkids by providing scholarships, uniforms, a daily lunch, health care, and school supplies - all indispensable tools in their education.

Thanks to the groups and individuals who support the many projects that we are undertaking such as feeding the hungry, building and repairing homes for people who are living in a very difficult situation, creating a healthy environment for people to live in.

We encourage those who have not done it yet to take a trip to Terrier Rouge. You will enjoy it and your life will be transformed. In the past year, we have hosted several groups who have worked on those different projects. Our last group, composed mainly of college students, used their skills to work with the students. One talented artist with the help of an assistant painted a beautiful mural in one of the kindergarten classes. It is a master piece of art. The high school students, along with the teachers, had the privilege to receive a practical seminar on art for a week by a famous artist from Florida.



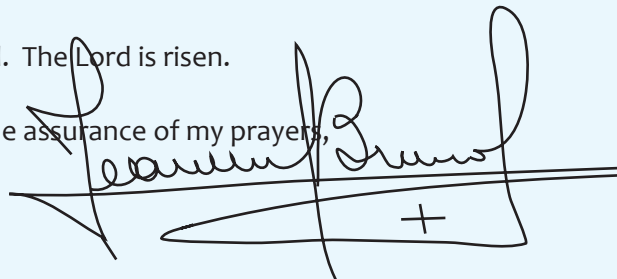
We are grateful to the Lord for the gifts of service poured into our lives. To conclude, I would like to announce that we will register another 80 new children for whom we will need scholarships. Remember that \$300.00 annually will cover everything for a child. We count on you and your friends and families again. If you feel that you can help provide a family with a decent home in which to live, \$5,000 can materialize their dream. Want to help with sanitation? Let us know.



Making friendship bracelets

Happy Easter to all. The Lord is risen.

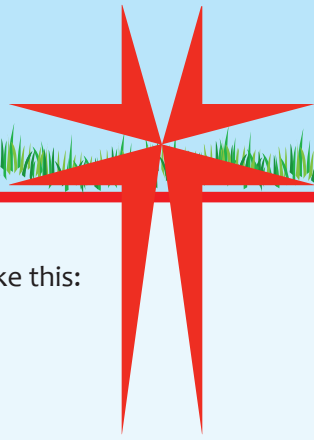
This comes with the assurance of my prayers,



Making a Difference in Haiti



Clinique Espérance et Vie Health Care



Early this morning as I was praying, the Prayer of St. Therese of Avila popped into my head. It goes like this:

***“Christ has no body now but yours.
No hands, no feet on earth, but yours.
Yours are the eyes through which he looks
Compassion into this world.
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.”***



When I think of the Haitian community and *Clinique Espérance et Vie*, I believe it epitomizes what relationship is all about. Over the past few months I, along with many other Americans, have traveled to Haiti to share our skills and our hearts and to let the Haitians know we care about them and their health. The Haitian people who come to the Clinic trust that they are cared for by skilled physicians. Through this shared experience, we are able to see the Christ in one another. In January, a 14-person team of Physician's Assistants, Surgeons, Anesthesiologists, CRNA, Nurses, Radiology Techs, and an Athletic Trainer provided orthopedic surgery and plastic surgery to 28 patients. In addition, over 100 patients received conservative orthopedic care during the week. We were the hands, feet, and eyes offering compassion.

Clinique Espérance et Vie has been blessed to have a general medicine physician and pediatrician willing to lead a community education program about respiratory problems such as asthma and bronchitis. The 180 people who showed up for the program have been following through with treatments at the Clinic. Additionally, there is now a television in the waiting room that has DVD programs educating the patients about other healthcare interests.

Many healthcare professionals have a great deal of interest in returning to Haiti. One of the ideas is for the American physicians to teach Residents at Justinian Hospital and then give those Residents an opportunity to come to our clinic to practice the hands-on techniques they have learned. By setting up an operating room in the Clinic, there is much excitement that Dr. Louima, our Medical Director, will use the facility to carry on the good works that were started by the American physicians. Future surgical missions on a biannual basis are planned. Of course, this all depends on funding. If we could have a donation of \$25,000 we could begin to plan for a biannual rotation of healthcare professionals at the Clinic. Eventually, my dream for the Clinic would be to have a freestanding surgical center and emergency department attached to the current clinic. Dreams become a reality.

Our hands, our feet, our eyes, our hearts are ready to make *Clinique Espérance et Vie* the best clinic in Northeast Haiti. With your help we have started the journey. We hope to have an American traveling to the Clinic every month. This will promote the idea that it is relationship that makes our project the very best! Continue supporting us and keep in mind in order for us to service more people, we need your continuing love and faithfulness in supporting us. All of us are the hands, feet, eyes, and body that work together for the good of humankind.

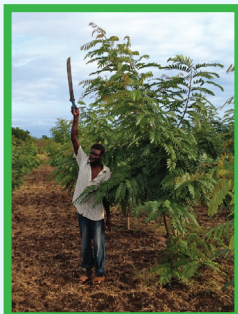


Faithfully,

Berry Rice

Jatrofa Projenou

Environmental and Economic Sustainability



GROWING TREES AND MAKING CHAIRS

This time of year the idea of planting a tree often comes to mind, sometimes in memory of someone. I suppose it connects us in a tangible way to the continuity of life and the promise of renewal. In some comparable way, Jatrofa Projenou is doing the same, seeking to heal the hurt of human poverty with the promise of new life on the land - by planting trees. We've been planting them by the thousands to re-green denuded land and give people the means to step out of poverty. As seen in the two photos the results are stunning. Planting the right tree in the right place is half of how it happens, the other half is teaching people how to grow them in a way that gives a renewable supply of tree products to make a living. When a man can grow trees and make chairs (among other things), reforestation succeeds and poverty withers.

Currently, Jatrofa Projenou has 10,000 tree seedlings in its nursery and four tree planting projects ready to go to connect to people in need. But it is stalled for lack of 2,000 bucks. Four \$500 donations can make it happen. If planting a tree this Spring has crossed your mind, there is a place in Haiti waiting and some families I know who will love you forever.

- Rob Fisher, Director of Jatrofa Projenou

Board News

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At our Annual Meeting in February, five new Board members were elected. We would like to give a warm welcome to Eric Lokker and Rich Wheeler from Houston, TX; Ellen Bryson from Bishop, GA; Jane Kidd from Crawford, GA; and Deborah Myers from Swannanoa, NC. Our Board is made up of a diverse group of 18 people from across the United States. Each member brings unique strengths to the table. We are all united, however, in our passion to empower the people of northeast Haiti on their path towards sustainability. We look forward to many productive years together.

Dear Friends of Bethlehem Ministry,

The Spring Newsletter illustrates the great achievements of our partner programs on the ground in Terrier Rouge, Haiti: 900 children enrolled in St. Barthélémy School and more coming next fall, orthopedic surgeries provided at Esperance et Vie Clinic, and expansion of the Jatropha Project to include trees for reforestation and renewable lumber resources. These opportunities to serve those currently stuck in a system of scarcity need the support of Bethlehem Ministry and our partners like you.

At this moment, however, our "cupboard is bare" (i.e., our checking account balance is the lowest in recent memory). We are confident that this is just a temporary cash flow hiccup and that donations will come to meet the needs of our programs. The purpose of this note is to let each of you know so you may consider what you can do to help. Please consider accelerating your year-end giving or, better yet, becoming a sustaining partner by making regular monthly donations.

And remember that you can still Double the Love! We continue to have a \$100,000 challenge grant that will provide a dollar for dollar match of donations from new donors and/or increased giving from established donors (does not include student sponsorships) through the end of 2015. Help us fulfill the challenge!

May we be blessed to be a blessing to our brothers and sisters in Terrier Rouge!

Rich Wheeler, Interim Treasurer

A Pilgrim's Voice

Mars Hill University sponsored 10 students and three faculty/staff members for the 3rd annual Mars Hill Alternative Spring Break in Terrier Rouge during March 2015. Our group had a wonderful, transformative experience that included reconnecting with/making new friends, implementing projects, and learning about the culture and current status of Haiti. I led this group, made up of first-time travelers to Haiti and veteran visitors. This year we decided to focus our efforts on supporting the girls in high school at St. Barthélemy, providing food to those most in need, building relationships, and doing our small part to stimulate the local economy.

We traveled to Terrier Rouge through Santiago, Dominican Republic. This route provided first-time travelers to Haiti the opportunity to witness the disparity of resources between the two countries that share the island of Hispaniola. Traveling through Dominica also provided a more gradual adjustment to the culture shock that many feel when flying directly from the U.S. to Cap Haitian and back.

While our goal was to empower the people of North East Haiti, the most lasting impact of our trip was on our students. The relationships that developed with the adults and kids in Terrier Rouge, their new understanding of the challenges of Haiti, and the beauty of the people and landscape of Haiti forever changed their perspective. From a simple game of pick-up soccer to distributing food in the villages of Goode and Patrico, bartering with vendors at the tourist market, and "hanging out" with new friends (young and old) in Terrier Rouge, the group gained an appreciation for what it means to truly love and care for their neighbors – even those neighbors who are very different from ourselves.

Service and cultural experience was the focus of the trip, but our group had a lot of fun too! A special treat was spending an afternoon and evening at the beach in Phaeton. We swam, enjoyed the stunning views, and reflected on all the beauty that Haiti has to offer.

Our group is already thinking about Spring Break 2016! We plan to continue our projects to support girls' education, distribute food, and promote friendship. In addition, we are already at work raising funds to build a permanent house and provide peace of mind for a family in need in Terrier Rouge. The students look forward to continuing friendships in Terrier Rouge from a distance (isn't Facebook a great thing!) and returning to Haiti, the place where many feel they have left a piece of their heart.

Deb Myers,

Bethlehem Ministry Board Member and Mars Hill University administrator



Double the LOVE you give - A Matching Grant Challenge



We are continuing our matching challenge grant we received from one of our wonderful donors. Here's how, through this grant, you can double the funds raised for the people of Haiti:

- **Invite new donors. All funds given by new donors over 2015 will be matched, dollar for dollar, up to \$50,000!**
- **Give above and beyond what you gave in 2014. Any increase in giving from current supporters is matched, dollar for dollar, up to \$50,000!**

This is a rare opportunity to double your donation and we hope this energizes you to give in a way that is meaningful to you. Spread the word and encourage your friends to give to a cause you are already passionate about. Let's double the love we bring to Haiti in 2015!

Bethlehem Ministry is a 501(c)3 Corporation.
Send Donations to:
PO Box 48387
Athens, GA 30604

Making a Difference in Haiti