



Nov/Dec 2016

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us"). Matthew 1:22-23

Brothers and sisters,

Greetings from the staff, the children, and the parents of Saint Barthélémy School in Terrier Rouge. As most of you know, Hurricane Matthew did little damage in this part of Haiti but we shared in the ordeals and sufferings of our brothers and sisters in the South. We were affected by the loss of life and the many schools and houses destroyed or damaged leaving thousands of children in the streets. We expressed our solidarity with them through our constant prayers, the financial aid we sent to them, and by creating awareness of their situation among our brethren.

This year, Saint Barthélémy has reached a new level of success. This success is due to our trust in the Lord whose Presence in our midst is felt by everyone always. Jesus is Immanuel, God's permanent existence among us, providing for our needs, guiding our thoughts and ways, protecting our children and staff members, and creating the channels through which you (our brothers and sisters) reach us with your generous contribution and prayers. God never fails us.



Faithful to our vision of bringing quality education to Terrier Rouge, Saint Barthélémy is increasing its teaching staff with educators recruited from among the best available. They are conscientious professionals who share our vision and understand that a good education is one of the best ways to improve our socioeconomic condition.



The performance of our children in the National Exams, given to the 6th, 9th, and 13th graders, went beyond our expectations. Only 2 out of 110 students did not pass the test. We are proud to say that all our graduates have passed the college entrance exam apart from two who have yet to take the test.

The success of the School is your success. Your contribution is making a big difference in the lives of the children in our community. Did you know that our school has the lowest tuition rate in northeast Haiti? Did you know that most of the children would not be able to afford even a single dollar a month tuition and yet they receive a uniform, books, and a substantial lunch every single school day? Did you know that they receive health care in addition to that?

When you give a scholarship for \$300 a year, you become a miracle for a child, the future citizen of Haiti who will transform and improve the structures of the country.

Today I call on you to invest in the present and future of Haiti by providing a scholarship to a child. Our student population has grown over the years to 1,100 children, but less than half have sponsors. Won't you please help us:

1. By sponsoring a child for \$300.00.
2. By encouraging a friend or a family member to do so.
3. By renewing your scholarship if you have not yet done so.
4. By surprising a friend or family member with a scholarship for a child as a Christmas present, rejoicing the heart of Jesus.
5. By visiting us at the school.
6. By spreading the word around you.
7. By praying for the Ministry in Haiti.

This come with my prayers and my best wishes to all for a Merry Christmas and a blessed Holy Season.

In His name,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be 'Jeanne Brun', written over a horizontal line. There is a small '+' sign at the end of the signature.



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www.BethlehemMinistry.org



This special friend is Cherlande, and her family is so grateful that she qualified for our clinic's Malnutrition Program. Malnourished children experience developmental delays, weight-loss and illness as a result of inadequate intake of protein, calories, and other nutrients. Malnourishment can greatly compromise a child's immune system, making them more susceptible to infectious diseases. Nutrient deficiency combined with infection can cause growth retardation. Malnutrition also negatively impacts brain development causing delays in motor and cognitive growth. We see this life long deficit with some of the mature adults we treat at the clinic. It is our hope, with your support, that we can continue our Malnutrition Program and effect real change in this area.

In October, we hosted a medical team that assessed and treated more than 150 patients; 38 surgeries and dental procedures were performed. Some of the team members were even born in Haiti, and they eagerly returned to help. Diana Ambroise, an OR nurse born in Haiti, said "It was an honor and a privilege to be able to give back and to help those a lot less fortunate than I am. I fought back tears listening to those students singing at the start of each school day for I was one of them many many years ago."

There is so much more we can do, with all the recent flooding and continual issues that always seem to hit Haiti. More teams, more trips, more hearts and minds opening to helping and loving others. Make your impact today and join our mission to bring health and wellness to this amazing community! Thank you for the trust you have in us to continue this awe-inspiring work! We could not continue without your support.

Melissa Hamlin, Executive Director



The team from top left to bottom right: Damon Denzin, Jean Medena, Dr. Fritz Jean Pierre, Cara Gurney, Dr. Eric Fishman, Lindsay Logan, Dr. Dave Kurtzman, Dr. Stephanie Puleo, Donna Greene, Dr. Tancia Jean Pierre, Diana Ambroise, Sarah White, Serena Daly (Not pictured: Lucy Denzin)



Jatrofa Projenou

TREES FOR LIFE

While northeast Haiti, where our efforts are concentrated, was spared the direct fury of Matthew, we know that hurricanes are forever a part of this island, which sits in a warm tropical sea with rising sea levels and an increasingly volatile climate. The next one may hit closer to home.

Much of the destruction and loss of life from Hurricane Matthew came from flash floods as torrents of rain rushed off denuded mountains. With no forests to slow it down, water sheeted over steep ground through chains of watersheds and converged on the creeks and rivers where Haiti's towns and cities are located. Rivers that are normally the source of water for drinking, bathing, and crops became destructive behemoths. Even without hurricanes, every rain that falls on tree-stripped mountains erodes the soil, and with it Haiti's ability to feed itself.

In response to Hurricane Matthew, JP has redoubled its forest conservation and tree planting efforts. The first order of business is to conserve what little tree cover remains. The second order is to reforest denuded land by planting woodlots and orchards. This is our TREES FOR LIFE program. Working with families who live on this land, we tailor a tree planting program suited to their economic needs and capability. We give them training so they can be successful and provide short-term mini loans so they have a stake in the game. We are expanding our tree nursery to supply tens of thousands of saplings for the program, which brings up a special need we have - \$600 to build a shade house where we can grow trees from seed to transplant size in a protected environment. From experience we know this program will succeed because these woodlots, orchards, and forests will bring economic value to the poor families who live there. That is what Jatrofa Projenou is doing - Haitian to Haitian - facing hurricanes and hunger by planting Trees for Life.

APPRENTICE PROGRAM

With an estimated youth unemployment rate of 80%, the Apprentice Program, which we started last year, is meeting a real need. \$285 provides a 1-year apprenticeship. We currently have apprenticeships in engine mechanics, tailoring, beekeeping, soap making and more. We carefully vett candidates and the master tradesmen to ensure successful outcomes.

Rob Fisher, JP Jatrofa Projenou, Sustainable economic development in rural Haiti



Trees for Life program is growing results!



Area to be planted



Tailor's Apprentice



Mechanic's Apprentice

Making a Difference in Haiti