

## An Update on the Humanitarian Crisis in Haiti from Pere Bruno

Since my first visit to Terrier Rouge in 1971, I have never seen the region so devastated by the drought we are currently experiencing. It has not rained for more than 12 months and the consequences are a loss of livestock and the farmers' harvest. The economy of Terrier Rouge is mostly based on cash crops and raising of animals. The lack of rain (where everything depends on it) has created a very dramatic situation for a population already affected by many social, political, and economic problems.

Our organization, Esperance et Vie, has immediately responded to the crisis by seeking aid for the most vulnerable in the community. With the help of community leaders, we have identified the poorest, the most affected, and those who need immediate assistance. We intensified our feeding program by providing food on a two-week basis to them. As we received more donations from you, our blessed friends, we enlarged the circle by adding more people to the regular program.

We are happy to report that with the help of the Lord and your donations, we were able to distribute food to 925 families in the communities of Terrier Rouge, Grand Bassin, Phaeton, Paulette, Savanne Carree, and Patricot. Each family receives 10 pounds of rice and a bottle of oil. We could not add pasta and beans for the most recent distribution because of inflation on those foods. The food was packed by the children of St. Barthélemy School and part of it was distributed by the same students, giving them an opportunity to serve their community.

A week ago, it rained for two days bringing us hope that things will improve. But with most of the crops devastated and the cattle mostly nonexistent, the economy of Terrier Rouge will take some time to recover. In the meantime, we are planning to help the farmers with seeds when the rain intensifies.



Thank you for responding to our cry and giving us the means to help our fellow citizens. May you continue to provide further assistance to our people through Bethlehem Ministry.

## Ecole St. Barthélemy

### THE LORD IS RISEN. HE IS RISEN INDEED.

My daily routine (unless I'm away from Terrier Rouge), consists of working in my office on the campus of Ecole Saint Barthélemy in the morning, and visiting my farm where the cows are expecting me in the afternoon.

Usually I drive the 1992 diesel Land Cruiser to the farm, but this afternoon of September 2012, I decided to walk the four miles leading there. The fresh air would do me good, I thought. About halfway through, I stopped to greet some friends in the neighborhood. While we were chatting, a tiny child of three years old came out of nowhere, stood before me, and shouted, "Pe Bruno ban m' senk gourde!" (Father Bruno, give me five gourdes!)

I was surprised, because at this age children in the countryside will not talk like that to strangers. Yet I was also impressed by this young girl who stood firmly in front of me determined to receive her money. Finally, I gave up and asked her what she would do with the 5 gourdes. "Buy things I need," she replied. I laughed, and the people around me did too. We commented that this girl was really something. I asked her to take me to her mother, which she did. When I met her mother, I told her about her daughter's personality and asked if she was in school. She said no. Although she recognized that her child was very smart, she did not have the means to send her little one to school. Returning to the girl I told her that I did not have 5 gourdes in my pocket but I had something more important to offer her: I would give her an education.

She jumped at once and ran to the neighbors, sharing the good news that she was going to Pere Bruno's school. Marc Darline Jean Pierre, born on February 12th, 2009, started at Ecole Saint Barthélemy on September 2012 with a full scholarship. A happy and highly motivated girl, she has demonstrated to her teachers over the years that she is a disciplined and a smart student. She is currently in 4th grade.

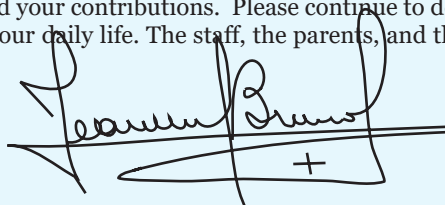
Dane, as I call her, is one of numerous cases of smart and needy children who live in the area and don't have the opportunity to go to school. Our main purpose at Ecole Saint Barthélemy is to go out, find them, and give

them a chance at a better future.

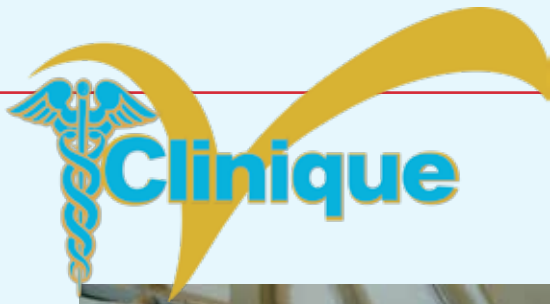
Thank you to all of you who are supporting our work by your prayers and your contributions. Please continue to do so.

May the Risen Lord continue to manifest His constant presence in your daily life. The staff, the parents, and the students from Ecole Saint Barthélemy join with me to wish you: HAPPY AND BLESSED EASTER.

In His Name,



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This year will be challenging for Clinique Esperance et Vie. We are determined to address the problem of maternal and infant mortality, an issue that is very relevant to Terrier Rouge. In January, we began developing a maternity program with faith that God will help us to strengthen the quality of services we provide to women in our community. Currently, we have just one midwife. To complete our maternity ward, we still need:

- 2 additional midwives - \$13,000 US (one year)
- 2 obstetricians/gynecologists - \$13,000 US (one year)
- 3 support staff members - \$5,850 US (one year)
- 2 additional delivery tables - \$1,625 US
- Storage for medicines and equipment - \$350 US

During the first quarter of 2019, we launched the maternity program and opened an Emergency Room, which operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We also began an awareness campaign to encourage pregnant women to deliver their babies at Clinique Esperance et Vie.

According to the survey, "Mortality, Morbidity and Use of Services" which was conducted in Haiti from November 2016 to April 2017 for the Ministry of Public Health and the Population by the Haitian Institute of Childhood in collaboration with the Haitian Institute of Statistics and Information, the problem is three-fold:

## A) Prenatal care

*41% of women had not made their first prenatal visit during the first trimester of pregnancy.*

To be effective, prenatal care must begin at an early stage of pregnancy and continue with some regularity until delivery. The World Health Organization recommends at least four prenatal visits at regular intervals throughout the pregnancy, the first to take place before the third month of pregnancy. Anti-tetanus toxoid (TT) injections for pregnant women to prevent neonatal tetanus, one of the most important causes of neonatal mortality, are an important component of prenatal care.

## B) Childbirth

*In Haiti 58% of births are without assistance from medical personnel.*

The assistance of qualified personnel during childbirth makes it possible to make a rapid diagnosis and to intervene effectively and quickly in the event of complication of pregnancy. In addition, childbirth in a health facility also helps reduce the risk of death for both mother and child.

## C) Postnatal care

*In Haiti, 69% of women did not have postnatal care.*

A significant proportion of maternal deaths and newborn deaths occur in the neonatal period within 48 hours of delivery. For this reason, it is recommended that all women and newborns receive postnatal care within two days of delivery.

In Terrier Rouge there are no qualified midwives or obstetricians. Clinique Esperance et Vie is the first and only institution to work towards developing a maternal health ward. Currently, women are giving birth with traditional healers and matrons. Those who can pay for a TapTap (taxi) must travel an average of 30 km to find qualified health care providers. This explains the high maternal-infant mortality rate in Terrier Rouge. We are working to change that. With your help I believe we can.

Yours in Service,

*Dr. Bendson Louima,*

Medical Director, Esperance et Vie





While Jatrofa Projenou (JP) is planting thousands of trees on steep mountains, it is also at work in little school houses in Haiti's mountains, teaching hillside ecology and planting the seeds of a new attitude to farming - farming **with** trees instead of **against** trees. It's all about shaping a better tomorrow in rural Haiti by shaping those it will belong to. Kids in these little one-room schools are already in the farming business, because they help their families every day on their steep land, working with their siblings, parents, and grandparents, growing the food they eat. Truth be told, these kids have an abundance of what is good about being a family, the sense of being in it together - something that has been neglected in many an American household - but they lack the security of enough to eat and too often feel the stress of their elders who often lack enough to make ends meet or cope with upsets that families everywhere have to face. All of this gets to the heart of why we do what we do at JP. We're planting the seeds of change to make things better, now, and fifteen years from now, when the kids in little wooden school houses are the adults.

Thank you for the seeds we're planting,

*Rob Fisher*

Director, Partner for People and Place

## Seeds of Change



*Two of Jatrofa Projenou's agroforestry technicians, who are cracker jack teachers, with their students at a little school in a mountain village.*

## Have You Considered Planned Giving?

### See Gifts in Action During Your Lifetime OR Leave a Legacy

If you receive this newsletter, then Terrier Rouge, Haiti, and the efforts of Bethlehem Ministry hold a special place in your heart. As you meet with your CPA, financial professional, or attorney, please consider the needs of our Haitian friends.

A "planned gift" does not have to be extremely complex or cost lots of money in legal fees. Below are a few ways planned giving can make an immediate impact as well as leave a legacy. I am happy to set up a phone conference or face-to-face meeting to discuss strategies. All conversations are confidential and at no cost to you. My objective is to help you continue your support for Bethlehem Ministry in the most beneficial way for you.

Trey Scott, Associate at Preston F. Sanders, ChFC (Chartered Financial Consultant)  
770-596-2520/trey@prestonsanders.net

#### During Life Gifts:

- Gift your required minimum distribution (from your IRA) directly to Bethlehem Ministry. You will avoid the necessity of reporting the amount of your contribution as current taxable income.
- Transfer highly appreciated stock/ mutual funds to a donor advised fund (avoid paying long-term capital gains tax and benefit from a possible tax deduction while controlling the amount and timing of the gift).

#### Testamentary Gifts:

- Give through your will or Trust
- Name Bethlehem Ministry, Inc. as a beneficiary to your life insurance policy. Our tax ID is 58-2057480.

*There are more advanced planning strategies we can explore if beneficial to you.*

Explore the beauty and wonder of

# VANCOUVER

A Spring Raffle Fundraiser

## Trip for two includes:

**Round trip flights for two to Vancouver • 4-star hotel accommodations for 4 nights • Culinary tour • Sea plane flight to Victoria • Tour of Butchart Gardens • Whale watching experience**

We have a Spring FUNdraiser going on! For just \$20, you can enter to win a fabulous trip for two to Vancouver, British Columbia, a package valued at \$5,000! We are only printing 1,000 tickets to keep your odds of winning up so be sure to purchase now before we sell out! If you're interested in a destination other than Vancouver, we've got you covered. You can work with Global Escapes Travel to create a custom vacation made just for you!

There are three ways to purchase tickets:

1. Purchase online by visiting [www.BethlehemMinistry.org/vancouveraffle-2019](http://www.BethlehemMinistry.org/vancouveraffle-2019). There is an additional \$1.00 processing fee per \$20 ticket purchased online.

2. Pay by check. Please mail your check for \$20/ticket made payable to:

Bethlehem Ministry  
PO Box 48387  
Athens, GA 30604

3. You can purchase tickets from Board members with cash or check. There is no processing fee for tickets purchased by cash or check.

Proceeds support our ministry in Haiti! The drawing is scheduled for July 16, 2019. All payments (checks, credit cards, EFT) must be received by Bethlehem Ministry no later than 5:00 pm on July 15th, 2019 to be counted in the drawing. Good luck!

The value of the vacation is \$5,000. If winner chooses a different destination/vacation, any expense over \$5,000 must be paid to Global Escapes upon booking the trip. The trip is for two people only and may not be redeemed for cash. Tickets are transferable but must be used by July 16, 2020.

\* Raffle winner must use the entire value toward 1 vacation.

\*\* Travel options featured are estimates. Exact pricing and itineraries cannot be guaranteed until the vacation is booked.

\*\*\* No refunds for unused portion of travel certificate.

\*\*\*\* Must be 18 to enter. You do not need to be present to win.

## In the Spotlight

You never know how much Terrier Rouge impacts you until you have to leave and your visit comes to an end. It's hard to be away from a place that quickly becomes home. There isn't a place on earth that has left a more lasting impression on me than Terrier Rouge and that is largely because of Bethlehem Ministry. This ministry welcomes volunteers with open arms while exposing you to the most incredible culture, vibrant community, and the most amazing people. As a graduate student in seminary, I've worked alongside many ministries and organizations but not one has impacted me in the way that Bethlehem Ministry and Terrier Rouge have — my perspective and my heart are forever changed. For that, I am deeply grateful.

*Megan Currie*, two-time traveler to Terrier Rouge

