

Joy to the world!



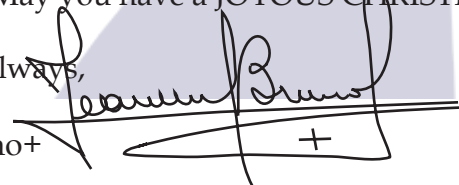
If there is a place where I experience and live real joy in the midst of tumult, it is in the courtyard of Saint Barthélémy School on a school day where the children are well dressed, walking with dignity to their classrooms. Those future leaders of Haiti, filled with pride, convey to everyone the joy they feel in having the opportunity to attend an excellent school, an opportunity not given to every child in the community.

Joy is contagious. My day starts with a smile, a happy heart as I greet the small ones carrying their backpacks, helped by their sisters and brothers. "Good morning, Father Bruno!" they cry. The 3-year-olds stop to shake my hand or give me a high five on their way to the courtyard where they will recite prayers and sing the National Anthem while the marching band plays. Eleven hundred children lift their voices in unison, the echo reaching the neighborhoods surrounding the school and the town. It is not easy to describe the atmosphere of joy within this gathering or the scene before us. It is something that must be witnessed firsthand.

We are privileged to experience something which keeps us invigorated every single school day. We are blessed at St Barthelemy for the occasion that the Lord gives us to serve Him and His children. May His name be always glorified. We thank Him for using you, brothers and sisters, as a means to facilitate the work. If you have an opportunity, please come and experience the Joy which fills our lives every single day.

In my name and in the name of the teachers, the children, and their parents we want to thank you for your support (\$300 a year keeps a child in school).

May you have a JOYOUS CHRISTMAS and A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Yours always,

 JMBruno+

15-DAY/\$15K MATCHING GIFT CHALLENGE!



You can double your contribution to Bethlehem Ministry with the 15-Day/\$15K Matching Gift Challenge. Bethlehem Ministry Board Members have pledged to match any gift, dollar-for-dollar, **up to \$15,000**, contributed during the last 15 days of 2018. That could add up to \$30,000 in just 15 days for our ministry in Haiti!

Give by check to Bethlehem Ministry, PO Box 48387, Athens, GA 30604, or go online at www.BethlehemMinistry.org to give and watch the 15-day Countdown to New Year's Day 2019!

The Countdown begins on Monday, December 17th and ends at midnight on New Year's Eve, December 31st! This is the final push to reach our Annual Campaign goal of \$100,000. Double your impact in Haiti and jump-start the new year by participating in this exciting, matching opportunity!





Clinique Espérance et Vie

Clinique Espérance et Vie opened its doors in November of 2008 with the help of Berry Rice and other volunteers and in collaboration with Minister of Public Health of Northeast Haiti. Today it serves roughly 30,000 people from Terrier Rouge and the surrounding towns and villages. Open Monday thru Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, we see an average of 60 patients a day, 65% of which are children. We are

the only clinic in the Northeast region offering dental care and ophthalmology. The most common illnesses we treat in children are malnutrition, diarrhea, malaria, skin infections, and pulmonary infection. For adults, we commonly see problems related to high blood pressure, diabetes, vaginal infections, pregnancy, malaria, and diarrhea.

But there are bigger challenges facing the clinic:

- We cannot properly treat pregnant women who come to us with bleeding, infections, and eclampsia. This is currently the most pressing problem for us in the clinic.
- We are not equipped to effectively treat emergencies arising from motorcycle accidents, appendicitis, inguinal hernia, peritonitis, gunshot wounds, and other trauma.
- Patients cannot find the money to pay for treatment as we serve the poorest in our community. We do not turn anyone away.
- We lack emergency transportation. Sometimes patients arrive too late.
- The clinic does not receive help from other organizations or the local government.

Our goals for the upcoming year:

- Open a maternity and prenatal clinic
- Open a 24-hour emergency service
- Create a functional operating room for surgical cases
- Improve the patient transportation system to the hospital
- Reinforce services that are already operational

We started the clinic with the volunteer physicians and friends who wanted to help the poorest people. We really need help if we are going to continue to save lives.

*Yours in Service, Dr. Bendson Louima,
Medical Director for Clinique Espérance et Vie*



Patients waiting at the Clinic



Dr. Louima with Dr. Berry Rice



Jatrofa Projenou

Poverty is a destination nobody wants to reach, so why have roads that lead there?

In Haiti's mountains, roads named Deforestation, No Jobs, and Subsistence Farming are leading one generation after another into deep poverty.

One of the families JP is working with hikes up the equivalent of a 30-story building every day to cultivate the crops it subsists on and in the process cause massive erosion that steals the soil and reduces the yield of their crops. It is a wheel of fortune spinning backward and it's called, subsistence farming. Does the family understand the problem? Yes. Are they in a position to change? No. They live one inch from having nothing and quite understandably, are risk adverse.

That's where JP comes in. With trees from our nursery, training from our ag-technicians, and small loans, this extended family is transforming its farm to protect its land and produce more income. They are also participating in JP's program in the community to help farmers add value to their crops in order to bring better returns at market. It is economics and ecology working together to transform lives.

Like education though, it is a process. Learning new farming techniques, swapping in new crops, and growing trees take time. So JP stays around to make sure this family and others like them are successful traveling this new road.

Rob Fisher, Director



Farmers on a mountain farm, where poverty-driven farming is destroying the land and barely producing enough for subsistence.

JP agricultural trainers layout erosion control.



2-year old trees from JP's nursery reach for the sky.