



Ecole St. Barthélemy

Bethlehem Ministry Board of Directors 2020

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I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."
Psalms 91:2

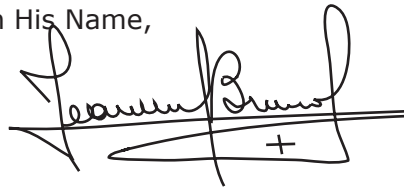
I want to start by expressing my gratitude for the love and financial support that was given to us during the past year when we were facing great turmoil in my country. May the Lord continue to bless you.

Although 2019 was marked by a great deal of unrest caused by political turmoil, scarcity of food, road blockages, unsafe travels, shortage of money circulation, and devaluation of the Haitian currency, our school kept its doors open. In Terrier Rouge, all schools were closed for a month with the exception of Saint Barthélemy. We set the example. We are currently educating and nurturing 1,100 children and employing 100 people - teachers, administrators, and support staff, including cooks and gardeners, and we have improved our curriculum with the arrival of a new Director of Studies for the secondary school. We hope to continue our tradition of excellence that our 9th and 13th grade students achieve high marks on their official exams.

Although limited by the situation in the country, our marching band continues to perform locally on many occasions. Our students have been interacting with students from other schools in the town by playing sports together or performing in theater, literature contests, and liberal arts. We are also proud to announce that our students played a predominant role in the packing and distribution of food to our needy brothers and sisters in different places around Terrier Rouge. We are training them for the future to be great leaders and citizens of the country.

The whole school gives thanks to the Lord every single day for the work of education happening in Terrier Rouge and the surrounding communities and the support received from Bethlehem Ministry.

In His Name,




Jatrofa Projenou



People in the area we serve are experiencing greater food and economic insecurity than usual, due to factors beyond their control, including massive crop loss from a year long drought, 38% inflation, the political meltdown and the extreme income inequality that is related to it. In the face of this Jatrofa Projenou's (JP) work in 2020 is centered on four programs.

1. Food Development Program

The bruising yearlong drought of 2019 showed us just how fragile Haiti's food supply is. There is not enough to eat, families are hungry, and malnutrition is up. The situation has worsened due to steadily rising prices of imported food. Food is the ultimate economic asset. It is dependent on the land and farmers, and in turn has foundational value to the local economy. Farm to table should be a short reach. By increasing crop diversity and improving farming methods, the Food Development Program is increasing the reliability and resiliency of the food supply, enriching the diet, and increasing farm income.



T-B: Cashew; Cashew, Cashew
T-B: Manioc; Cassava bread made from manioc.
T-B: Avocado; Half eaten avocado, Cassava bread
T-B: Mango; Coconut, Pineapple.
T-B: Cacao; Cacao; Guava.
T-B: Taro/Manioc; Yam, Orange

Food Development



Land Conservation



New trees and a conservation belt will protect the land and increase this farm's food production.



2. Land Conservation Program

The Land Conservation program protects and rehabilitates the ecological and economic value of small farms, which are the dominant land use in Haiti but are ecologically degrading and under-achieving their potential to grow food and produce wealth. Unlike many reforestation programs, JP's land conservation program works because it is based on the economic interests of farmers and the ecological reality of their land. Its methods are simple and easily understood by farmers and the success of one farm inspires others.



JP's action zone is south of Terrier Rouge, where thousands of families farm steep land to feed themselves.

3. Livelihood Development Program

Livelihood Development facilitates ways that farmers in a community can work together for mutual economic benefit, such as setting up a manioc flour mill or making soap. JP is fostering a new attitude about what a small farm (typically 10 -25 acres) and the communities made up of those farms can achieve by pulling together and building on their strengths, which includes a strong connection to and knowledge of the land, strong multi-generational families, and strong communities. Key parts of our approach are (a) brainstorming ideas with farmers, (b) testing their feasibility, (c) facilitating cooperative arrangements, (d) acquisition of equipment, (e) setting up operational protocols, and (f) finding markets.



JP installed this mill to enable farmers to grind flour to make cassava bread, a food staple of Haiti.

4. Community Information Program

Listen, talk, share, have fun, help out, join in. This is the foundation of everything JP does in a community. This is the most human of things and when you do it right, projects succeed and communities come together to accomplish things that individuals cannot. In the small communities between Gran Basin and Perches we have regular meetings, occasional parties, connection to young people in the classroom and after school, and we hike up long paths to visit households to get acquainted. JP is trusted here and as a result has been able to trigger community cooperation on several projects: work on seven farms (175+- acres), a system of conservation belts on steep land, a model pole-production woodlot, a yam plantation/nursery, a pineapple nursery, a group exploring the idea of making guava into products, and an engaged youth group.



Rob Fisher engages with farmers as part of the Community Information Program. "It puts everyone on the same page."

Spotlight



Hi there! I'm Julie Phillips, Administrator for Bethlehem Ministry. You might recognize my name from sponsorship renewals and donation receipt letters. I wear many hats for Bethlehem Ministry - from managing the sponsorship program and keeping ministry financials in order to maintaining our website, helping create our newsletters (like this one!), and serving on the Resource Development Committee. It has been a privilege to serve you and the people in Haiti in this capacity.

I became involved with Bethlehem Ministry in 2008 while attending a Bible study group at St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church with Berry Rice, one of the founders of Bethlehem Ministry. I loved hearing her stories of her travels to Haiti and the exciting work she and her husband Peter were doing there. When I learned that Peter needed help with some administrative work for the ministry, I jumped at the chance. It felt like a blessing falling in my lap! I began working for Bethlehem Ministry in 2008 and traveled to Haiti in 2009 to see the work firsthand. It was on that trip that I first met Rich Wheeler who would one day serve as the President of our Board! I was stunned by the beauty, culture, and joy I found in Haiti. There was, and is, staggering poverty, but I left with an impression of love, perseverance, and faith.

So much has changed with the ministry over the past 11 years. We have grown, and continue to grow, in the ways that we serve Haiti. Board members have come and gone and a wonderful new Executive Director is in place. But one thing that has been a constant throughout my years with Bethlehem Ministry is our shared belief that together we can make a difference in Haiti. We are empowering Haitians every day to write a new story for their lives and their country. I am so blessed to be a part of this work. Thank you for working alongside me.

Julie Phillips



Pictures of the beauty of Haiti from my time there

Get Involved!



Sponsor a student for less than a dollar a day! Education is the key to Haiti's future. For just \$300 year, you can provide education, health care, and a nutritious lunch each school day to a child in desperate need. Visit our website to set up easy installments of \$25/month or a single payment of \$300. You may also sponsor by check using the enclosed envelope. In the blink of an eye, you can make a difference that will last a lifetime.



Sign up for Enews! Bethlehem Ministry typically prints two newsletters a year, but so much is happening in Haiti and our ministry year-round! To keep you informed, we send 1 or 2 "enews" a month with short, interesting stories, program updates, and invites to special events. In 2019, we told you about the first baby born in the Clinic, invited you to Hops for Haiti, kept you informed on the humanitarian crisis, and more! Signing up is simple and you can opt out at any time. Just visit www.bethlehemministry.org/contact to start receiving enews right to your phone, tablet, or computer. It's fun and easy to stay in the know!



Follow Us on Social Media! We regularly post on both **Facebook:** BethlehemMinistryHaiti and **Instagram:** @bethlehem_ministry. We would love to connect with you there!

www.BethlehemMinistry.org

Clinique Espérance et Vie

Social Service Residency Program Before receiving their state medical license in Haiti, the Ministry of Health requires medical practitioners to spend one year in an underserved area of the country. These sites are pre-selected by the Secretary of Health and are barely modified over time. Clinique Espérance et Vie has been fortunate enough to be one of the selected clinics for the past 10 years. Most recently, two general practitioners have been serving in the clinic and a small monthly stipend is paid to them by the State. This program, called the Social Service Residency, has been such a blessing to the Clinic and the people of northeast Haiti.



Dr. Bendson Louima, Clinic Medical Director (r), and Dr. Jean-Baptiste Loubents, Service Social Resident from the Ministry of Health (l)

So how does all this work? All selections are made in a single day. Based on order of school performance, candidates are called to pick a site on the spot. Since the government stipend is very low (and often late in arriving), most candidates will select a clinic where they know by word of mouth that they will be able to moonlight at a second job in order to have enough money to live on. The stipend they receive is not enough to pay for room and board and food. Bethlehem Ministry Board member, Dr. Jean-Luc Franck, a nephrologist now living in Florida, served his year in 2003-2004. At that time, he was making around \$60 a month. It is very difficult to survive in a new place on that salary so he opted for Grand Goave to be close to his family in Port Au Prince, but candidates pick their sites based on multiple factors.

As a result of his own experience, Dr. Franck had the idea of developing something similar to a job fair, where we could clearly present advantages such as the beauty of the Terrier Rouge community, a supplemental stipend, and perhaps arrangement for lodging. In doing this, we could attract the best doctors to serve Clinique Espérance et Vie for an entire year. With the right incentives, he feels we will have a great deal of interest.

We are asking for your help in providing this incentive. **Choose to become a Clinic Sustainer at \$200 a month, and we can entice young doctors, specialists, and nurses graduating at the top of their class to make Terrier Rouge and Clinique Espérance et Vie their home for a year, bringing the very best medical care to northeast Haiti!** Imagine, just \$2,400 a year to bring quality doctors to the Clinique. This is what is possible when we work together - we can make a difference in Haiti!

Kanaval!



Carnival, *Kanaval* in Haitian Creole, is Haiti's biggest celebration that shows off the vibrance, diversity, and sense of community among Haitians. People of all ages with painted faces and brightly colored costumes fill the streets to dance or join a parade. Festivities start around the beginning of February and last until Fat Tuesday.

This tradition began in Port au Prince in 1804 as a way for Haitians to celebrate their independence, and now the nation hosts one of the largest Mardi Gras Carnivals in the Caribbean and North America. After 216 years, Carnival continues to be a symbol of resilience and determination in the face of struggle.

Bethlehem Ministry wants to bring a taste of Haiti to you, so we're planning our very own Carnival in 2021! We'll have live music, games, costumes, dancing, Haitian cuisine, and more. Stay tuned for more information.

Interested in attending or volunteering for this event? Contact KristenPace@BethlehemMinistry.org.



Photos courtesy of Antonio Bruno, tinyurl.com/caphaitien

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Clinique Espérance et Vie