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youtube.com/@BethlehemMinistry1



Spring 2024 Newsletter



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Bòn Fèt Berry Rice!



Happy Birthday Berry!

Making a Difference in Haiti

SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT: ATHENS ACADEMY FRENCH CLUB

We are proud to spotlight Athens Academy French Club, who, through their brilliant Crêpe Day fundraiser, successfully raised the funds to sponsor their St. Barthélémy student! Please email info@bethlehemministry.org if you're interested in fundraising for our students in Haiti!



We are grateful to this incredible club for sponsoring 1st grader Marc Octavia Angrand and for all of their interest in seeing her grow and succeed at St. Barthélémy! Marc Octavia's favorite subject is reading, her favorite color is red, and her favorite toys are dolls.



Valentine's Day 2023
Writing Contest Winners

Samy Felix
9th grade
1st Prize
Tablet
Certificate

Cavensley Etienne
9th grade
3rd Prize
Certificate

Bethlehem Ministry

STUDENT SPONSORSHIP

\$300 per year
(or \$25 per month)

covers:

- *tuition*
- *uniforms*
- *daily lunch*
- *books*
- *supplies*
- *healthcare*
- *extracurriculars*

The graphic features various educational and healthcare icons: a bowl of soup, a stethoscope, books, a pencil case, a soccer ball, and a cartoon girl holding a book. The Bethlehem Ministry logo includes a red star and a yellow trumpet.

In addition to their sponsorship, Athens Academy French Club helped us by translating St. Barthélémy students' writing contest winners' essays! Scan the QR Code to the right ▶ to see the translated content on our blog!

We are truly thankful for the involvement of Athens Academy French Club in St. Barthélémy, along with each of our extraordinary sponsors, and we hope to have many more groups and individuals as enthusiastic about St. Barthélémy as this amazing group is!



As St. Barthélémy has grown to host over 1,300 students, we need more sponsors! Sponsor a student today by scanning the ◀ QR code (left), going to BethlehemMinistry.org and clicking the Sponsorship Options button, or sending a check with "Sponsorship Renewal" in the memo line to: PO Box 48387, Athens, GA, 30604.

DREAM BIG - BÒN FÈT BERRY RICE!

This March we are honoring and celebrating Berry Rice, whose birthday is on March 23rd. Berry, along with her husband Peter, was an early supporter of Father Bruno's work and a driving force behind the creation of Bethlehem Ministry. Berry first visited Haiti in 1983, over 40 years ago! Berry went on to make about 40 more trips to Haiti, obtained a degree in nursing to better assist Clinique Espérance et Vie and worked side by side with Father Bruno in the U.S. connecting donors and churches with Haiti. Berry's favorite saying, "Dream Big!" became the mantra for many years as Bethlehem Ministry expanded the scope of its outreach and support for Haiti. Berry's love for the Haitian people, determination and hard work has made an amazing difference in the lives of so many people. She has inspired all of us. **You can watch a fascinating recent interview with her which is posted on our Youtube channel (scan the QR code on the newsletter cover or search in Youtube for "@BethlehemMinistry1") to hear more!**

We have two great ways for you to honor Berry: You can make a donation in her honor which will support the clinic and you can add a greeting to an online birthday card – you can even add a photo or GIF along with your greeting! We are also happy to add your greetings for you!



DONATE IN BERRY'S HONOR

DONATE ONLINE:



<https://tinyurl.com/5n6br2b5>

OR Use the enclosed envelope to mail a check: PO Box 48387 Athens GA 30604 and write "Bon Fet", "Berry" or "DREAM BIG" on the memo line!

ADD A MESSAGE TO HER BIRTHDAY CARD

MESSAGE ONLINE:



<https://tinyurl.com/mrypyb6j>

OR Email your greeting to: info@bethlehemministry.org and it will be added to her card!



JATROFA PROJENOU

TO THE RESCUE



We're not passersby slowing down to gawk at a crash. We stop to help like an EMT. **This man can't feed his family and that's an emergency.** JP has come to rescue his family farm, like we do others in Northeast Haiti. These are tiny farms (5-10 acres) tilled by a family of ten to fifteen adults and children. Their independent self-reliance is humbling to me, but most are in crisis. They are not growing enough to feed themselves nor selling enough to get the money to buy the bare necessities, like a farmer I met who worked in his barefeet for lack of shoes. Two years ago he died from a punctured foot and left behind the wife and children he loved. Another family didn't have the money to get a seriously injured son to a hospital, and children chronically have to drop out of school because families can't pay. It breaks my heart.

The land, too, is in crisis because when people farm in desperation, there are consequences. Soil gets worn out, deluges cut gullies through fields, and crops are puny. There's less food to eat but mothers must still send their sons to cut trees to make charcoal to cook it. One bad thing after another layers up, leaving families in stress, land degraded, and Haiti unable to feed itself.

When JP's agronomists show up at one of these little farms, I wish you could see the magic that happens. The family has never met them but they know someone who does. They greet them with great respect. It's Haitian Creole of course, but in the conversation that follows, you would feel the agronomists' empathy for the family. Later, out walking the land you'd see the agronomists rigging up impromptu demonstrations to help illustrate good practices, like erosion control, and leaning in to hear what the family has to tell them. After hours of walking and talking, a plan comes together. By now you and everyone else is hot, tired and thirsty. All of a sudden it's raining coconuts, a boy's up a tree and

another one's cutting off their tops with a machete and passing them around. You never tasted anything better. Then everyone's laughing, maybe because of your coconut drinking style, but whatever it is, you join in rightly sensing that bonhomie makes things go better in Haiti.

The agronomists' next trip brings shovels and picks and strong backs. Weeks later, timed to the rainy season, thousands of tree seedlings, yams and pineapple sprouts arrive for planting. Four months go by and when you return, the trees have grown six feet, yams are up, and the pineapples are knitting into hedges along the terraces to protect the soil from the rush of stormwater. Between the terraces, the agroforests (trees and crops together) are yielding a good harvest. Everyone is thankful.

As we get ready to leave, the family presents us with a big sack of fruit and vegetables. Someone tosses you a coconut and everyone laughs. As we pull away, one of the agronomists shouts back, "See you in three months but call us in the meantime if you got a problem." That's how JP makes a distressed farm into a sustainable one that can support a family with dignity.

Last year JP rescued thirteen family farms. All are flourishing, but there are hundreds more. Our goal this year is to rescue and transform twenty-five more.

Take care and thank you for your interest in what we do.



A farmer with JP agronomists in his new agroforest.



Food crops flourish on another family farm

DIRECTOR, PARTNER FOR PEOPLE AND PLACE

Rob Fisher

CONTACT US

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- **MAIL A CHECK:** PO Box 48387, Athens, Ga 30604
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Go to our [website](#) or scan the QR code ▶

