



Bethlehem Ministry

FALL 2021



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THE SEASON OF THANKSGIVING



“The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.” Psalm 126:3

A few weeks ago, my children and their daughters were busy making plans for Thanksgiving weekend. They were deciding where to celebrate and what arrangements needed to be made. In the midst of this planning, they were reminded that their cousin, Ralph, invited the third and fourth generations of Brunos to spend these days together. Instead of joining them, my wife and I decided to go to my brother’s house to celebrate with him. To my great joy, I found out my sisters and my brother-in-law will join us along with a handicapped neighbor and his wife.

Celebrating Thanksgiving in the US is always a constant reminder about my days as a child. It’s a moment when we receive and share with others what God has given us. This level of blessing cannot be neglected. My mom taught me this important lesson.



She was a seamstress, my father a shoemaker. She was challenged with raising 7 children on her own after his death when I was only 9 years old. Our situation was extremely difficult, yet my mom never lost faith nor hope in God. She taught us to constantly give thanks to the Lord for every single thing. As a widow, she managed to always send us to school and do her best by us. On the days we had food on the table, my mom always had an extra plate. Not for us to eat later, but for a visitor in need, the guy cleaning the streets or the lady working at the neighbor’s. My mom led by example, teaching us to share whatever we received from God.

Years later during my ministry, I finally understood my mother’s teachings. Thanksgiving is not only about sharing a delicious meal and spending time together as family and friends, it is a way of life. Every time we help or share with those in need, we are thanking God directly and that brings us more blessings. This is what we are called to do in our daily ministry. This Thanksgiving, let us ask God to continue to open our hearts to offer thanks and give Him the glory. Let us think of others, especially those who have materially nothing to share.

I am particularly happy about Thanksgiving this year because I get to spend it with my siblings, and my brother is helping his neighbor in need just as our mom did when we were children. It is one of the best blessings in God’s name. It also fills my heart with joy this year that despite the crisis we are facing in Terrier Rouge, one way people are surviving is by sharing with each other. We continue to receive many blessings received from the Lord and you, our brothers and sisters.

In the name of Espérance et Vie and everyone in Terrier Rouge, I wish you a happy Thanksgiving. May God continue to bless and keep you during this wonderful time.

In His name,

A FOND FAREWELL



It is with mixed emotions that I announce the end of my tenure with Bethlehem Ministry after 12 years of service. My work with this organization has been a blessing in my life, from the many Directors I have worked with whose passion and compassion is astounding, to YOU, the donors I feel I know personally, who faithfully give year after year and who carry Haiti in their hearts and in their prayers. The greatest blessing, however, has been the opportunity to serve Haiti, to be inspired daily by Haitian resilience, ingenuity, spirit, and drive. One of the hallmarks of Bethlehem Ministry is their belief in the capability and agency of the Haitian people. I am proud to have worked for an organization that is Haitian led, one that chooses to support the vision of their Haitian partners without needing to control it, that chooses to be an oar and not a rudder.

My parting is eased by the fact that I am leaving my administrative responsibilities in capable hands. Let me introduce you to Lauren Sharpe who will be taking over sponsorship coordination and many other administrative tasks. As a former auditor for the state of Tennessee, Lauren is organized, efficient, and a quick study. I have worked closely with Lauren over the past month and she has impressed me with her insights, abilities, and new ideas. She brings a fresh perspective and enthusiasm for the work. Welcome, Lauren, to our Bethlehem Ministry family!



Thank you for being so wonderfully giving over the years. Being a part of this collective of kind-hearted souls has been such a gift. I will miss the work, I will miss YOU, but I won't be far. And I will always keep Haiti in my heart.

Peace To You,

Julie Phillips

CLINIQUE ESPÉRANCE ET VIE

1ST THROUGH 3RD QUARTER

BY THE NUMBERS

OF PATIENTS SERVED

1024

Pediatric

1124

Lab

1181

Dentistry

1457

Medical

1908

Ophthalmology

4137

Pharmacy



JATROFA PROJENOU

QUIZ

Do you know this tree?

Jatrofa Projenou does and it is planting thousands of them. You may not recognize it, but you've eaten its seed, and it is part of how we are helping families in Haiti farm better and make a better living doing it. It is a cashew tree, *Anacardium occidentale*.



It is native to Haiti, it adapts well to different kinds of land, it produces food, and it can improve a family's income.

What more could you ask for? I'm glad you asked because that last part is the missing link in the cashew chain that JP has been developing. Currently, we grow thousands of cashew trees in our nursery and families are crazy about planting them and harvesting their fruits, but JP does not yet have the setup that lets families get a much better return when the cashews are sold as a finished product.

Jatrofa Projenou's agronomy team has modeled a feasible method for doing that based on our experience making soap and other products from the Jatrofa tree. Our goal in the new year is to secure the missing link in our cashew chain, so that it can join jatrofa as a crop people can grow to improve their income and security. Everyone on the JP team is thankful for Bethlehem Ministry and sends their love. May a bowl of cashews add to your Thanksgiving table.

Rob Fisher DIRECTOR, PARTNER FOR PEOPLE AND PLACE

ONLINE AUCTION

DECEMBER 1ST - 6TH

This year, as part of the annual campaign, Bethlehem Ministry is sponsoring an online auction of merchandise, artwork, and services—just in time for Christmas. Haitian paintings, food, and drink will also be available for bidding. Check out all the items before they go live at the link to the right!

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