

From Clinique Esperance et Vie

Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. 1 Corinthians 15:58

As the newest member and the only physician on the Bethlehem Ministry Board, I traveled to Terrier Rouge last month to review the needs of Clinique Esperance et Vie with its Director, Jacques Marie Santus, and his staff. I was overwhelmed by the lack of essentials such as medications and laboratory and diagnostic equipment. In addition, the Clinic lacked internet service, computerized records, or even running water and flushable toilets that we medical professionals in the U.S. take for granted. Despite all of this, the Clinic staff serve the community with love and dedication. They never lose hope that we will faithfully work to help resolve their scarcity of basic medical supplies and equipment. Indeed, despite what I saw as a desperate situation, Jacques Mary is a man of vision and hope. He has assessed the community and has seen that the Clinic should have expanded operating hours, prenatal, maternal, and newborn care, and physical therapy to fully address the basic health care needs of the populace. He has been reaching out to other partners that can help the Clinic address these pressing community needs.

Jacques Mary also continues to be steadfast in his commitment to the needs of the poor in the surrounding villages which is even greater than those in Terrier Rouge. I accompanied Dr. Julie Dangler and her team from Easley, South Carolina to assist on a mobile clinic in the village of Patrico, 30 minutes outside of Terrier Rouge. The Clinic physician, Dr. Larose, also accompanied us, and I was impressed by his compassion for these people. He educated the village on proper use and storage of medications, how to prevent infections such as worms and diarrhea, and symptoms that require emergency medical attention. The Ministry of Health nurse from the Clinic provided HIV and STD testing. She and Dr. Larose were able to counsel several patients who had positive tests. One such patient was a young pregnant mother and our whole team was so thankful that we had come to Patrico but even more so to see what kindness and compassion Dr. Larose and Jacques Mary showed in counseling her and arranging for her follow-up.

It was especially heartwarming for me when the Pastor of the village and his 84-year-old mother, whom I had seen in October 2017 for arthritis of her hip, approached me to be seen. She told Jacques Mary that the shot I had given her in October had helped for months and she would like another. I was able to teach Dr. Larose how to do the injection. We then noted that her son, the Pastor, had bursitis of his knee and Dr. Larose sailed through the technique for that injection as well.

This mobile clinic would not have been possible without of the kindness of Dr. Julie Dangler who purchased the medications, the unused portions of which will be left at the Clinic in Terrier Rouge to stock it for a short while. Perhaps you too could partner with Clinique Esperance et Vie by donating towards the purchase of essential medications or laboratory supplies? For \$50, you could provide 3 pregnant women with prenatal vitamins or for \$100 you could provide 12 children with multivitamins with iron for a year.

Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward them for what they have done. Proverbs 19:17

Grace and Peace,
Kelli Mayfield MD



*Me and Richard Estimable,
Logistics Manager for the Clinic*



*Most of the team in the back of the
van. Dr. Julie Dangler is front right.*



*Me and Ministry of Health nurse
hanging on for dear life as Richard
four wheels it through the biggest
potholes I have ever seen.*



The Pastor and I in his Patrico church



"Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He is risen!" Mark 16: 6

Dear Friends,

Most of our guests who visit the College Saint Barthélémy (formerly Ecole St. Barthélémy) in Terrier Rouge for the first time are struck by the behavior of our students who are normal children but with some special characteristics. For some of our friends, it is a bit difficult to comprehend why in the midst of so many problems affecting the country and their own environment, the children are so well dressed, disciplined, overjoyed, and full of life. Our students understand that it is a privilege to attend an institution whose philosophy is to honor and celebrate God, the Creator and Sustainer of our lives, to love and respect one another, practice solidarity, respect the discipline, and perpetuate the tradition of excellence.

Students, teachers, and staff learn that their joy is not the product of circumstances but comes from the Lord who gives His life, so we may have life. When we experience difficult moments (no food yet for the kitchen, thinking about the monthly payroll) we do not panic. We say to ourselves, "Do not be alarmed." He is here in the midst of us. He is finding ways to solve our problems.

Easter is an everyday celebration here. The joy of the resurrection is part of our culture, of our daily living. In the midst of our troubles, lack of resources, we sing, we laugh, we tell amusing stories, we keep the faith, we lift up high our hopes and expectations, affirming that He who has started the work in us will not abandon us but will finish it.

In the name of the students, their parents, the teachers, members of the staff, and family, I want to thank all of you who support the ministry and to wish you a happy and blessed Easter.

This comes with the assurance of my prayers,



Jatrofa Projenou

I'm happy to report that Jatrofa Projenou's agro-reforestation effort was fully launched by a great response to our Earth Day appeal last year. You chipped in \$10,000 that allowed us to grow 10,000 trees (at \$1 per tree) in our nursery and plant them on the mountains by the end of 2017.

Like any good success story, there's a sequel. A donor stepped forward to double the size of our shade house, and five strong backs from First Presbyterian Church of Athens came to Terrier Rouge in February to build it with our staff. Since then, JP has been growing more trees from seed to plant in 2018. How many? Sixty thousand. Where will they be planted? As I write, the JP team is identifying the land and families in need.

The beauty of our agroforestry program is that when the trees arrive on the land, there is a trained and motivated family to plant and care for them. Within the first year of planting, JP's agroforests bring them the benefits of increased food production and tree cover.

One problem we're facing with our success is the difficulty of transporting the trees from our nursery to the mountains where they are needed. The solution is a three-wheeled motor scooter with a small truck bed, which would let us transport enough trees for a family to plant in a day. We need \$2,500 to buy one and put it to good use.

For those of you who contributed a Lifeline to Haiti (Bethlehem Ministry Newsletter Fall 2017), you'll soon be receiving an introduction to your family. For those of you who want to jump in now, we'll pair you with a farming family for a year's partnership to plant a 1-hectare agroforest for \$999. You can donate at www.BethlehemMinistry.org/donate.

One more thing, to enjoy pictures of the Haiti we know and work in, I invite you to follow us on Instagram, under the name, 'forpeopleandplace'.

Best wishes from all our Haitian families to yours, *Rob Fisher, Director*



JP agroforestry plants trees and food crops together.



JP's shade house produces thousands of trees for reforestation.