



Merry Christmas from Terrier Rouge!

"You have helped me and I sing happy songs in the shadow of your wings" Psalms 63:7

Dear friends,

Last month, as our country was still recovering from the disastrous earthquake that claimed thousands of lives, we heard the news that Haiti was in the path of hurricane Tomas. People lifted up their arms to heaven and cried out, "Please, Lord, don't do this to us. We cannot take it any longer." The load was heavy and the people complained. Little did they know that the threat of another catastrophe was quickly approaching.

One morning we awoke to the surprising news that cholera was ravaging a town in the Artibonite District located in the North Central region of Haiti. It did not take long for the disease to spread to the surrounding communities. Cholera is now a plague that is everywhere.



At the Saint Barthélémy School, we have taken all the necessary measures to prevent the disease. Our first step was to host a seminar on cholera prevention and treatment for our teachers and other educators from the community. The message was transmitted to our children and their parents - the way to prevent cholera is through hygiene. Our children know that quite well. After every activity they know that they have to wash their hands. We have increased the number of lavatories on the campus and the children now have more fountains from which to drink potable water. From kindergarten to 8th grade, the children, armed with their knowledge, become information agents who are making a big impact on their neighborhoods. They are spreading the word about the prevention of the cholera.

We are having a very good school year. We opened the new academic year with around 700 children from kindergarten to 8th grade. We have had great success in forming a marching band at the school. On October 4th, the first day of school, the parents and friends applauded the band after playing, for the first time, the National Anthem at the Flag Ceremony. We are very proud of those young musicians who gave this performance after just three months of practicing their instruments.

The Lord has always been good to the people of Haiti despite all the hardships and suffering. We remember how He has helped us in the past. Whenever we face difficult times we think of our country's history and His work amongst us and from there comes our hope.

Advent pours in us a new spirit of hope by reminding us that our deliverance is near. We are dreaming of that day when Haiti will be a country where cholera is eradicated, a country where democracy is the norm for the governing body, a country where everyone can freely express his or her ideas without fear, a country where we can sit and discuss issues without the threat of violence, a place of safety for all our children, children who have access to a quality education. I feel that we are not too far from the day when Haiti will rise from the ruins left in the wake of the earthquake.

The Lord always puts "Good Samaritans" on our road. I am greatly encouraged by the faith you have placed in us, by investing in the formation and education of the children entrusted to us by the community. May you be blessed! You have done a wonderful work in renewing the



scholarships for the children. Please pass the word on to those who do not yet know us and encourage them to sponsor a child at the School. The future of Haiti depends on the education of her children.

Please know that the children, their families, the entire staff, and myself are grateful for what you are doing for us. We pray that Advent and Christmas bring good health, peace and hope to you and your household.

This comes with the assurance of my prayers,





Clinique Espérance et Vie

*"Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!"*
- Hymn to Joy, from Beethoven's 9th Symphony



"Joyful, Joyful we adore Thee . . ." is what I woke up singing one bright November morning after returning from Haiti. Reflecting over the past year, tears of joy, love and deep appreciation for my fellow sojourners moistened my eyes. The verses of this hymn are a simple expression of our feelings for one another during this past year. We can sing this song together with our Haitian brothers and sisters, showing solidarity with them in times of tribulation. They will tell you there is no revolution that can overthrow the kingdom of heaven.

Clinique Espérance et Vie is a blessing to the village area of Terrier Rouge. Fitting in with the concept of Haitian sustainability, working alongside them, we have hired the most marvelous Haitian staff anyone can imagine. The clinic has been open just 22 months and we are seeing approximately 800 patients per month. Given that we are only open 3 days each week, this is tremendous.

When the earthquake occurred, the clinic positioned itself to assist any refugees from Port au Prince. A visitor from San Jose, CA spoke to the community about earthquake safety and two Professors of Social Work from the University of Georgia led a practical session on grieving and facilitated a seminar on critical thinking. Two doctors from King's County Hospital in Brooklyn, accompanied by photographer Bob Gore, gave a 3 day seminar on emergency preparedness and response. Athens Orthopedic Clinic provided human as well as financial resources. This enormous outpouring of gifts from around the nation enabled us to offer free care to those who had fled the earthquake. We were even able to offer employment to a pharmacist and a registered nurse, both of whom were earthquake survivors looking to start new lives in Terrier Rouge. Dr. Bob Brown, along with his staff from Clemson, and our own Dr. Carmelle Lucien, performed numerous cataract surgeries, restoring sight to dozens of patients. Warrenton Presbyterian Church held a 5-K race in Virginia for the second year in a row that has enabled the clinic and school to have greater electrical capacity. Our photovoltaic system is working well, however, a very generous gift of a 30Kw generator ensures that the clinic will have electricity in any given situation.

The number of people who have traveled to Haiti to work in the clinic is a real blessing. We are expecting a full house throughout most of the winter. These medical volunteers have sutured a foot, cured a case of lockjaw, checked vision in a classroom, removed cataracts, set broken arms, given injections of every sort, responded to trauma emergencies, diagnosed dermatological problems, made therapy tables for our doctors, provided physical therapy to people in the area, provided medical assistance in every age group, and welcomed our two fabulous Haitian ob/gyn doctors who volunteer at the clinic 2-3 times per month. As always, diabetes and hypertension management, family planning, prevention of dehydration, and the importance of hand-



washing to prevent cholera, are at the forefront of community education at the clinic. And our lab is developing into one of the best in northeast Haiti. In an effort to more effectively track disease and health trends, we are transitioning into the use of international codes to identify the diseases we are seeing at our clinic. This will be in place by Spring, thanks to a programmer from First Presbyterian Church in Athens.

So many gifts of time and talent this year. So many ways that people have chosen to love their neighbor. These gifts have literally changed lives - daily medications to an expectant mother, new sight to a cataract sufferer, new life to an earthquake refugee. They are gifts of life. It's that simple. This Christmas perhaps you'll consider giving a unique gift of your own. There are so many ways that you, too, can impact the life of another - \$50 gives diabetic supplies for a month; \$100 purchases malaria tests for 100 people; \$300 pays a month's salary for our lab technician; \$500 purchases awnings for sun protection in our clinic waiting area; \$2,500 outfits a new x-ray and trauma procedure room. Whatever your gift, it is a gift for life.

I would like to thank every single person wherever you are in the world for adopting Clinique Espérance et Vie as your own. Your resources, prayers, and love have encouraged me to continue on the journey to assist the Haitians in a quality of life that we have come to expect in the US. Including Kid Kare in the school scholarships is proving to be a great gift. We continue to be blessed by being able to offer this kind of service. I look forward to another productive year while giving thanks for the many hands and feet that have made our journey joyful. We can truly sing "Joyful, Joyful we adore Thee" and know our year has been one of love, joy and thankfulness for our Haitian brothers and sisters giving us a chance to know truly who our neighbor is.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

Berry+



Participants of the social work seminar proudly hold their certificates. Ed Risler and Larry Nackerud, the facilitators of the seminar, are seated in the middle.

Making a Difference in Haiti

www.BethlehemMinistry.org

Jatrofa Pepinye



*Above Left: New bags bring the harvest in faster.
Above center: The new Training Center will be used for agricultural and cottage industry training, business skills, and literacy.
Above Right: Harvest time!
Lower Right: Harvesting peanuts between rows of Jatropha.*

My eyes are your eyes. I just returned to Haiti last week and what did I see? Healthy Jatropha trees flowering and putting out lots of fruit after the Fall rains, farmers busy harvesting Jatropha and tending their winter vegetables newly planted between the rows of trees. I saw newborn lambs grazing with their mamas between the Jatropha trees and from atop our new training center I saw the 83,000 trees our farmers have planted where three years ago there were was nothing but scrub. Bottom line: Bethlehem Ministry's economic program is well on its way to the goal of a decent livelihood for poor families in north-east Haiti. Our efforts this year have had an impact on more than 60 families, which, with an average of 5 or 6 per family, means more than 300 of our fellow earth travelers are stepping away from the poverty of subsistence.

The financial contributions big and small so freely given by Bethlehem Ministry's supporters have been translated into the resources that make a difference in a new agricultural economy - like a new tractor. It should arrive by Christmas. It will let us prepare more land for the waiting list of families who want to farm and it will help everyone bring in better harvests. Speaking of which, we've just had this season's harvest tested and our seeds contain 50% oil, which is phenomenal. With bigger harvests coming we're looking to expand our capacity to wring oil out of the seeds to make more biodiesel and income for our farmers. While we have been pressing oil all along, we're getting to the stage where it feels like we're squeezing the production of a large Florida orange grove with a hand juicer - after all, the trees already in the ground can produce 100 tons of seed at least twice a year. The equipment we need consists of a high efficiency oil extractor and a solar heater to heat the seeds prior to pressing - cost: \$33,000.



Prior to the outbreak of cholera, we had just launched a hand-washing campaign to schools and clinics to promote the soap we make. Now, we are ramping it up to provide antiseptic liquid soap for large public health initiatives in our area to combat cholera. Our soap is a byproduct of making biodiesel - as our farmers say, "Pa fe fatra pa vle," (Waste not want not). It's an attitude that's key to developing a sustainable end to subsistence poverty.

Rob Fisher

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Send Donations to
105 Rocky Road,
Morganton, GA 30560-3886**

Making a Difference in Haiti

Shoebox Ministry



"I feel truly blessed to have a part in this project. Touching every single box and realizing that each one represented time, effort, and money from people of good will from all over North America was an awesome and humbling experience."

-Bill Grow, Coordinator of Shoebox Ministry

Thanks to your love and generosity, 1,200 Haitian children will receive a shoebox of gifts this Christmas. That is an increase of 65% over last year! Not only will each student at St. Barthélemy's receive a shoebox, but another 400 children from Terrier Rouge will also. We are so grateful for your continued support of this ministry and these children. And we want to give a special thanks to Bill Grow, who, for the past 6 years, has stored, packaged, and hand delivered the shoeboxes to south Florida where they are then flown to Haiti. He is such a blessing to our ministry and we are deeply grateful.



*Merry Christmas from your friends at Bethlehem Ministry. May God bless you for opening your hearts to the people of Haiti.
Peace and love to you in the new year!*



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