



Fall/Winter 2013

I have commanded you to be strong and brave. Don't ever be afraid or discouraged! I am the Lord your God, and I will be there to help you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9



After three months of vacation, Saint Barthélemy School resumed its activities the first week of October with 826 students. As is our tradition, we added one more grade this year. The 23 eleventh graders are part of a group of 30 who attended the first kindergarten class in 2002.

Every day we bless the Lord for His continued presence among us. He facilitates the work of education carried out by a qualified staff of forty-two teachers and supported by twenty-two other people of great faith, with dedication, love and enthusiasm. The success of the students on the various National Tests is credited in great length to those whose sacrifice is limitless.

As more needy children eager to get a good education came to us, our first building could not house them all. We began construction on another three story building whose first floor was inaugurated during this past academic year. We took the opportunity to put in place the infrastructure by pouring the second and the third floor roofs. So the walls and the roofs of the High School are ready. We will have to plaster them and add windows and doors so we may use them.

Our marching band has improved over the years and is now performing at a very high level. We have extended our music program to include more classes. Every single day the school is like a beehive - musicians making noise, children playing, working, eating - a sign that our students are very happy and thankful to the Lord for the blessings of having a school that can meet their needs.

The first day of school we received a letter from the organization that supplies us with the basic ingredients (rice and beans) for our lunch program stating that they are discontinuing their help to the different institutions of our area. It was a shock for us. The moment of surprise gone, we prayed that the Lord would provide other sources of food for the children. We know by experience and faith that when a window is closed before us, the Lord opens many doors. He promises that He will take care of us, that we do not have to be discouraged or preoccupied. We know He is in control and that He will never fail us.

Immediately we bought food to keep our kitchen open and keep the blessings of feeding the children flowing. The Lord is providing the means through you, our good and generous friends, who have a great and loving heart for the children of Haiti. Your partnership is another reason to praise the Lord who put you on our path. We appreciate your contribution which permits us to do the work of the Lord in this part of the world. We share in a common ministry, a ministry of service, a ministry of love. Thanks for what you are doing for the children of Haiti. I invite those who have not done it yet to renew their scholarships to keep the school running and also to pass the word to your friends and families so that more people may be aware of this ministry.

This comes with the assurance of my prayers,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Lauren Brunel'. Below the signature is a horizontal line with a small cross symbol centered underneath it.



Making a Difference in Haiti

Jatrofa Projenou Environmental and Economic Sustainability



The purpose of Jatrofa Projenou is to provide the spark that lights the fuel of hard work and big dreams. JP's proposition is that every place - every ecology and

landscape - has opportunities for families to earn a decent living by growing and making things that Haiti needs. When families connect to these opportunities, they can make an income that is decent and dependable and leave poverty behind.

Just because people are poor doesn't mean they don't have dreams and a powerful work ethic to achieve them. What poverty does deny them are the resources to get started. To that end JP is raising the money necessary to fund three interconnected groups of projects - FARMING, MAKING, and LEARNING.

In rural Haiti income security is achieved when there are several legs to stand on, so if one falters there are others to fall back on. This kind of stability through diversity is an ecological principle, which is summed up in a Haitian proverb, "the spider has many legs and even if it loses one it can keep on going." When given the chance to connect their hard work to startup resources, poor families move quickly beyond poverty. Your donation will give families that chance.

I. FARMING PROJECTS - growing products that Haiti needs



that Haiti needs. This small tree grows where little else does. In arid areas getting less than 25 inches of rain a year (almost a desert) and can give families reliable income. Goal: \$10,000

• Sustainable Yield Forestry Project

This project puts small wood lots on rural lands for a sustainable yield of poles for construction, which serve Haiti's earthquake need for lightweight roofs and give farm families a sustained income for decades because poles are harvested from the trees without killing them. Goal: \$5000

• Seed Oil Project

This project expands the agricultural cultivation of a drought tolerant Haitian native tree, called Jatropha, to produce seed oil that's used to make valuable products

• Vegetable Garden Project

This project develops intensive truck gardens to produce vegetables for the Haitian diet and a good income stream for farming families. There are several parts to this initiative including bees for pollination, irrigation, fencing, and soil management. Goal: \$3000

II. "MAKING" PROJECTS- making products that Haiti needs

• Seed Processing

This project is a cornerstone of JP's work to develop the rural economy, because it presses the oil from the harvested seeds of Jatropha and is the first step of a value chain that produces products that bring income to farmers. The project will boost oil yields and with it incomes. As they go up poverty goes down. Goal: \$6000

• Animal Feed Project

The Haitian diet is woefully lacking in protein and this project gets to one of the root causes - the absence of affordable animal feed, especially for egg production. This project will take the high protein pulp from the jatropha seeds after the oil is removed and process it into chicken feed. This project lies at the intersection of nutrition, agriculture and economic development.



Goal: \$2500

III. "LEARNING" PROJECTS - discovering what works

This incredibly important project delivers know-how for success to women and men, young and old. In Haiti there is a deep respect for education and self-improvement, so even those who can't read are eager to learn. We use demonstration, peer to peer teaching, and hands-on



discovery.

- How to manage soils for better crops
 - How to plan crops and cultivation for better harvests and income
 - How to save and manage money
 - How to manage a small business
- Goal: \$5000

- Rob Fisher

Clinique Espérance et Vie Health Care



*Dr. Bendson Louima, Dr. Carmelle
Lucien, Berry Rice, and Clinic CEO,
Richard Estimable*

Bon Jou! I have recently returned from a week in Terrier House. To my surprise, a new addition to the management team offered his skills and service to the clinic. Dr. Bendson Louima will be the clinic medical director. Some of you may know Bendson from visiting Terrier House or from his visit in Athens. He is a third year surgery resident at Justianian Hospital in Cap Haitien and has been vitally interested in the clinic since its inception. His presence in our community one day per week is a marvelous addition.

Every program is in full demand. Our second floor is awaiting shelving in all of the rooms in order that we might welcome a MedShare container by the end of 2013. We will move ophthalmology and the dental services upstairs. We have a Social Service doctor as well as Dr. Saint-vil. These doctors will remain downstairs for General Medicine, including pediatrics and prenatal checks. We received a vital Rotary grant for pediatric medicines and another Physician Assistant grant for an orthopedic visit in 2014.

The clinic programs are full to overflowing every week. In this picture, these people have been waiting for their lab test results and have been at the clinic since 7:30 a.m. This picture is taken at 2:00 p.m. People are coming from many different regions in Haiti now as our reputation for offering good service is preceding us. We are on our way to a clinic that is run and managed by Haitians. We will continue to support them with operations money and a share of the expense we think we can raise. Offering our services requires a consistent monthly income. More than ever, your gifts are most important to us. You can give a gift electronically by visiting www.BethlehemMinistry.org and either making a one-time donation or subscribing to donating a set amount monthly. If you prefer, a check may be sent to Bethlehem Ministry, specified for Clinique Espérance et Vie. Every gift is very important to us!



Berry Rice

Save the Date!



**Love and Laughter in the Classic City
A Benefit for Haiti**

**Valentine's Day, Friday, February 14, 2014
Classic Center, 300 N. Thomas St., Athens, GA
6:30 – 9:30 pm**

**The Evening's Festivities will include:
Cocktails and Dinner
Silent Auction
Entertainment by Dad's Garage, renowned comedy
improv troupe from Atlanta, Georgia**

(PG-13 humor)



Raise money for Bethlehem Ministry while you shop!



This holiday season, many of you will shop online for gifts and great deals. What if we told you that while you were shopping online you could save money with great

coupons for all your favorite stores (Amazon, Target, Expedia, etc.) plus have the store donate a percentage of each sale to Bethlehem Ministry? Well, it's true! By signing up with GoodShop, you could be earning a donation for Bethlehem Ministry with every purchase. And it's so easy! Simply go to <http://www.goodsearch.com/goodshop.aspx> to sign up (it's free!), designate Bethlehem Ministry as your charity of choice, and click on the GoodShop logo when you're ready to shop. Our supporters have already earned us nearly \$300! That makes for happy holidays indeed!

What Matters Most

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 15: 5-6



Happy Holidays to you! We are thankful for so much this Holiday Season. We enjoyed the Thanksgiving feasts we shared with our loved ones, and as we visited with our siblings, parents, aunts, uncles, and grandparents we were struck with the enormous blessing that is family. Life is beautiful and full of good things, but even in this highly developed nation it can be unpredictable, hard, and scary. There are bills to pay, decisions to make, paths to choose, sicknesses and losses to suffer, and mistakes from which to learn. There are days when it can feel as if we are simply enduring an endless stream of hardships. Unconditional love from our family and our closest friends sustains us as we struggle to weather these tough times. That love reminds us that there is Light even in the darkest places through

which we walk, and by focusing on that Light we can discover God's plans for our lives rather than dwelling on the obstacles in our path. We believe that Love and Light come from Christ, and that when we encourage and sustain one another, we are caring for His family.

Thank you, for being an integral part of the Bethlehem Ministry family. Your prayers and gifts over the years have brought Light and Hope to the poorest of the poor in Haiti. By your love and generosity, children have been educated, fed, and healed. Mothers and fathers have been able to focus on the Light, and envision a brighter future for their children. This Advent, we are unveiling a new way to support this vital work in Haiti - our Sustainers Circle. Through monthly donations, our Sustainers Circle provides Bethlehem Ministry with reliable and consistent funding. For as little as \$10 a month, you can join this special group of people who are committed to making a difference in the lives of Haitian families. Circle members appreciate the fact that they can budget for their donation each month and that year round they are sustaining and improving lives. Simply visit the Donation page of our website - www.BethlehemMinistry.org - to join.

Trey and Anna

Have a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!

Bethlehem Ministry is a 501(c)3 Corporation.

Send Donations to:

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Athens, GA 30604

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