



Board of Directors

Betsy Candler

Julie Dangler

Carol Downs

Barbara Fisher, Secretary

Gary Fleming

Ruth Gray

Molly Justice

Gale Mull

Peter Rice, Treasurer

Sara Rice

Ed Risler, Vice President

Marty Steiner

Janet Wheeler

Tommy Wilfong

Smith Wilson, President

Administrative Staff

Anna Scott,

Co-Executive Director

Trey Scott,

Co-Executive Director

Julie Phillips,

Administrator

Gwen Fields,

Sponsorship Coordinator

MY PERSPECTIVE APRIL 2014

Smith Wilson, Board President



I ran out of fingers as I counted the activities and programs Bethlehem Ministry is pursuing here and in Haiti. This exercise was necessary for me in my first year as president to understand what is actually done on a day to day basis. So let me start counting. Of course, we have our core projects of the school (École St. Barthélémy), the medical clinic (Clinique Espérance et Vie), and the Jatropha project (Jatropha Projenou). We support them in a number of major ways such as direct donations, fund raisers, challenge grants, and student scholarships. We have a shoebox program, feeding programs, and an embroidery project, but most importantly we have God's Grace.

A group of us went in March to Atlanta to bless the 40 foot container headed to Terrier Rouge full of medical supplies and equipment. A 5k race was held in Athens, GA recently to support the clinic. Our annual Gala in February was a great success.

I could go on longer about what our faithful staff does every day to keep this small nonprofit running but the newsletter has limited space, but please read all of the "Good News." Our challenges are usually budgetary, and any growing pains I see as a sign of success. So my understanding is better and my admiration much higher for all that has been done in the past and what we will do in the future.

I encourage dialogue, so email or call me anytime with ideas or concerns (smithwilson580@gmail.com, 706-338-4646), but most of all continue to pray for our mission.

Smith

What Matters Most



Isn't Spring just wonderful? It is a season full of hope, beauty, and the promise of the Resurrection. Trey and I have so many reasons to be hopeful about Haiti this Easter season. We are confident in our Board, who prayerfully and diligently works to support this mission. We are inspired by the directors of our 3 major programs - Father Bruno, Berry Rice, and Rob Fisher. Their tireless work supports sustainable progress in Northern Haiti in the areas of education, health, and economics. And finally, we are hopeful because of you, our partners. You remember and pray for this life giving and life sustaining ministry. You support this ministry with your donations, and you help us spread the word to your friends and family. We are always happy to come and visit your church, civic group, or family to explore ways you may become more involved. Please just email! bmindirector@gmail.com

Trey and Anna

Making a Difference in Haiti

Jatrofa Projenou *Environmental and Economic Sustainability*



It takes more than goats to get out of poverty.

Economics isn't just the stuff of people with money, it's the stuff of poor people too – in fact more so. It's the everyday reality of meeting needs with a scarcity of resources. This is the same for all economics, I suppose, except that the scarcity part is extreme and the needs part are the most basic necessities of life. It's called "scarcity economics" and its diagnosis is as distinctive as its effects are devastating. Biology suggests behavior associated with scarcity economics is hard wired into the brain and produces a visceral response to deprivation. The rational notion of saving for a rainy day is trumped by instinct, which ironically perpetuates scarcity into the future. This is the case in northeast Haiti where annual incomes are in the \$300 range. JP is acting to develop rational economic behavior that helps people move past the "scarcity economics," which traps them in generational poverty. JP does this with economic incentives, obligations, and consequences. For example, when we offer a goat to a family, we ask that they help buy it in some way (like paying us back with the first kid) and we ask that they learn to keep a financial record of their business. So instead of a one-way flow of giveaways, we develop a two-way transaction of goods and responsibilities. The goat is important but so is the farm management training that comes with it. Together they lead to income security. Your support of JP delivers both. Thank you.



Goat herding can support a family when coupled with smart business practices. JP helps connect families to both.

Special Need: JP needs a double subsoiler plow to pull behind our tractor to help farmers break up the heavy clay soil for better crop yields. The cost is \$1800.

- Rob Fisher, Director of Jatrofa Projenou

Clinique Espérance et Vie Health Care



Great news in store for Clinique Espérance et Vie! I traveled to MedShare in Atlanta last month to celebrate the sendoff of a container headed for Terrier Rouge. This container contains \$200,000 worth of medications, medical equipment, and furnishings for the Clinic. We are so blessed to have private donors who generously helped to make this happen. The equipment will help Haitian and American physicians provide a broader range of treatment options and services to their patients.

I traveled to Haiti with Melissa Hamlin earlier this month and received a blessing from Pere Bruno, Pastor Russell Kendrick, and Father Andrew on my birthday. We then continued the celebration at a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new high school expansion. Pastor Kendrick brought a group of high school kids from Alabama who worked at the Clinic, painting and cleaning. We love our volunteers!



Our clinic program is expanding as we develop our maternal/women's wellness program. Education is one of our primary concerns. One idea we have is to create educational videos, incorporating talks given by Haitian ob/gyn's. These videos could then be played in our waiting room. Any money to go towards purchasing a TV for this purpose would be greatly appreciated. This would supplement the education given by a nurse who comes once a week to teach on family planning and HIV screening. Good family planning is necessary, and if a woman does get pregnant, prenatal care is imperative. This involves lab testing and prenatal vitamins. Donations toward the purchase of an ultrasound machine would help to further this care. First Presbyterian Church in Athens, GA, is giving \$7,000 a year for the nurse's salary. Any matching money we receive could be used towards funding our goals listed above. Your gifts mean so much!

Berry Rice

École St. Barthélémy Education



Why are you looking in the place of the dead for someone who is alive? Luke 24:5



In the midst of our shaky economy and political instability, which creates all kinds of social unrest, we at Saint Barthélémy's School continue to grow spiritually - in numbers and in quality - under God's guidance. For us every single day is a way to honor God and to feel His presence among us. His promise that He will be with us always is fulfilled in our daily life. God always provides for our needs. We face our daily problems with the thought and the strong belief that we are not working alone. Even sometimes when we do not see the way, we know there is a way.



In our last report to you, we mentioned that the organization which had been supplying the food staples for our lunch program had suddenly stopped supplying it. But this did not stop the lunch program which is so important for the children. The Lord has used other means to keep our kitchen open. He has sent his angels to bring us the necessary supplies we needed. They flew from the US, Canada, and other parts of the world to deliver the goods and to remind us that the Lord has an eye on us.



Good friends, people of great heart and compassion, please remember that the Lord is using you to reach out to us. Your generosity has made this possible in Terrier Rouge, Haiti, the land of miracles. Can you imagine that with just \$5.00 a month we can nurture a child every school day? You know the necessity to maintain the lunch for the children. We experience every day the truth of the proverb which says, "An empty stomach does not have ears." Please keep sustaining our lunch program which is an integral part of the formation and education we are giving to the kids.



We have important news we want to share with you. With the Lord's grace we blessed and inaugurated the second story of the High School building on Sunday March 23rd. We hope that next year, by the same time, we will be able to have the blessing and inauguration of the third floor.

Easter means life. Life which has come out from a dead body. It is the resurrection of our Lord who came to give us abundant life. Take advantage of this vivid season to give life to a child who needs you. This will be the best way to live the empty tomb.

Yours always,



A Pilgrim's Voice

When I sit quietly and close my eyes, Haiti comes flooding back. Surprisingly, many of the images bring an irrepressible smile to my face. Before I went to Haiti, I had heard and read about the poverty and the suffering. No matter how much you try to prepare yourself for what your eyes may encounter, all of those efforts are washed away the minute you fly over the island. You try to make sense of what you are seeing, but you have no point of reference. Is the maze of grey concrete made up of buildings going up or coming down? How long have they been standing there? What is the story behind the building of the road, one of the few, that will take us to our village? All at once, you see every mode of transportation: donkey, bicycle, motorcycle, car, truck, but mostly people walking on foot. And, they all look determined to get where they are going. Later in the week, it begins to occur to you. That person may be walking all day so that they can get a gallon of gasoline so that they can bring it back to fill the tank of their motorcycle so that they can transport a load of bananas so that they can sell them next morning so that they can feed their children that evening. The gallon of gasoline is so precious that you don't drive to the pump. You can do that part on foot. Better to save it to haul bananas that your feet cannot carry. Life is hard in Haiti. Everything takes planning and coordination to make the simplest things happen. Everyone is busy. This is not a laid back place.

At some point you ask yourself how is it you see so many smiling faces, hear so much laughter, see people congregate in the evening to kick a ball about or linger at the well to find out how the new baby is doing. And then there is the night when what seemed like the whole village was singing in one voice. Inevitably, the question creeps in. Could I do this? And, do it with a smile on my face? To be sure that smile is not always there. But, what strikes me most is that in so many ways they are doing what people all over the world do - living life with thoughtfulness, care and deliberation. It just takes a lot more of it.



Now I know why my family went to Haiti. Sure, the food that our group distributed helped in that moment. But, we have gone, and the hunger is still there. Haitians are still planning and hoping and walking, walking everywhere. Witnessing their determination, you start cheering them on. You care about their fate. You ponder the possibilities and wonder what your next step will be.

Catherine Marshall

Double the LOVE you give - A Matching Grant Challenge



We are kicking off a matching challenge grant we recently received from one of our wonderful donors. Here's how, through this grant, you can double the funds raised for the people of Haiti:

- **Invite new donors. All funds given by new donors over 2014 will be matched, dollar for dollar, up to \$50,000!**
- **Give above and beyond what you gave in 2013. Any increase in giving from current supporters is matched, dollar for dollar, up to \$50,000!**

This is a rare opportunity to double your donation and we hope this energizes you to give in a way that is meaningful to you. Spread the word and encourage your friends to give to a cause you are already passionate about. Let's double the love we bring to Haiti in 2014!

Bethlehem Ministry is a 501(c)3 Corporation.
Send Donations to:
PO Box 48387
Athens, GA 30604

Making a Difference in Haiti