



Look for The Helpers

"When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping...you'll know that there's hope.' To this day, especially in times of disaster, I remember my mother's words and I am always comforted by realizing that there are still so many helpers--so many caring people in this world." - Mr. Rogers



2020 has not been an easy year, but you don't need to hear that from me. The pandemic has made us a global family, siblings by experience, all of us living with some measure of fear or loss or illness. Sometimes it feels like there's pain everywhere I look, and the "scary things in the news" can be overwhelming, but I'm reminded of the advice given to Fred Rogers when he was just a boy. Shift your focus. Look for the helpers. That's where you'll find hope.

It's true. There are helpers all around us: doctors and nurses in the emergency rooms who are providing treatment to scared patients; teachers who are nurturing students behind a camera or a mask, sometimes both; mental health professionals caring for people struggling with isolation; first responders who run towards danger for the sake of a stranger; brave citizens who speak out for the marginalized and oppressed; moms, dads, partners, sisters, brothers, friends who pour love into our lives. Right now, take a moment to pause and be grateful for the helpers in your life.

When I think of helpers, I also think of you. Your gifts and prayers have empowered even more helpers in Haiti at a time when they most needed you. Truly, with your help, our partners in Terrier Rouge have helped thousands of people this year by fluidly responding to unpredictable crises as they arose. From educating kids in the midst of a pandemic, to bringing soap, masks, and clean water to families, to keeping the clinic open despite threats of political unrest, they helped others because you helped them.

This newsletter is filled with inspirational stories of helpers: a beautiful example of how Espérance et Vie and the clinic came together to save a woman's life, how Jatrofa Projenou is impacting, and is impacted by, families just like yours, and a spotlight on a helper who, inspired by the founder of Bethlehem Ministry, discovered a creative way to use his gifts in support of Pere Bruno. These stories provide a close, personal look at the transformative services provided by Espérance et Vie and Jatrofa Projenou. Every person served could tell you how they have been empowered through your support, and that's a lot of people! By the end of 2020, we will have treated over 6,000 patients at the clinic, educated more than 1,000 students, employed hundreds, and distributed food, masks, and soap to thousands of vulnerable people in Terrier Rouge and surrounding communities.

I don't need to look far to find the helpers. We are all the helpers. Your donation to our annual campaign empowers our partners in Haiti to be the same. Our Haitian friends remain physically, financially, and ecologically vulnerable to threats beyond COVID-19 so we continue the work, blessed to be given the opportunity to bring Hope & Life to Haitian children, moms, dads, partners, sisters, brothers, and friends, like those you gave thanks for a moment ago.

Let's shift our focus. Let's be the helpers. That's where we'll find hope.

Kristen Pace

Bethlehem Ministry Executive Director





Last month, while I was taking an afternoon nap, a lady showed up at the gate and told the watchman that she wanted to see me. The man denied her request, telling her that I had worked the entire morning and now I was not available because I was taking a nap. The lady is the kind of person who does not take no for an answer. She insisted that she had to see me. Finally, my oldest daughter Dominique heard her complaining and decided to wake me.

When I went outside, I found sitting on our porch a most devastated woman with tears streaming down her face. Very agitated, she spoke in an almost inaudible voice. It took me a while and the use of all my pastoral skills to get words out of her mouth and listen to her dramatic story.

She told me that she had brought her mother to Espérance & Vie Clinique (our health facility in Terrier Rouge) because she has an injury to her left leg. What she believed was a simple injury, however, turned out to be something that she would have never expected. Our doctors found out that the mother was diabetic, and the injury was so

profound that the left leg needed to be amputated just below the knee. When they heard that, mother and daughter broke into tears and could not stay still. They were crying, their bodies shaking as if they were in a sort of trance - a way some people in my country express their emotions when facing distress.

Their pain doubled when they heard that we could not do that type of surgery at the Clinique. The doctor had to refer them to a hospital located 30 miles down the road and the most devastating part was that they did not have any money for the surgery which was estimated between 40,000.00 to 50,000.00 gourdes (US\$ 800.00). One can only imagine the situation of those people who live on scarce resources.

As soon as she told me her story, I went to the Clinique, talked to the doctor, found the words of hope to comfort them, and promised that Espérance et Vie would drive her to the hospital and would take care of the bills. Their faces shined immediately. They could not believe that the miracle could happen so quickly. They immediately started to thank and glorify the Lord.

We took her to the hospital in the nearby town of Milot. She spent two weeks there and is now back home. I visited her yesterday. Now daily, she told me, she praises the Name of the Lord. Every day for her is a "THANKSGIVING DAY". Many thanks to all of you for allowing those miracles to happen in Haiti.

May all of you have a "HAPPY THANKSGIVING DAY".

Become a sustainer!

Sustainers Circle

Our Sustainers are *love in action*. Their monthly gifts form the roots from which we grow. These steady, sustaining gifts allow us to successfully respond to the changing needs in Haiti as they arise, from civil unrest and COVID-19 to flooding and cholera. We are there because YOU are there. Become a Sustainer today and watch what your love can do.

During our annual campaign, Hope & Life, we are encouraging our donors to join our Sustainers Circle, and we want to celebrate these wonderful people! Join our Sustainers Circle and enjoy these exclusive perks:

- Access to online devotionals with Father Bruno, Board member Pastor L Leigh Jones, Bethlehem Ministry Young Ambassadors, and more!
- Fellowship with other Sustainers through an exclusive Facebook group!
- Option to include your name on our Sustainers Wall of Fame!
- First chance on new and upcoming trips to Terrier Rouge!
- Peace of mind knowing you are changing lives in Haiti year round!

Clinique Espérance et Vie

THE CLINIC HAS BEEN BUSY IN THE FIRST 3 QUARTERS OF 2020!
TAKE A LOOK AT THE IMPACT YOUR DONATIONS ARE HAVING IN NORTHEAST HAITI!



5,614
CONSULTATIONS

3,910
PRESCRIPTIONS

1,261
LAB TESTS

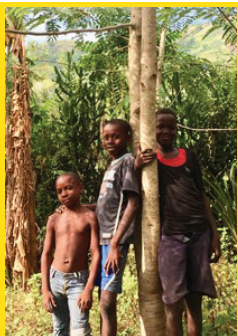
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SURGERIES

Jatrofa Projenou



In describing anthropologist Margaret Mead's book, *Family*, Kirkus Reviews notes that Mead writes of the family as the "continuing source of human life, the cradle, the teaching place for all future endeavor. She writes of mothers whose unconditional love is so essential, of fathers, representing the outside world into which children grow, families from atomic to tribal, brothers and sisters and grandparents, the child alone, friends, and that time when 'the old rules lose their meaning,' adolescence." In Haiti, too, family is everything.

In the spirit of Thanksgiving Jatrofa Projenou sends you a glimpse of the many families we work with every day to help them increase their farm yields, protect their land, and reduce their poverty. Families are Haiti's farmers and the backbone of how Haiti feeds itself. They are at the center of what Jatrofa Projenou does.

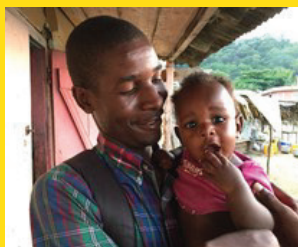


There's nowhere on the mountain these cousins haven't explored. Chores done, they head for the hills.

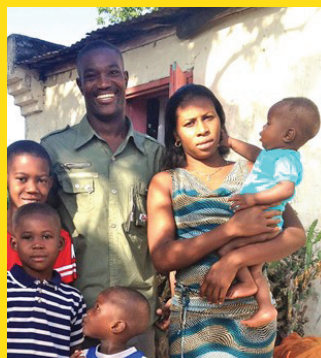
Brother, sister and mango tree to plant.



Brothers, best friends, and both patriarchs of big families that dot the mountainsides



A loving father



Young family with a serious Mom and a case of earring tug

Two sisters, their two daughters, son, and a cousin put in long days peeling manioc and hauling it in from the fields.



Spotlight

Bob Gore is a photographer and the owner of Bob Gore Productions, a television syndication company based in New York City. You have undoubtedly seen many of his beautiful photographs in our newsletters and emails over the years. His Spotlight article has been condensed in order to fit the page. We encourage you to read his full article on our blog, [www. BethlehemMinistry.org/blog](http://www.BethlehemMinistry.org/blog). Enjoy!



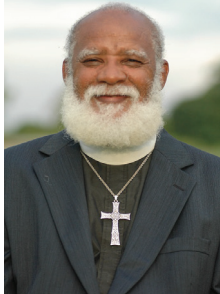
In 2007, after a demanding four days photographing the Women in Religion Conference in New York City, I headed to the conference cocktail hour. My goal was to be seen, speak with key participants, and find a quiet corner. After a few pleasantries, I found myself sitting next to Berry Rice who appeared perfect for a few minutes of low-key polite conversation. She appeared around my age, with salt and pepper colored hair and sporting a cast on her leg. Little did I know she was Bethlehem Ministry's chief recruiter. After a few minutes of introduction, it became clear I was hearing a well-crafted pitch. In spite of a near-death auto accident there, she remained evangelical about the "miraculous transformation" in Northeast Haiti sponsored by Bethlehem Ministry.

With little delay, she popped the question in her disarming silky southern accent, "Bob have you been to Haiti?" I shared the story of my enjoyable week in Port Au Prince and how I spent a day with the dean of the business school who indicated the need for computers. After enlisting my employer and other donors, I hit a wall of bureaucratic obstacles in Haiti, preventing delivery of the machines. Berry acknowledged everyone has some difficulties in working in Haiti. She also explained Bethlehem Ministry had succeeded because of its deep community roots and capabilities not available to most other NGO's. We left the event promising to stay in touch.

Following a series of convincing phone conversations, I was on a plane headed to Terrier Rouge. As a child, I dreamed of visiting Haiti, one of the few countries that welcomed African American vacationers during the segregation era. Photographing the lovely school children and community was my way of publicizing and supporting St. Barthélémy School. Bethlehem Ministry had created a magnificent educational oasis and much-needed health clinic. Having participated in many not-for-profit organizations, I knew this was the crown jewel of the region that, in no small way, has fueled the area's growth and development. Father Bruno's stature and family history provide unquestioned credibility among residents and officials. He and the staff embody the spirit and aspiration of the country and are a model for creative development throughout the Caribbean and North America.

The commitment of Berry, husband Peter, daughter Sarah, the generous U.S. donors, staff, and dedicated board members underscores the credibility of this vital, sustainable venture. Oh yes, since 2007, I've returned a number of times. My association with Bethlehem Ministry and the people of Terrier Rouge is a once in a lifetime privilege.

- Bob Gore



Giving Thanks for Haiti

**A
DAY
FOR
HAITI**

A day to remember our Haitian friends. A day to give thanks for life-changing experiences. A day to make a difference. A day for Haiti. Join us on social media on November 17th and share your own story of your time in Terrier Rouge.

Don't forget to tag us!

@BethlehemMinistryHaiti on Facebook

@bethlehem_ministry on Instagram

And use the hashtag **#DayforHaiti!**



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