

OFCB MINISTRIES, BAYONNAIS, HAITI

Background:

SMPC has been supporting the OFCB Ministry since its inception in 1994. The school began that year with 105 students. Currently there are 2,300 students in 3 locations. In addition to the K to 13 grade classes on the main campus in Bayonnais, there are K-6 schools in the mountain towns of Nicolas and Zoranger. Some of the school graduates are in Haitian colleges. Others have returned to teach, preach, be agronomists, nurses, etc.

OFCB's 8 year old medical clinic was the first in Bayonnais and was built to support a community of 80,000 people. There are now three nurses and a dentist staffing the clinic and all are OFCB graduates. A medical laboratory was added over 5 years ago. The specialty of Dr. Dupiton, Clinic Director, is General Practice and he also works in Emergency Medicine at the hospital in Gonaives, Haiti.

How SMPC Helps:

Families in Bayonnais are very poor. One traditional way we have helped is by giving animals for families to raise. The offspring of these animals are sold to increase the family income. There are also many other important ways to help. Another important need is helping to provide healthcare through the clinic. Options include: a day's salary for a clinic nurse; supplies for the clinic; tests in the lab and children's chewable vitamins. The vitamins go to the satellite K-6 schools in Nicolas and Zoranger and are especially needed for undernourished children who come to the clinic. Farming is the primary occupation of most of the residents of Bayonnais. Providing a farm tool to a poor farmer will help him or her increase their family income. The meal which is served to the children at the school is often their only meal of the day. School food is purchased in part from funds from the World Of God sponsoring program but that is often not sufficient to cover the entire school population, since only about 1/4 of the students are currently sponsored. Funds to purchase school food are supplemented with donations specifically designated for this purpose. Additionally, scholarships for students to attend the OFCB school or advanced education are available and the scholarship helps advance the education of the children in Bayonnais.

COVID-19:

This year has been especially difficult to get supplies to families in Bayonnais, due to changes in the supply chain, the availability of supplies and direct access to the village. During this unprecedented time, we are asking for additional assistance to help ensure that food and supplies are available to students and their families.

What You Can Do:

As part of the our Alternative Gift Fair this year, you can make a contribution to support our mission activities in Bayonnais by making a donation to one or more of the following categories:

- Medical Clinic (includes salaries for medical staff, medicine, lab tests and medical supplies)____
- School (includes salaries, educational supplies and school)____
- Agriculture (includes purchasing chickens which will produce eggs, goats to give to poor families and help for farmers)____

Have you ever thought about giving your immediate family one large alternative gift? It's possible that many of your family's blessings -- for example, food, clothes, and education -- could be shared by sponsoring a child in Bayonnais, Haiti. Please review the biographies of the four children that are available for sponsorship this year and consider making a selection.

- Sponsorship of a student for school for a year (\$480) ____ (includes tuition for a year and helps support the school)