



# CHALLENGE

OFCB (l'Organisation de la Force Chrétienne de Bayonnais) Newsletter Volume I, Issue 6 by Actionnel Fleurisma April 2014

## Why is Haiti so poor in the backyard of America?

This is a question we have heard over and over and sometimes we feel tired and embarrassed to explain what we think of it. Because we truly do not have the right answer for such a question and we probably never will.

However, we have heard at the same time all kinds of comments about the reason why Haiti is such a poor country, and of course, the poorest country in the entire world today.

We have heard scholars here or there saying that Haiti is in that condition because the independence on January 1st, 1804 was too early. The former slaves, Haitians, were not yet ready for freedom. Haitians are seen like chicks coming out of their shells too soon and therefore they can't survive. They will die no matter what you do for them.

We have heard other comments saying that Haiti is in such a bad shape just because we used the blood of a pig, which allowed us to call upon demon spirits in order to cast the French rulers out of the country. It is also being said that Haiti is destitute because Haitians have been worshipping too many evil spirits, too many false Gods from Africa. We do not have factual evidence to prove or disprove those comments.



One thing we have observed for sure is that Haitians are still worshipping Voodoo too much. There is too much waste in Voodoo, too many crimes and injustices in Voodoo, too many people have been kept in slavery in Voodoo and too many sacrifices with chickens, dogs, goats, pigs, sheep, bulls or cows and turkey's blood in Voodoo. Too many Haitians still have evil blood in their veins. Too many Haitians still want, after over 210 years of independence, to be slave owners either in Haiti or in Paris, France. In Paris, for example, legal Haitians would make illegal ones work for them with no salaries, which is very common there. Haitians in Haiti do that also. Rich mistreat the poor. You are not treated like a normal person if you are poor or uneducated. There are no doors for progress with such behavior.

***“Righteousness rises up a nation. But sin is a disgrace to all people.”***

We believe that slavery is an aspect of hell whether you do it in French or Creole or English. God wants for all of us to live like brothers and sisters. My dad, Lamaresté François Fleurisma, became a slave after his mother and father died the same day he was born. When my father was 5, an older relative brought him home to serve in the field every day. Everything his parents owned had been taken away from them. There were three of them. There should have been no masters or slaves. There should have been food for all, employment for all, education for all, healthcare for all, love for all, good roads for all, clean water for all, electricity for all, a decent place to live in for all, justice for all, uniforms for all, textbooks for all, pens and pencils for all, shoes for all, clothes for all. We are not saying equality for all. For we know for sure that some people would be so lazy and careless that even if wealth or money would grow on trees they would be too lazy or unwilling to climb the trees to pick them.

The same opportunity ought to be available for all, and thus, whether you are in the forgotten mountains of Haiti or in the so called prestigious cities of the country such as: Gonaïves, Saint-Marc, Port Au Prince, Cap-Haïtien, Jérémie, Les Cayes, Mirbalais, Ouanaminth, Port De Paix and so forth. As I am writing this here in Bayonnais at 10:21 pm on the 10th of March 2014, there are 100's of high school kids in our two school buildings studying, laughing, and getting ready for local and National exams. They have no expectation of what will come next for their future, but they have been afforded the opportunity to attend school from K-13th grades.



## **VEHICLE PRAYER**

### **REQUEST**

*At present, we have no vehicle to transport students to the National exams for 6th and 9th grade this year due to the fact the Toyota is being rested. It is too old and ruined, and is now being spared the same way we have been doing with the truck since 2005. It was in our contract with the ministry of Education for OFCB to transport the students to exams if the kids, hundreds of them, should take those exams here at home. Another big challenge.*

*If you are interested in learning more about the vehicle prayer request which we disparately need here at the ministry, please feel free to contact Terry Vardell at [tmvnc4@gmail.com](mailto:tmvnc4@gmail.com) for more information.*

## ***Where were we? Why is Haiti so poor in the back yard of America, 730 miles away from Miami by plane?***

Let's all forget about what the scholars have said about the misfortune of Haiti. Rather consider some firsthand facts and experiences from someone who was born in the mountains of Bayonnais in 1964 and recently enjoyed two BIG and SURPRISING 50th birthday party celebrations. One was in the USA on the 10th of February 2014 and the other one was on the 17th of February the same. Many thanks to, the Vardells, the Nichols, the Bauknights, the Holders, Madame Adair, the Hunters, Eric Nichols, and Ruth. Thank you! It was a time for me to realize how naive I was by the fact I had no clue of what was going on. I even thought that I was going to pay for Madame Adair's meal as a sign of gratefulness for what she has been doing for the Fleurisma's since October 2012 by hosting our daughter Ruth and driving about 5 miles twice a day so she can catch her bus to school and from school. I really got caught off guard.

When we were growing up here in Bayonnais, people did not have money. Hunger or starvation was not an issue at all. Trees were everywhere. Birds and wild animals such as cats, guineas and many more were be all over the mountains. There was water in the Bayonnais Rivers 12 months a year. Every peasant had several pigs. Certainly pigs were seen as bank accounts for common people. Sweet potatoes, peanuts, corns, beans, sorghums, coffee, rice, oranges, mangoes, and many other kinds of fruit grew and ripened everywhere in the mountains.

There were times in the months of October, November and December where Ravens would fly over your head and drop peanuts for children to eat. We feel like crying while writing this and remembering what we have missed and lost. We do not want to write about the whole Haiti. But, our readers must know that Bayonnais was a Paradise in the 1970's and early 80's.

Haiti used to export rice, mahogany, coffee, craft, mangoes, cotton and much more. Maybe today we only have sunshine and trash to export. Your servant, Actionnel Fleurisma, used to have his own field of

peanut, rice, sweet potatoes, and sorghum here in Bayonnais. I one day sold enough sweet potatoes to buy a pig. Nobody would have thought of putting money in the bank. Parents would grow enough to feed their families and sell enough to buy some animals such as cows, pigs, chickens, goats and horses or donkeys or mules which were the way of savings.

Why is Haiti so poor and where are the trees that would protect the land from erosion and floods? The dog is hungry and he eats his tails. Hungry dogs do not play.

In the late 70's, the Haitian pigs got infected by a terrible disease, and therefore, pigs, which were our bank accounts, began dying. To solve that problem which was a real one, the Haitian government in cooperation with the US, came up with the greatest ideas ever - that all Haitian pigs needed to die, and the US would send to Haiti some great white pigs from Iowa. All over the country of Haiti, pigs were being shot. You can't imagine how much blood that was shed on that Island of Haiti by shooting thousands of pigs on a daily basis. It seems there were no vaccines that could have helped with that. We do not know still what that disease was. Maybe something like AIDS today.

There was no medication to cure them.

Haitians began asking, now that the pigs are gone, what next? How could one make money to send kids to schools, to buy textbooks, shoes, uniforms, to pay rent, to pay tuition, to build a house or to buy a piece of land? This is the time, the early 80's, when peasants would start cutting trees down to make charcoal to make money to live on. This is also the time when the whole country would face what we call Rural Exodus. People would start fleeing the countryside to go to the cities where they would increase the slums. It is also the time when Haitians would start thinking of leaving Haiti for Canada, USA, France and elsewhere. We are not sociologist and are not claiming to be. But, if anyone could do a survey to find out when Haitians started leaving the country, you would find out that it was after the destruction of the Haitian pigs.





**Why Haiti has been such a headache for America and other countries? Do you know?**

- *When I was growing up one \$ US was equal to 5 gourdes, but today that same US \$ is over 43 gourdes? Economists predict that it will go to 50 gourdes for one \$ US.*
- *Charcoal makers were seen as a cursed person in our community, but today the ones having wood and capable to make charcoal are called wealthy people?*
- *When I was growing up 6 pounds of rice would cost 5 or 6 gourdes, but today that same quantity costs 150 gourdes?*
- *The biggest need that Haitians have today is the true daily food, not the one in the Bible?*
- *The last time we had a good rain here in Bayonnais was on the 3rd of September 2013? And due to that, more and more families with little children are going to bed with stomachs full of air or gas?*

*Poverty in Haiti is not a choice deliberately made. It is not a lack of values or sensitivity either. Just life. Oh, no. It is not just life. It is because our bank accounts have been destroyed and never been replaced properly. The pigs from Iowa cannot do too well in Haiti. Because Haitians can no longer provide groceries for themselves, they now act as pigs with getting groceries possibly resulting from external expectations and requirements which they feel have been imposed upon them. How to manage that? Traditional Haitians would be sleeping on a dirt floor, under a thatch roof, but those pigs would require a concrete floor and tin roof. What a curse?*



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Very few Haitians in the cities would have fled because of politics. The vast Marjory had to flee to search for opportunities. The more misery we would face, the more trees we would cut down to make charcoal, and the more vulnerable our top soil would become, and the less the country would produce to feed its own citizens. No sweet potatoes, no fruits, no rice, no trees, no rain, no sorghum, no beans, no cotton, or coffee anymore to export from Haiti.

At present we import more than 60% of what we consume in Haiti. All of our birds and wild cats are gone. No singing birds in our mountains anymore. The slums are overcrowded and being used by politicians.

Artibonite valley used to be the headquarters for Rice in Haiti. Before our pigs were gone, Haitians would see it as an insult asking them to go to France, to USA, to the Dominican Republic or to Canada for good. Since the 1980's we have become, unfortunately, a society with no citizenship. We appear to have no flag. Our flag is the flag of whatever country can help us to provide for our families and children.

**Contact Us**

**WORLD OF GOD**

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— OR —

**FRIENDS OF OFCB**

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