



CHALLENGE

Extreme Drought in Bayonnais

By: Sylvio Jeune



Big thanks to our Sisters and Brothers in the United State of America, for the assistance they have been giving to Haiti; especially to each American that has supported and is going to support a child through World of God here in Bayonnais!

We're going through some hard times in Haiti, particularly in Bayonnais. We are experiencing an extreme drought. The rainy season should have begun in April, but so far no rain. There should be corn everywhere in Bayonnais, unfortunately no corn exists because the farmers can't cultivate the land for lack of water.

Some areas in Bayonnais are already running short of drinking water. The people that live in those areas must walk about 3 miles to get water. The drought is causing a loss of livestock and vegetation.

Every time it looks like rain, the farmers get ready to cultivate. Sorry no rain. Because the farmers are not able to cultivate the land, there is a growing fear that in the coming days there will be starvation here in Bayonnais.

farmer

DIEUDONNE SYLVESTRE

"I have sown the fields with corn since June 9th, and until now, the corn doesn't grow yet because there is no rain. Generally, when we sow corn it takes four months to be ready to harvest. I'm desperate for rain. We should now be preparing the land for planting millet but there is no water. We are forced to wait for the rain because we don't want to work in vain. We are praying and asking the Lord to send rain for us."



Photos show how the situation has evolved for the cultivators

In spite of all, there is something to rejoice about

In 1999, Charlesen Alcius attended 7th grade here in Bayonnais and continued in our school through 13th grade in 2006. After his graduation, a local politician sent him to an accounting school in Gonaives. They paid his tuition for a few months only. It appeared at that time that there was no more hope for that skinny man. By June 2008, Charlesen had become a husband and father of four children and he lived near Bayonnais with his wife Destine.

Charlesen is an accomplished bass player and he joined the church in Cathor becoming a musician and teacher. He also served as secretary for the OFCB board, French teacher in the 6th 7th and 9th grades of ICB, a member of Rotary Club of Bayonnais, and in 2013, he became the Principal of the ICB Elementary school here at OFCB.

We are thankful to God for the leadership workshops led by Mr. Dow Bauknight from World of God. Charlesen Alcius has been one of the greatest beneficiaries of those workshops. He has a great sense of responsibility. You can count on him. He has done a fantastic job managing the elementary school this year. 100% of the 6th grade students (all 182) passed the national exams.

In spite of the current drought conditions which have caused unprecedented challenges, we must rejoice ourselves because we are making progress in Bayonnais through the efforts of fine young people like Charlesen. We must not let our present circumstances destroy our joy and our testimony. Yes, let's rejoice in spite of all and let's give glory to him.

Drought is Devastating the Region

The Bayonnais River valley, home to OFCB Ministries, has been in the grip of a severe drought for the past several years and for the second year in a row the local rice crop, for most families, will not even be planted due to a lack of water to irrigate the fields. Last years failed rice crops placed tremendous hardship on this community, but a second year in a row with no rice means that many of these families are now facing a crisis situation as they have run out of ways to feed themselves.



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

You can make a one-time donation for beans and rice for families in Bayonnais on our website:

[MAKE A ONE TIME DONATION](#)

Select fund: Haiti Drought Relief

\$20 provides rice rations for 3 families.

\$40 provides bean rations for 24 families.

Contact Us

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