



CHALLENGE

Baby chicks in Bayonnais!

Submitted by Eric Nichols, Montreat Presbyterian

One of the best-kept secrets of our Haitian friends was revealed on February 8th shortly after our arrival at the OFCB campus. They took us to see the recently completed, modern chicken-raising facility up by the Granary of Joseph. It was shockingly beautiful and had already received its first delivery of 1,000 chicks, who appeared to be very efficient at peeping, eating and drinking, as well as creating the next industry in Bayonnais... manure for the gardens. There is also a future in eggs.



The initial plan is to raise chicks to maturity, about 60 days, and then to sell them directly in the community. This will provide a more convenient source of protein for folks nearby. The price for a chicken will be less than that at the marketplace at Lystere. This enterprise will achieve profits to be used for the purchase of beans and rice for the school lunch program, as well as feeding persons in the community who need assistance.

The beginning of the chicken program was orchestrated by the agronomists Wallace Manasse and Villate. They have a young, part-time worker who lives nearby and enthusiastically tends to the chickens.

Perhaps you might enjoy some fresh eggs and chicken next January. Soon we plan to firm up our schedule for a MPC delegation to travel to Bayonnais. We would like to introduce you to the wonderful folks in Bayonnais, to their vibrant community, to visits in homes,

and we will be extending the solar lighting program significantly.

A significant portion of the funds for the chicken house was provided by the generosity of a member of our church and her family.

One last Haitian note is that Marc Hare and Cindy Correll, who are PCUSA Mission Co-workers in Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Central America, will be conducting meetings of the PCUSA Haiti Network and providing discussion and demonstrations of some of the organic gardening methods they utilize. The programs run from Friday to Sunday, March 10-12 at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, will include some meals, and will incorporate worship on Sunday morning. Call Eric Nichols at 669-6057 if you are interested in attending and for more information.

Special thanks to our friends from First Presbyterian Church in Florence, SC for initial funding to get the chicken house started.



News from the Bethesda Clinic

Submitted by Judy Nichols, South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church

Since his arrival at the clinic on February 1, Dr. Faustin Charles has solved several "mysterious" medical cases. In one, a regular patient returned to the clinic because, once again, she was having trouble breathing. After a thorough exam, Dr. Charles determined that she was in an asthma crisis. Fortunately the clinic had some albuterol and corticoids. After some nebulization treatments, the woman was given advice, discharged and placed under medication. She is now doing well.

A child with a life-threatening case of bronchiolitis arrived at the clinic and Dr. Charles felt that he needed to be hospitalized immediately. Since the woman had no means to transport him, Dr. Charles drove them both to the hospital in Gonaives where the child received treatment. The child is now doing fine.

A 23 year old man who had frequently been treated for severe gastric pain returned to the clinic. Upon examination Dr. Charles suspected that he had a heart condition, which was confirmed with an EKG in the hospital. The man is now taking appropriate medications and is doing well.

Many lives are being saved as a result of expanded care at the Bethesda Clinic. The people of Bayonnais are grateful for this mission.

SunBells

Montreat Presbyterian's major effort with OFCB was setting up The Light Program for the families of OFCB students. They delivered 48 lights to the program; the lights are solar-powered LED multifunction lights called "SunBells". Olson Huff helped them obtain the SunBells through the auspices of The Light Foundation, which he set up with son David.

The lights serve to illumine small houses without cost and without the detrimental effects of kerosene lantern smoke. They were distributed to student/families as follows: 6 to elementary and 25 to high school in Bayonnais, 10 to Nicolas, 6 to the new school at Zoranger, and 1 to the Program Manager Lovelie Osney.

Besides the many heartfelt thank you's, the value of the program may be summed up in the words of a high school student, who said, "This light will bring a great change to my family and me." Be prepared MPC; we may seek to send as many as 200 more SunBells!

Baseball FUN-Raiser

For the last several years a number of churches have joined together to attend a Knights baseball game in order to raise awareness of and funds for OFCB. OFCB is the abbreviation for Organization of the Christian Force Of Bayonnais. This is a mission school, church and clinic located in the mountains of Haiti. Last year's game was good but our seats were in the sun and it was way too hot to enjoy the game. We had seats in HR 4, 5 and 6. A group from South Mecklenburg Church is planning to attend a game on July 28 and has seats reserved in Section 102, which has shade. This is a Friday evening game (7:05) and there will be fireworks after the game. The tickets cost is \$20 each and \$4 of each ticket price will go directly to support the programs of OFCB. Plan to join us for a fun evening of fellowship while supporting our friends in Bayonnais, Haiti.

We are asking for an indication of your interest in organizing sales at your church. It would not be a commitment for a certain number of tickets.

Please contact Judy Nichols at 980-237-2538 if you have questions or comments. We would appreciate hearing from you as soon as possible about your level of interest in organizing a group to attend this game.



Lovelie is charged with administering the LIGHT PROGRAM for the next year. She will go to Nicolas with Mr. Labonte and to Zoranger with Mr. Mikleson to demonstrate the lights and check on their use.