


SPRING 2018



productive cooperatives HAITI



*"This is an occasion today
that has been lost to us for a
long time. We must treasure it.
Whatever we have been missing,
we can now find it in our spirit
together".*

Pastor Eddie on the occasion of the
founding of KOPEDAG in Asifa, Gonaives.



The Foundation for International Development Assistance
Fondation pour le soutien du développement international



CONVICTION...

The stories in this newsletter are deeply moving for me:

- The progress on The Kreyòl Garden, a vision that is unfolding years after being conceived. It took the devastation of Hurricane Matthew to get this off the ground. And it brought us the partnership of World Renew/CFGB and Foresters for Haiti. World Renew's Country Director, Troiyle Sanon, was mentored by Jack Wall in FIDA's early years. He attributes his career to the inspiration of my father's vision for Haiti.
- The formation of a new egg-laying cooperative in Asifa, Gonaïves. Seven of the 22 members are pastors and several of them have purchased up to 8 shares at 500 GDE/share (more than \$7 USD). They have voted on their logo and hosted their first Annual General Meeting on April 14th. This would not have happened had I not the courage to walk up to someone I did not know, Luke and Julie Brouwer, one Sunday morning.
- The story of my sister, Ruth, returning to Haiti after 30 years and embracing her legacy to lead our "not-so-comfortable-adventures-in understanding poverty" tours is, for me, the ultimate gift a sister can give. I love her for this.
- The success of the Hike for Haiti fundraisers introduced and organized by our FIDA USA Director, Patrick Bentrrott is a marvel I would never have imagined. Our adult literacy program would not exist without his efforts and his tenacious belief in the power of literacy for the men and women of Haiti.

These stories can be told today because of the conviction of those who have authored their reality. It is the conviction that we are called to a higher purpose, *that the greater thing in life is more than sharing your riches with others. Rather it is to reveal to others their own.* (Benjamin Disraeli)

 ~ Betsy Wall, Executive Director



PLAN SIERRA VISIT INSPIRES COOPERATIVE MEMBERS

The Kreyòl Garden Project is not a new concept for farmers and Haitian professionals working in the field of agriculture. This concept existed during colonization when coffee was introduced to this environment. The definition and design of a Kreyòl Garden Project today is more scientific and follows the principles of what today is called “permaculture”. The Foresters for Haiti conducted an exploratory visit to the Dominican Republic, a country neighbouring Haiti to visit Plan Sierra: an integrated agroforestry model whose main objective is to protect and stabilize one of the most water-rich areas. A November visit was organized for select cooperative members to observe and appreciate what is sustainable in terms of permaculture in a similar environment in Haiti. The group included members from each of the three cooperatives, two pcH staff and a representative from Foresters for Haiti.

A fish-breeding project for the conservation of soil and the cultivation of medicinal plants was observed. They received training on soil conservation techniques, composting, irrigation, woodlots and protection of soil and the environment. Plan Sierra is also versed in coffee regeneration since the Dominican Republic faces similar challenges as Haiti with the *typica* coffee variety. Everyone was enthusiastic about their visit and surprised to see the level of development of agriculture in comparison to Haiti. They are certain that the majority of the practices or techniques they observed can easily be replicated in their country.

Bringing these leaders to the Dominican Republic is a crucial step in the early stages of the project. They will now serve as prime motivators to encourage others to participate. Once back in their communities, these cooperatives organized meetings with other cooperative leaders to give an account of their visit.



HOPE COMMUNITY PROJECT: LESSONS FROM THE FRONT LINE

HOPE Community Project is focused on orphan prevention or, to put it positively, *family preservation* in Gonaïves, a city north of Port au Prince. During our time here we have witnessed significant financial resources intended to deal with economic challenges facing Haitian families ending up supporting orphanages. This directly devalues families and as such is ultimately destructive to the culture. We have implemented programs to address this and look forward to a day when the term “economic orphan” becomes obsolete.

This is all well and good – we are happy with our programs and are always working to improve them, *but what about development?* If the problem is ultimately economic and the goal is sustainability how does an organization like ours move beyond relief-focused programs to true development? For those of you reading this with knowledge of the current landscape in Haiti you know it is littered with failed attempts by organizations to create “Haitian businesses.” Businesses that end up run by foreigners and subsidized by donors; the vast majority simply don’t make it in the long term.

We started down the economic development road on our own and were quickly mired down in the typical struggles; our American staff were running it, trying to learn on the fly, and the level of engagement displayed by our Haitian partners was inconsistent at best. We didn’t want to give up, but we knew that what we were doing was a long way from sustainable.

It was then that we met Betsy Wall, Executive Director of FIDA/pcH. Their approach is *asset based and participatory*, two of the buzz words you will hear and read about if you begin to research effective approaches to development. Through decades of experience FIDA/pcH has developed a process for the

Non Kont *Pasajajal*

ALTERNATIF POU DESEKOUTE

Date	Description	Montant	Antre	50ti	Balans
25/03/18	Christophe Bice Aime 1 pasajajal	004	500.00	-	500.00
25/03/18	Nathalie M. S. 1 pasajajal	005	500.00	-	1,000.00
25/03/18	Saint Jean Baptiste 1 pasajajal	006	500.00	-	1,500.00
25/03/18	Elihu D. 2 pasajajal	007	1,000.00	-	2,500.00
25/03/18	Bernard Henry 1 pasajajal	008	1,000.00	-	3,500.00
25/03/18	Chery Y. 1 pasajajal	009	500.00	-	4,000.00
25/03/18	Chery Y. 2 pasajajal	10	1,500.00	-	5,500.00
25/03/18	Justin N. 1 pasajajal	11	500.00	-	6,000.00
27/03/18	Jeanne P. 1 pasajajal	12	500.00	-	6,500.00
27/03/18	Alexandre H. 1 pasajajal	13	500.00	-	7,000.00
27/03/18	Willy B. 1 pasajajal	14	3,500.00	-	10,500.00
27/03/18	Alexandre A. 1 pasajajal	15	500.00	-	11,000.00
27/03/18	Charles D. 1 pasajajal	16	500.00	-	11,500.00
31/03/18	William S. 2 pasajajal	17	1,000.00	-	12,500.00
02/04/18	Edouard E. 5 pasajajal	18	2,500.00	-	15,000.00
02/04/18	Esther B. 1 pasajajal	19	500.00	-	15,500.00
02/04/18	Frederic M. 1 pasajajal	20	500.00	-	16,000.00
02/04/18	Flour M. 1 pasajajal	21	500.00	-	16,500.00
02/04/18	Ducasse S. 1 pasajajal	22	500.00	-	17,000.00
02/04/18	Elihu J. 3 pasajajal	23	1,500.00	-	18,500.00



development of Haitian-owned/managed agricultural production enterprise based on the cooperative business model. Their success is rooted in a philosophy that focuses on building relationships and motivating the community *before* capital investment. Interested community members are trained and educated in the International Principles of Cooperative. These people who ultimately make all the decisions, are first required to invest their own money in the form of a “share”.

The response in our community has been incredible; We have never before seen one of our projects create so much excitement or so quickly engender a high level of ownership and involvement. While the pcH staff have been most diligent, the greater significance is how clearly members have caught the pcH vision and are so enthusiastic about implementing it in their community. Truly there can be no better testament to the integrity and effectiveness of an organization’s mission than when it’s employees (all Haitian expertise) charged with the daily challenges of making a project happen are fully engaged and committed to the vision of an empowered Haiti.

~ Luke Brouwer, Field Director





A DAUGHTER RETURNS: A REFLECTION BY RUTH WALL-OLBRYCH

It has been over 30 years since I lived in Haiti. Now a middle aged woman, I first came to Haiti as an impressionable 12 year old with my parents, Jack and Anne Wall. Some time later, as a freshly minted college grad, I moved to Haiti for five years to work with International Child Care in public relations. Now I was here again. So much had changed and yet so much was the same. What possible thing could I do with these fresh emotions I was experiencing so many years later?*

Haiti is a *gift*. Every time I am here I leave more humbled for all that I've learned from a people that the world sees as having so little. This time as an observer, I am *gifted* by what it is to *trust*, to *believe*, to *give* and ultimately, to *live with* what God has given. This time, I leave with an impression of a people whose resiliency has been tested time and time again, and yet remain *hopeful*, *proud*, and ready to be "*masters of their own destiny*" (as I so often heard my father say). As a daughter of Jack and Anne, I was humbled to see the seeds they planted in Haiti nearly 35 years ago, doing just that: working alongside people, believing in their vision to be managers of their own destiny.

Yes, I knew what might face me by coming back to Haiti. I knew that I would once again be charged to wonder what possible role was here for me. This time it is a little clearer than it was 30 years ago. I do have a few credentials: I have a long history with Haiti, I still can manage a conversation in Kreyòl, I know how to organize a tour, and I have a legacy to build on; to engage others in an opportunity to learn from a people that have so much to teach us about *trusting*, *believing* and *ultimately to live with what God has given*. Thank you Haiti. Thank you, Mom and Dad.

- That is what we left in Haiti. What we took with us, was more than things we bought as gifts or for memories. It wasn't something you could see or measure. It was what was in each of our souls. We were touched. Our hearts were warmed. We were humbled. We were accepted. We were shown grace.



We were *blessed*. Quite simply, we left more complete than when we arrived... *what a gift!*

- We hiked mountain trails traversable only by foot, by donkeys or motorcycles carrying no less than four people. They shared their road with us, always kindly greeting what must have seemed like a motley crew: 3 doctors, 3 in sales, 1 farmer and 2 FIDA/pcH staff ranging in age from 40-70 years.
- On our last night we dined at the Latin Quarter in Petionville. Patrons from around the world are invited to leave their mark on the walls. We did. We began this journey as strangers. It is unlikely that we ever would have met, let alone bond in friendship if we had not experienced Haiti in such an authentic way. Writing our names on this wall seemed the rite to seal this bond... a symbolic affirmation of the men and women we witnessed writing their names for the very first time. Witnessing this act formed an emotional well in each of us ... the undeniable pride of human dignity. Writing one's name . Ours. Theirs. Full circle. Powerful. United we are.





▲ *The Second Annual Hike for Haiti, with 13 participants (including Jack and Anne's granddaughter, Alexis) raised nearly \$30,000 USD for adult literacy.*



*Billed as a fundraiser, the First Annual Hike for Haiti raised over \$20,000 for the FIDA/pcH adult literacy program. Nine assorted people banded and bonded together to literally trek the mountains of Haiti, experiencing first hand why this country is known as the "Pearl of the Antilles". Beauty in its landscape. Beauty in its people.

The Third Annual Hike for Haiti takes place December 5-12, 2018. Spots are still available. For more information contact the FIDA Canada or USA offices at the numbers below or visit www.fida-pch.org.



FIDA 
productive cooperatives Haiti
www.fida-pch.org

FIDA CANADA
155 Frobisher Drive, Unit G-215
Waterloo, ON CANADA N2V 2C9
T: 519-886-9520

PRODUCTIVE COOPERATIVES HAITI (pcH)
#8 Delmas 19 at Rue Mackandal
Port au Prince, HAITI
T: 509-2227-5123

FIDA USA
PO Box 2590
Evergreen, CO US 80439
Mobile: (303) 523-4989

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