



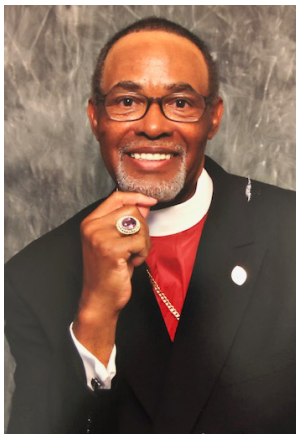
FLM HAITI

FUNCTIONAL LITERACY MINISTRY OF HAITI EDUCATIONAL & MEDICAL MISSION

NEWSLETTER, FALL 2019

Banquet Message: The Power of Giving

By Emily Wingfield



To spread its message of HOPE—Healthcare, Opportunity, Partnership, and Education—for Haiti, FLM Haiti hosted its annual banquet and art sale on Oct. 26, 2019. The speaker was Bishop Lee Roy McDuffie. In 2019, he earned a Master of Arts in Religious Studies at Beulah Heights University and he serves in prison fellowship in Maryland. He is affiliated with the International Alliance of Bishops and the Joint College of African American Bishops.

McDuffie talks here about why he is a partner with FLM Haiti.

Q: How did you become connected to FLM Haiti?

A: First, my wife and I have known Bishop and Mrs. Pamphile since 1983 and this was about the same time that God birthed the vision of FLM Haiti in the heart of Bishop Pamphile. Second, in 2014, my wife and I were invited to Haiti and we witnessed the challenges of the people there, but we also witnessed many people who love and worship God. I saw first-hand the gift of hope being given to the people of Haiti, and God touched my heart to support this mission.

Q: Why continue to support FLM Haiti?

A: This ministry is doing an excellent job in giving to the people opportunities that they otherwise would not have. My wife and I believe not only in this ministry but also in the integrity of the leaders of this ministry.

Q: What message was important to bring to the banquet?

A: I drew upon the Scripture from Romans 4:18, which deals with the “Life-Changing Power of Giving the Gift of Hope.” From the message I presented three questions: What is hope? How do we give the gift of hope? And what happens when hope is deferred?

Q: Overall, why is the ministry you do and the work of FLM Haiti important?

A: I believe every God-appointed and God-ordained ministry has the purpose of fulfilling the will of God in giving help to those who are in critical need. The work I do in ministry is about the welfare of people both spiritually, physically, and financially. The ministry of FLM Haiti is also about the welfare of the Haitian people in providing education, healthcare, and other opportunities. The reason our churches support the vision God gave to Bishop Pamphile is that it helps in giving the gift of hope to those who seemingly have no hope. These works of ministry are very important and by the grace of God, we are going to continue to be successful in them. ●

Photos by Russell Bynum and Diane N. Bates



Seen at the banquet, from top, Zuriel Wallace with Birdy Reynolds; Leon Pamphile with Tyra Good; Karen Tucker-Nibbs with Kathy Russell; Robin McGuire with Dave Slember; Rozelle Pamphile with Naomi McDuffie

For more information, please visit flmhaiti.org or call 412-784-0342



A Donor's Story: Faith Wiley Shows Her Heart

By Emily Wingfield

More than 30 years ago, Faith Wiley, a worshipper with East Liberty's Lincoln Avenue Church of God, met Leon Pamphile and his wife, Rozelle. The couple, who had only recently settled in America from Haiti, were newcomers to her church.

For some reason, Wiley was drawn to the couple by the way the Pamphiles carried themselves and she could tell they were people who cared about others. They met in autumn, and Wiley noticed that Rozelle Pamphile, mother to a young daughter, was not wearing a coat.

With sisterly affection, she wanted to help Mrs. Pamphile. She called the church secretary, requested their phone number, and asked Mr. Pamphile to come and pick up a coat she wanted to give to his wife.

After that, on occasion, she and Mrs. Pamphile would be passengers on the same bus and they would chat about life, children, and the church. In those moments, a long-lasting friendship was born—one that would evolve into being a generous fund-raising partnership for FLM.

The more she came to know the couple, the more they began to share the work they were doing with FLM Haiti, a nonprofit they had started to build literacy among the Haitian people in the communities where Mr. Pamphile grew up. Before long, they also told Wiley of their new vision to provide health services in these same rural, mountainous neighborhoods.

Wiley, a young service representative who was the first Black woman to sit in the front office of the downtown telephone company, sensed the sincerity of the work the Pamphiles and FLM Haiti were doing and she was inspired.

She was one of the first donors to give in support of what became the House of David Clinic. Over the years, she's been able to see the seed she planted to grow. The House of David now provides gynecological care but also features family physicians, a staff pediatrician, ophthalmological exams, dental care, and more. Hundreds of Haitians a week use the services.

As a non-profit organization, donations are crucial to the success of FLM Haiti. Many individuals and organizations kindly donate to advance the work of FLM Haiti.

But Wiley stands out. For more than three decades now, Wiley has been giving to FLM Haiti. She has not missed a month.

With each gift, she hopes it will help Haiti for "the next five" months. She has never been to the mountains or seen the people who are blessed by her gifts. And, every time she's thought she might travel there, she, instead, donates the funding to FLM. Her monthly support provides exams for sick children she will never be able to comfort and gives blood pressure medicine to mothers she'll never smile upon. She gives anyway.

In her past, Wiley has been involved in volunteer work, so she knows the importance of giving and ministry. She continues to give, she said, because, "when you see something that needs help, you try to help." Wiley has realized that not only is FLM Haiti doing the work, but they are also "living the work" as well, which is a telltale sign of an honest, caring, and immensely faithful and charitable organization, she says.

Long-time donor Faith Wiley's involvement with FLM Haiti highlights the strong relationship between FLM and its donors.

FLM Haiti would like to extend a major thank you to Faith Wiley and all donors who help us in achieving our goals. ●

Now, more than ever...Thank You!!!

For the past few months now, political tensions have roiled Haiti. Schools are closed. So, are hospitals. Banks and much of business life is shut down, too. Inflation is skyrocketing and people who struggled to get food and water before, now have to pay twice as much for the necessities of life. In the face of such challenges, FLM Haiti continues to provide HOPE (Health care, Opportunities, Partnership, and Education). The emphasis is on care. The teacher who manages to huddle her students in one of our classrooms to provide a sense of stability in a community spiraling out of order. The innovators in our technical academy who created a nursery in their basement to give Haiti's littlest citizens a chance to escape the turmoil and sing happy songs for a day. The physicians who manage to get to our clinic to treat expectant mothers. More than ever, the power of your giving shines through. It's strengthening our capacity to give during very tough times.

Donors, we thank you for your gifts that enable FLM Haiti to make a positive difference. ●

Photo by Kenneth Neely



Please send In your donations via www.flmhaiti.org



American Bible Society Launches Partnership with Literacy Centers

By Emily Wingfield

American Bible Society (ABS), a non-profit organization, shares its mission statement as “from bustling city streets to war-torn villages, we strive to make the Bible available and alive, so that all people may experience the life-changing message of God’s Word.”

Beginning in January 2020, ABS kicks off a nine-month pilot program to sponsor 10 of FLM’s more than 70 literacy centers. Through this sponsorship, the organization will help to train and pay teachers and a supervisor as well as provide books and materials. If satisfied with the results, the organization will continue to cover the cost for more centers.

This sponsorship, however, is not FLM’s first encounter with ABS. For about 34 years, FLM purchased Bibles from ABS to distribute to graduates of FLM’s literacy programs.

After an interview with Magda Victor, the director of the Haitian Bible Society, which has connections with ABS, FLM discovered that a partnership with ABS could extend far beyond just buying Bibles. American Bible Society also has its own literacy program and FLM believed the program could greatly benefit its literacy teachers. The ABS literacy training takes six months, in comparison to FLM’s program, which takes two years. ABS’ help will allow FLM to increase the payments of the teachers, and by combining forces and engaging in a partnership with ABS, FLM’s literacy centers in Haiti will be able to move faster in the work of achieving literacy for the Haitian people.

In Haiti today, about 62 percent of the population is not able to read or write. So, there is much room for work to be done in providing people opportunity to participate in society.

“The partnership that is developing between FLM’s literacy centers and American Bible Society,” said Bishop Leon Pamphile, executive director of FLM Haiti, “is crucial to addressing this problem. Through this sponsorship, the literacy centers will become stronger and better equipped.”

It is our goal, he added, that this will bring FLM further along the path of creating better lives and a better world for the people of Haiti. ●

New Nursery School Opens

By Emily Wingfield

A few months ago, FLM Haiti started a new initiative to encourage and support the education of children: it opened its first nursery school, Excelsior Academie. The school is on the lower level of the Excelsior Technical Institute and is already caring for 15 children up to age 6, while providing a daycare for children under 3 years old.

This initiative builds on FLM’s efforts at educating the community, which is done mainly through a school that goes to grade 13, and the Excelsior Technical Academy, which offers training in construction and computer skills and is the only higher education institute in the chair of the board of directors in Haiti, Evens Frejuste, explains that to prepare the younger kids for grade school, the nursery will use a global psychomotricity program. Psychomotricity is a social science discipline that is based on the interrelation between mental processes of the individual, or the psyche, and motor functions. This form of education, he says, helps to ensure that the children are developing in the right direction and to the best of their abilities before they enter normal schooling.

To staff the school, there are four teachers, one servicewoman, one security agent, and one manager. The school operates on a budget of \$1,850/month and charges an annual fee of \$260 per family. “This amount is a starting fee, which will double during the family’s second year, but it is still a reasonable and affordable price that the families are very happy with,” says Frejuste. The costs at FLM’s nursery school are much lower than the other schools in the community.

This nursery school program is beneficial for the children because their growth and development are being nurtured and improved, but it is also a blessing to the families. “Having this program available gives the families more time to care for their other children,” says Frejuste, “or give them time to find work to help improve their financial situation.”

In the long run, having this program could expand the labor market of the community and lead to more growth in economic prosperity and betterment of the whole community. This nursery school program is just one of many examples of the monumental efforts that FLM Haiti is taking to help improve the lives of Haitian communities. ●

Good News

- This year, 31 members of grade 13—more than half of the senior class at the FLM Haiti supported school—passed the state exam, giving them the opportunity to go to college.

- Two new developments—a teeth-cleaning program and gynecological care—are helping to advance medical care at FLM Haiti’s community health clinic, House of David. To be more proactive and preventative with dental health, the clinic has launched a teeth-cleaning program that uses the AST-LED VRN-A8 Light and Wireless Control, a new device that allows for high-tech cleaning and examination of teeth.

- Gynecologist Harold Duperval has joined the clinic staff. He will help the gynecological program focus on examining expectant mothers and referring to them to specialized care, if needed.

- This year, FLM Haiti is part of Pittsburgh Magazine’s, Give Big Pittsburgh, a daylong charitable giving “extravaganza,” in which the magazine partners with the Pittsburgh Foundation and GiveGab, an online donation platform, to raise money for

local non-profits. The event falls on Giving Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2017. Not only is FLM Haiti one of the hundreds of nonprofits that are registered with the online donation event, but it was featured in a special edition of the Pittsburgh Magazine known as Give Pittsburgh.

- FLM Haiti has scheduled an education mission for Feb. 4-13, 2020. The key theme of the mission is “Building Muscles of Good Character.” Also, a new program will be launched that includes education for adults. Haiti has experienced political tensions during the past year, creating a very stressful time in the country. So, a team is being brought on to teach adults relaxation techniques

such yoga, meditation, simple massage, and more. Contact Molly Golando (mollygolando@yahoo.com) or Susan Robinson (smr76@outlook.com).

To keep up with the latest from FLM Haiti, sign up for our email updates: <https://mailchi.mp/0693890fc0ec/flmhaiti>

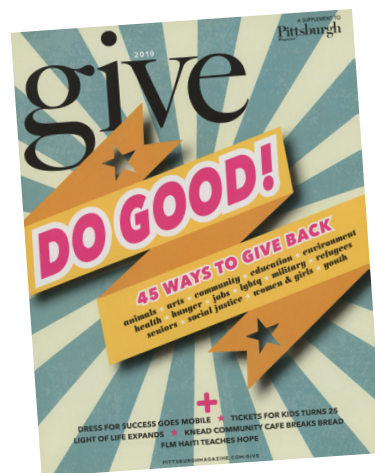


Photo by Kenneth Neely