



FLM HAITI

FUNCTIONAL LITERACY MINISTRY OF HAITI
EDUCATIONAL & MEDICAL MISSION

NEWSLETTER, SPRING 2022

On Board in Haiti

By Ervin Dyer

The Rev. Osse Paul is now the deputy executive director of Alliance d' Action Chretienne, or AAC, FLM's board in Haiti that manages missions and operations on the ground from the island nation.

He replaces Evens Frejuste, who retired in spring 2022 after years of selfless service.

Paul is familiar with FLM as he serves as assistant pastor to his father, the Rev. Eleona Paul, who leads the church next door to the FLM campus. He also grew up in the Thomassin-Laboule communities, which are served by FLM Haiti.

For 12 years, Paul has served with **MINUSTAH**, the United Nations peace-keeping mission in Haiti, where he worked his way from being a store clerk in supply to being a supply finance and budget assistant.

He has a bachelor's in business administration from Haiti's Institut Universitaire de Formation des Cadres, where he is currently pursuing a master's degree in global leadership. He studied at Haiti's Faith Christian Institute and earned a certificate in theology from Dallas Theological Seminary.

Bishop Leon Pamphile, executive director of FLM Haiti, says, Paul "is a capable and reliable leader who can manage efficiently our ministry in Haiti. We look forward to working with him to help the people of Haiti to uplift themselves."

In other board news: Rose Ellen Mocombe, of Oviedo, Fla., is the newest member of the FLM Haiti board. She is looking forward to engaging on fundraising and other projects. She has varied work experience, including being a class coordinator, support representative, community director and administrative assistant. She has a master's in education from the University of Pittsburgh and bachelor's degree from Colgate University in Hamilton, N.Y. ●



Rev. Osse Paul

Health Service Continues

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, and other challenges, FLM Haiti's physicians, nurses, and care providers continue to serve. The health service has adjusted to COVID-19 precautions, masking, social distancing and using other safety measures.

In 2021, the House of David Health Center received:

- 2,212 adult patients
- 997 children
- 484 pregnant women
- 745 patients for dental treatment
- 325 patients for blood pressure monitoring

TOTAL: 4,763

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

Letters from the Heart

MIPADEP school is one of the cornerstones and first ministries of FLM Haiti.

FLM Haiti is celebrating 39 years of service to the Haitian people. The ministry started by empowering adults to acquire reading, writing and basic math skills. The nonprofit soon came to see the need for outreach to teens and children because some were attending these adult classes.

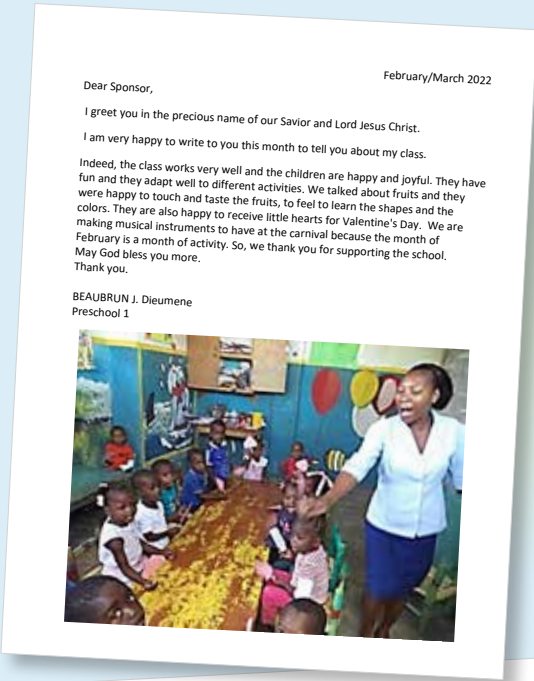
So, Bishop Pamphile, executive director of FLM Haiti, soon contacted his father, Davese Pamphile, to request a donation of a plot of land in the Thomassin community for the construction of a school. His father agreed and, around 1990, FLM began the construction of MIPADEP as a primary school. The success of the first step encouraged the FLM board to add a secondary level to the school. Today, the school has kindergarten through grade 13 and educates girls and boys from local communities.

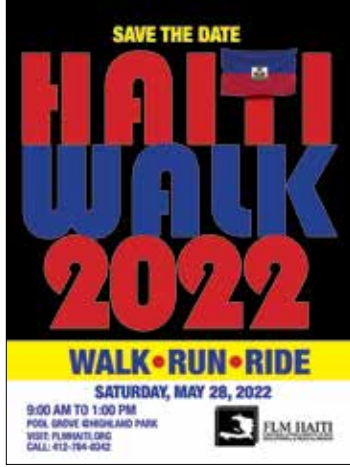
The school has a yearly enrollment of 600 students on average. It provides meals for the students every school day. MIPADEP's students perform well on state exams.

Sue Robinson, a retired art teacher, became engaged with the school and its development early on. Since 2000, she has made more than 30 trips to Haiti.

"The school and children are close to my heart," says the longtime board member of FLM who lives in Washington County, Pa. The letters and photos from teachers and students keep her connected to a ministry that she works so hard to advance.

As the coordinator of FLM Haiti's Classroom Sponsorship Program, Robinson eagerly shares the letters with sponsors, keeping them informed and helping to raise funds for the students' school meals, vitamins and education supplies. ●





Take a Walk; Raise a Flag

Summer is calling. That means it's time for **HOPE on the Move**, FLM Haiti's annual 5K Walk and fun-a-thon.

The walk will take place from **9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. EST Saturday, May 28, at Pool Grove in Pittsburgh's Highland Park** but an optional warm-up will begin at 9 a.m.

This year's walk will closely align with Haiti's Flag Day, a national holiday and celebration of pride and unity, helping to commemorate the creation of the flag of Haiti and the revolution that gave its people freedom from France. The day is celebrated each year on May 18, which is the anniversary of the date of the flag's adoption in 1803.

For FLM Haiti, it will be a day to build consciousness of the social and political unrest that continues to beset Haiti and challenge her citizens, and mark the ways in which FLM Haiti continues to help the Haitians to help themselves.

For the walk, FLM Haiti will be observing physical distancing, masking and other protocols as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in response to any COVID-19 pandemic mitigation measures that may be necessary.

Participants may walk, bike or run the route. The distance is the equivalent of about 6,000 steps, which is roughly 3 miles.

If desired, FLM Haiti supporters may walk, bike, or run along with us in their own neighborhoods and join us via **Facebook Live** for chats, updates and more.

Returning again this year to help lead the fun-a-thon is dance and exercise master and fitness coach **Roland Ford**. He will kick off the event with warm-ups and a series of exercises, dances and steps. He will have other surprises in store for this walk, too.

Registration is **\$30 per person** and T-shirts are available at **\$10 per person**. For those who can't participate in the walk, but would still like a T-shirt, the cost is **\$25**.

HOPE on the Move is a **5K walk** that benefits Haitians through health care, opportunity, partnership and education. The funds raised support a technical center to provide trade skills and employment to improve the quality of life in the Haitian communities that FLM serves. It also supports the **70 adult literacy centers** in more than **11 communities** that provide reading, writing and basic math skills to more than **2,000 individuals each year**. More than **20,000 adults** have been served since 1984.

For more information and to register, visit www.flmhaiti.org or call 412-784-0342.

Shop Until You Drop

FLM Haiti is setting up shop. The nonprofit is hosting its first **Power of Love Open Market**, with vendors, food trucks and more from noon to 5 p.m. Saturday, July 30.

It will be festive time for all. The market and fair will take place in the parking lot of Pittsburgh's Calvary Episcopal Church, 315 Shady Ave., at Walnut Street, in Shadyside. Art, clothing and other items will be for sale.

The Power of Love Open Market is modeled on a ubiquitous enterprise in Haiti—the open-air markets, which allow many Haitians the opportunity to sell food, crafts and other items that help them to care for themselves and their families.

The flea market is a chance to connect Pittsburghers to a taste of the culture of Haiti, while providing them the opportunity to support FLM's work of developing skills and providing education and employment for a new generation.

If you would like to be a vendor, the cost is \$50 per table (8 x 11 feet) and you'll receive tablecloths, tables, chairs and snacks. There is a \$100 fee for food trucks to register.

For more information, please contact Diane Neely mp_services@verizon.net

Briefs

Pray for Haiti Day: FLM Haiti hosted its annual Pray for Haiti Day on March 4, 2022. This year the virtual celebration, Connecting to the Heart of God, was an opportunity to reflect on the good work that the Pittsburgh-based nonprofit does to support and empower the people of Haiti to help themselves. The service included 45 minutes of prayer and progress updates from our various ministry teams.

Hearts for Haiti: The campaign to show love for Haiti is now an annual program that will launch each Valentine's Day. It will include special fundraising, prayer and other reflections leading up to the annual Pray for Haiti Day event.



Meet Peter and Rosaline Jean, a brother and sister who attend MIPADEP school in Haiti. In the animation, created by FLM summer intern, Ashana Cotton, the siblings share the ways in which education serves to empower Haitian youth. **To see their story, go to: FLMHaiti.org and click on FLM Blog or paste the following in your browser <https://www.flmhaiti.org/flm-blog/2021/9/1/education-serves-to-empower-haitian-school-children>**

Ervin Dyer, FLM board member and communications chair, has contributed a chapter to a new book, "Racialized Health, COVID-19, and Religious Responses: Black Atlantic Contexts and Perspectives," which explores health responses to the pandemic across the African diaspora. The book was recently published by Routledge. The chapter, "Pastoral Care, the COVID-19 Pandemic, and Oppression in Port-au-Prince, Haiti," is co-authored with health writer and FLM communications contributor **B. Denise Hawkins**. It examines a youth-oriented urban church as it confronts the health crisis.

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40 Years of Love in Action

Next year, FLM Haiti will mark 40 years of service.

The nonprofit is gearing up for a year of celebration. Under the theme **“The Power of Love,”** a campaign will launch in 2023 to commemorate FLM Haiti’s 40th anniversary with special events, programming and a year of prayers.

For nearly four decades, the nonprofit has dedicated itself to helping Haitians help themselves. This mission has driven its efforts across education, health care, trade skills and other advancements to enable the residents in the communities it serves to be more proud, more dignified and stronger citizens of Haiti.

The challenges are many: natural disasters, and high rates of poverty and illiteracy fuel what seems like unrelenting obstacles. In recent years, the COVID-19 pandemic, and political and social instability have exacerbated the challenges.

FLM, with its dedicated supporters and sacrificing and persevering employees and staff in Haiti, soldiers on.

As the nonprofit turns 40, more growth is to come.

Plans are underway to strengthen its outreach, giving, fundraising and programming.

As FLM Haiti turns 40, it’s celebrating YOU—the power of the people—its donors.

Thank you so much for being with us over the years. The organization looks forward to the support to come. ●

**Thank you, donors—
you show FLM Haiti the true
POWER OF LOVE.**