

# Sous Espwa - Source of Hope Partner Focus

The Ministries of the Christian  
Reformed Church of North  
America working in Haiti

October,  
2011



*Photo courtesy of Jeff Cosico of CRWRC IDR*

## Program for Diaconal Formation (PWOFOOD)

PWOFOOD conducts training for deacons, and coordinates literacy programs, micro-credit loans, and special community projects. It has been a partner of Sous Espwa since the early 1990's and is currently working with deacons from various churches in a three different communities around Port-au-Prince. CRWRC International Disaster Response (IDR) began their relief work in the Leogane area immediately after the 2010 earthquake. After a time, CRWRC IDR saw a need to move from relief work to rehabilitation. Since many entrepreneurs lost their small businesses and revenue in the earthquake, they called on PWOFOOD to come to Leogane to implement a micro-credit program.

### **New Work in Leogane**

Chenet Julot, PWOFOOD's Credit Coordinator shared the testimony below which was edited by Jeff Cosico of CRWRC IDR.

Augustave Brinel a 43 year old baker living with his wife and three children is one of the beneficiaries of PWOFOOD's micro-credit program. He received 10,000 Haitian gourds (US\$250) as a loan that allowed him to increase his capital. Before he received the loan, he only made money by baking and selling bread. Now he also sells flour, butter and cooking oil.

"Thanks to the micro credit program, I have additional sources of income," states Brinel.

Brinel demonstrated that the micro credit program offers exceptional benefits. The profits he made in his business allowed him to open a saving account at BNC (National Bank of Credit). Every time he makes a payment on the amount he borrowed, he also deposits 500 Haitian gourds (US\$12.50) on his new account. Now he has 2,000 Haitian gourds (US\$50) saved.

"My savings will help me buy school supplies for my children this coming school year," Brinel says. He hopes that the program will continue in Leogane and more small entrepreneurs like himself who were affected by the earthquake will also benefit from it.

"We, in PWOFOOD, are happy that people understand what we taught them during training; the importance of saving and how to save," says Chenet.

There are already 326 micro entrepreneurs in nine communities around Leogane who received small loans from PWOFOOD. Most of those who received loans six months ago have fully paid their obligations and have started to apply for their second loan cycle.

### **A New Place to Work**

January 12, 2010 affected all Sous Espwa partners, but none more than PWOFOOD. PWOFOOD had a beautiful, three story building that was the base to many of their programs. This building was also a source of income that helped fund programs. But on January, 12 all this changed. The building that PWOFOOD was so proud of was totally destroyed. Praise God that no people were inside the building at the time.

For the last year and a half PWOFOOD has been working out of a one room, tin-roof, wooden structure provided through funds raised by CRWRC IDR. Here several staff use this tiny space to continue the expanding work of PWOFOOD. Sous Espwa recognizes that this is only a temporary solution. We see this as a transitional phase so that some day they will be able to return to the original building site. Through a joint venture of CRWRC IDR and CRCNA's Service & Learning teams, we hope to help PWOFOOD move to their original site and into a brand new office building.

If your church is interested in working with PWOFOOD in this phase of reconstruction, please contact the Service Link office in Grand Rapids, MI or Burlington, ON.



PWOFOOD's present office

# Sous Espwa - People Focus

**Lunise Jules Cerin** comes to Sous Espwa as the new country director of CRWRC. She brings to the team a big heart for her country and years of experience working for various Non-Governmental Organizations and in the private educational sector. Here's what she shares about herself:



I was raised in Northern Haiti, my father was a pastor and my mother was a teacher. I received schooling at various private schools in Cap Haitian, and received my Bachelors' degree at the State University of Haiti located in the capital, Port-au-Prince. After getting married, my family and I moved to Pennsylvania. My husband and I received our graduate degrees from Eastern University, after which we moved back to Haiti to raise our children, and to fulfill our duties as Haitian citizens.

A perfect day for me is a day in the presence of my five lovely adult children. They bring such life to the house. A bad day for me is always the day after they leave home, to go back to college and move on with their own lives. The house becomes quiet, and their laughter is missing. However, I can still smile knowing that I raised such wonderful children. They are the reason I do what I do.

Lunise's favorite phrase comes from the lyrics of a popular Haitian musical artist, Emmeline Michel, "Pa Kite yo mache sou pye ou. Bouje! Kamp! Trase chemen 'w!" (Don't let anyone step on your feet. Move, Stand, Shape up your future). As for future dreams, Lunise says she would love to be in a position where she could help make decisions for Haiti, perhaps serving in a political office.



## José van der Vossen-Magloire

José came to Sous Espwa in July of 2010 to help partner organizations implement, monitor and evaluate earthquake relief projects funded by CRWRC International Disaster Response (IDR).

José's ability to bridge Haitian culture and Western cultures has been an invaluable asset to the SE team and partners. José grew up in the Netherlands. As a young adult, she attended an ecumenical youth center in France. There amidst 20,000 other young people, she met her husband, Gabriel Magloire. At that time, Gabriel was a Haitian political refugee who fled the Duvalier dictatorship in the 1970s. Gabriel told José that he was determined to return to Haiti to work for his country. And in fact when the Duvaliers left the country in the 1980s, Gabriel left his powerful and lucrative job in a Brussels bank, to return to Haiti. This determination and commitment to his country made a deep impression on José. She and their two young sons joined him several months later. José now calls Haiti her home.

Several years ago, Gabriel passed away. Her two sons have moved to Quebec, married, and are raising families. But, José remains in Haiti. José uses two analogies when she describes herself. She says, I want to be a sponge so that others, especially the youth of Haiti can ring out and take whatever experiences apply for them-

selves. She also wants to be a bridge, building relationships between the Haitian people and people from around the world. She has a special place in her heart for young leaders and would love to encourage them to remain in Haiti and build their dreams in this place. "If I leave Haiti now, I can no longer have a significant influence," José explains.

## Sous Espwa & CRWRC Disaster Response (IDR) Personnel:

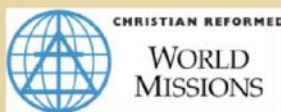
Lunise Jules Cerin  
 Jeff Cosico (IDR)  
 Jackson Gabelus  
 Willys & Suzette Geffrard (IDR) (Gabby)  
 Charlecius Jean  
 Jean Claude Jean  
 Jenny LeMahieu  
 Jose Magloire  
 Coicou Massillon  
 Ana Ribeiro-Noelsaint  
 Zachary & Sharon Segaar-King (Hannah, Isaiah, Vivian, & Esther)  
 Fritsnel St-Edouard  
 Lesley & San Diego Toussaint (SE & DR) (Julianna)  
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*Sous Espwa Team, April 2011*



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# Sous Espwa - Ministry Focus

## FKP Fè Kado yon Pye (Give me a Foot)



Photo courtesy of MDK

As Pastor Lemète Zéphyr, director of Sous Espwa's partner the Ministry for Christian Development (MDK), drove the city streets of Port-au-Prince each day, he became burdened by the quality of life of handicapped people begging at his car windows. Is this really all that God had intended for them?

Pastor Lemète shared his thoughts with co-workers and proposed a plan for ministry set apart for the handicapped people in Haiti. He envisioned two primary things: one, that society would believe that handicapped people have value in their communities and two, that handicapped people work towards becoming autonomous.

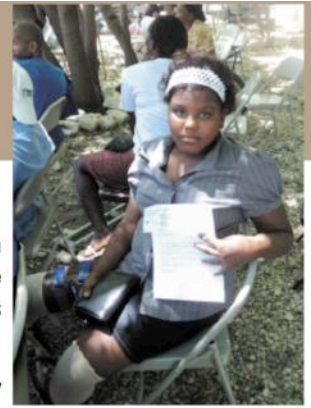


Photo courtesy of MDK

After the earthquake and the drastic increase in disabled people, the whole staff of MDK felt an urgency to see this vision take flesh. Adeline Serin, administrative secretary of MDK shares how this project was very different from their other ministry. "It wasn't even in our strategy or plans, and yet, we saw the need and it became very personal to all of us at MDK."

Today an executive committee of five people (several of them handicapped themselves) are the hands and feet of "Fè Kado yon Pye" (Give me a Foot). Their main strategy is counseling and linking people and resources together. At this point they have distributed 41 wheelchairs and 28 canes and crutches. They are also assisting a few handicapped children or children of handicapped parents to pay for schooling. MDK sponsors a weekly radio broadcast specifically for the handicapped in Port-au-Prince encouraging people to recognize their value and capabilities.

For 18 months Gaelle refused to leave her home. She wanted to hide from everyone. She had one of her legs when the university she was attending crashed down upon her. When the executive committee of FKP heard about her, they came to visit. They spoke with her numerous times, and just a few weeks ago, she left her house and faced her community for the first time. Praise God for the progress and hope instilled in Gaelle's life.



Photo courtesy of Jeff Cosico of CRWRC IDR

## Earthquake Response At A Glance

CRWRC's Disaster Response Team is focused on five target communities near Leogane, Haiti: Masson, Luitor, Macombe, Croix des Peres, and Flon.

As of September 2011,

here are a few of the things CRWRC has been able to provide:

- food to 4,603 households
- emergency funds to 2,331 households
- 3,500 tarps to provide immediate shelter
- basic veterinary care training for 31 individuals
- soil conservation training
- 2,141 wood-framed, earthquake resistant homes
- 121 home repairs
- \$250,000 to help Haitian partner agencies rebuild
- Loans to 280 business people
- Farm tools to 125 farmers
- seeds and seedlings to over 2,350 farmers

New videos of CRWRC's work in the Leogane area are online at [www.crwrc.org/haiti](http://www.crwrc.org/haiti). Contact CRWRC to request a DVD copy.



## Service & Learning Team Project Update

Service and Learning Teams from Christian Reformed Churches in North America are an integral part of Sous Espwa's ministry in Haiti. This past year they helped build schools, complete the first floor of MDK's office building, beautify the Ministry Center grounds and work on the multipurpose building above. This building includes a cistern as part of the foundation, the generator housing on the first floor, an apartment on the second floor and a water holding tank on the third floor in order to provide water for the whole ministry center complex.

**Thank you for your commitment to Haiti and to its people in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Bondye beni ou! (God bless you!)**

## Praises and Prayer Requests

\*Praise God for new colleagues.

\*Praise God for the many different ways that Sous Espwa's seven partner organizations are demonstrating the love of God in Jesus' Name.

\*Praise God that these partners are able to recognize their own resources and strengths as well as those of their fellow partners.

\*Praise God for the relative peace and stability that Haiti is experiencing at this time.

\*Praise God for a calm hurricane season.

\*Pray for our Sous Espwa team as we learn to walk and work together.