

DEBAUCHE, HAITI CHURCH & SCHOOL

UPDATE JULY 2023



Debauche:

The Republic of Haiti lies on the western third of the island of Hispaniola. Haiti is the third largest country in the Caribbean by area, and with an estimated population of 11.4 million, is the most populous country in the Caribbean. In the southern region is found its capital Port-Au-Prince, a city currently under extreme unrest (to put it mildly) as can be seen on the evening news most any day. Haiti has a history of occupation by both the Spanish and the French. Columbus, during his first voyage of 1492, claimed the island for Spain, yet in the early 17th century the western portion of the island was ceded to France with their sugarcane plantations, worked by vast numbers of slaves brought from Africa. In the Haitian Revolution (1791-1804) the French forces were defeated and the island became the first independent nation of Latin America and the Caribbean, the first country in the Americas to eliminate slavery. For over two hundred years the country has been characterized by political instability and corruption. From 1915-1934 the US occupied Haiti in an attempt to stabilize the political volatility, but especially to ensure that our country had some control of a great economic influence in the Caribbean. Since that time the republic has spiraled continually downhill towards poverty and political chaos. It is by far the poorest nation in the western hemisphere.

St Michel is a sprawling “city” (more of a region with a small central town) found in the Central Plateau. It has rich farmland, abundant water resources, and is surrounded by mountains in all directions. Ten miles south of the center of St. Michel lies a poor farming community known to the local residents as Debauche. Finding this area on Goggle Earth is a real chore, you have to know exactly what you are looking for or you will miss it. The community is typified by a scattering of huts made from the local flora by the poor farmers who have staked claim to small portions of land to raise their families. They make their way by foot weekly to sell their crops in St. Michel at market. The people although perhaps the poorest in Haiti are also perhaps the most peaceful and joyful. They always assist each other as needed.

This was Debauche’s identity until the year 2000.

A Brief History of the Church and School in Debauche:

In the year 2000 a member of First Baptist Church of Jensen Beach (JBFB), Clarke Long, found himself in a rural town in Haiti called St. Michel. He had met a man in Florida, Garret Robinson, a farmer who resided in St. Michel. Mr. Robinson persuaded Clarke to make a brief trip to Haiti with him to lend his expertise in irrigation to a project he was putting together to raise beans and peanuts on a large scale. This brief and innocuous trip turned into something Clarke had not anticipated; God had a plan much larger than Clarke had bargained for! As Clarke puts it:

“One day as I was exploring old buildings that had been an old bread factory in a village called Debauche I was approached by a group of people from this village. With my interpreter we struck up a conversation about The Lord and I shared the fact that the local Voodoo priest had no control over God’s people. As I was explaining how opening their hearts to the Lord and confessing their

sins was all that they needed to do to become children of God, one of the women asked why God did not send anyone up to them in the mountains to start a church? My answer came so fast it could only have come from God. I said He has sent someone now; and the mission was started."

Clarke will tell you without hesitation that before Jesus grabbed ahold of him, he grew up "a very white southern cracker", with all that goes along with that title. God's sense of humor slays us! Clarke understood what he was being called to do, and that his answer could only be "yes". He made many more trips with much longer durations to do what God had called him to do.

That very first day in Debauche, the Lord had set a divine appointment with Clarke and two brothers, Carena and Zacharie Selmont under the comforting shade of a large mango tree by an old abandoned factory. This tree that would become the first location of the church in Debauche.

"Our first church was under a large mango tree and we had some amazing services; as time progressed we moved to a thatched hut, when we ran out of room we moved to abandoned factory buildings with no roofs or doors and then finally built our first church".

That church is the one the congregation in Debauche still meets in to this very day for praise, worship, and to hear God's Word preached.

When Clarke came home to Florida, the first thing he did was to seek out the leadership at First Baptist Church of Jensen Beach to share his amazing story of how God was calling. Clarke urged the leaders to come see for themselves just what God was doing. The church leaders, led by Pastor Paul Thompson, appreciated Clarke's excitement, but truly needed to see first-hand before committing their support. A number of exploratory teams were sent, led by Pastor Thompson as well as the other church associate pastors.

Pastor Thompson explains that the first encounters FBJB had was in assisting a Baptist church in St. Michel, helping to provide meals and uniforms for their school children:

"What we discovered was that a fairly large number of those students were walking to school for an hour or more each way every day from a remote area we came to know as Debauche. And many more in that area did not attend school at all. It was in that remote area that God was working and drawing FBJB to join him. Clarke began to meet with people for bible study under the trees. His (and our) hearts began to be burdened for the children there and plans were made to start a small school for them that would give them a better opportunity to succeed and most importantly - would introduce them to Jesus".

As you can see, God's plan was not only for a church to reach this rural community, but for a school as well. With the blessing and financial support of FBJB Clarke rolled up his sleeves. He and the members of the new church built a few thatched huts by the abandoned factory for both church service and for the new school. Clarke was able to typically spend about three months in country helping to facilitate the new church and school, and then would return home for about two weeks to spend time with his family. While he was back in the states, Carena and Zackarie took the helm, with pulpit assistance from Pastor Montoli of the Baptist church in St.

Michel. God's plan for Debauche was moving forward at a great pace. People were flocking to the only church in the area, and the school was taking off as well. As with most new starts, problems arose. The primary issue was that we were outgrowing our humble "buildings", and even more importantly, we did not own the land that we were using for our church and school; we were basically "squatters". We needed real buildings on land that was legally ours. This was no easy feat in rural Haiti. US red tape has nothing on the bureaucratic entanglement to be found in Haiti. Pastor Paul states:

"By the grace of God - and thru no little amount of struggle with local government - we were able to secure a parcel of land and begin to build what would become the church and school that exists today".

Shortly after at last securing the necessary deed to the parcel (in 2002), Clarke, along with skilled construction leaders from FBJB, went to work building the first building on our new site, the 26ft x 66ft church with a small pastor's apartment that stands today. Also on the new site, Clarke had the local residents build four or five thatched huts for the necessary school rooms. Exciting times in Debauche!

In 2003, Clarke's health took a serious bad turn, and he was forced to return to the states for an indefinite period of time. While Carena and Zackarie (along with assistance from Pastor Montoli) were able to stay the course, our church and school was in need of more full-time leadership on the ground. During this time Pastor John Thompson was our point person for the ministry. Pastor John was able to make a couple of trips per year to ensure that all was operating as efficiently as possible. From 2004- 2009 he was our facilitator for the ministry, Pastor John made sure that the staff was being paid, and assisted with the leadership transitions that would occur; yet his call was not full-time missionary work. We prayed for a leader who would wake-up in the morning with the people of Debauche on his heart, and also someone who could be on the ground on a more permanent basis. No one from FBJB seemed called to the roll of full-time ministry in Debauche, yet God's plans would not be thwarted. Pastor Paul shares that God sent us Pastor Jean-Marie Alexis:

"God was simultaneously working in the heart of a believer who had grown up in that region and was now a successful businessman in the States. Jean-Marie Alexis had a passion to reach and help his people. A natural and beneficial long-term partnership was formed that still exists today".

Pastor Alexis was an ordained Baptist minister who had last served at Bethel Haitian Baptist Church in Lawrenceville, Georgia. His heart for the people of his homeland was on his sleeve and he had been praying for an opportunity to serve them. God's timing is always perfect.

In 2004, with the blessings of FBJB, Pastor Alexis hit the ground running. He took up residence in the pastor apartment and visitor's quarters that he helped to complete, then in very short time (2005) he led the construction of our 26ft X178ft schoolhouse building, with ten classrooms, library and two small apartments, for the school staff including our first principal, M. Prosper, and our librarian/school nurse, Mme. Carole.

Pastor Alexis resided on campus as much as he was able to, truly the lion's share of his days from 2004 through 2010. He however, like Clarke, had family and business obligations at home that required his presence in the states periodically. All were in agreement that we really needed a full-time leader on board to pastor the church and oversee the school. Much prayer was sent out in that specific direction. In 2009, Pastor Alexis asked his cousin from Gonave (a small island off the western coast of Haiti), Webert Charlier (pronounced Way-bear), to bring him some supplies from Port-Au-Prince. He won't admit to ulterior motives, but Pastor Alexis knew the heart of his cousin. Webert was a highly educated man who had a very comfortable position working with World Vision. He was not looking for a change in vocation. Webert will tell you that after a few short days in Debauche, he fell in love with the people of this farming community, and accepted the offer (with meager monetary compensation) from his cousin to stay and assist him in his work. His love for Debauche grew exponentially. In the spring of 2011, after spending a great deal of time with a number of visiting pastors from FBJB pouring into him, including a retired pastor named Alan Goode, Webert was ordained as our full-time pastor. God had heard the prayers of His church!

Pastor Webert has, for the past twelve plus years, solidified the accountability of both the church and school. He lives in the small apartment behind the school and is highly regarded by all he comes in contact with in both Debauche and St. Michel. During the early years of Pastor Webert's tenure, Pastor Eddy Fredryk, our children's pastor, became the point person at FBJB for the ministry in Debauche. Pastor Eddy led a number of teams (almost on a bi-monthly basis) to what was described as "Missions 101"; Pastor Eddy called this an introductory course in missions. He instituted the "Christmas Presence" boxes that we still bring down to this day. Our worship pastor, Pastor Steven Sively, also led a good number of teams, many to focus on teaching praise and worship skills and to this day returns as much as he is able. Our youth pastor, Brian Stebbins was a part of and led many teams from 2011-2016, primarily youth teams to lead sports camps, VBS, and English classes among other themes. One of our church members, Al Cannon, fell in love with our area, and began making frequent trips to pour into not only our church, but also into a new church in neighboring Pitimi, as well as a school in St. Michel. He is affectionately known as "Alber" (Al-bear) to the local community to this day. In 2011 it was made clear that Debauche was where I too was called to serve. Tim Huggins heard that same call not long after.

Much has happened to the physical plant since Pastor Webert has taken the reigns. First and fore-most the need for the compound to be walled-in was conveyed to us, not for the safety of our people, for there is little violence in our peaceful area, but more for the safety of our hard-earned possessions. The pastors explained to us that when people who have almost nothing can see things out in the open that could potentially help them survive, the temptation is often too great for them. In 2012 a team from FBJB came down to survey, layout, and supervise the construction of a new 6 ft high wall around our property. One of our VBS projects at FBJB that summer was to "buy a block", and our children and their families came up big, funding the construction of the wall.

Shortly thereafter a large cistern with a hand pump was built to capture the water that ran off of the school building roof, and a team came down to install donated rain gutters to send the 178ft of rain runoff to the new cistern. No longer was it necessary for ladies to walk over a mile with five-gallon buckets on their heads to the small spring to supply water for the children.

In 2014, the desire for the construction of a multi-purpose building was conveyed by both Pastor Alexis and Pastor Webert. This new building was needed so that the school would have a kitchen and cafeteria to feed the children, for many their only real meal of the day. The building was also desired so that we could have a larger venue for special services such as revivals and anniversary celebrations, visiting medical clinics and education seminars. It was further desired so that we would have a better facility to house visiting teams from the states. Up until the construction of this building, visiting teams were cramped together like cordwood on cots and hammocks on a small open-aired porch adjacent to the pastor's apartment.

In the summer and fall of 2014, with a special offering taken up by the generous congregants of FBJB, a team was sent down to layout the 40ft x 80ft planned structure and supervise the local block masons in its construction. In the spring of 2015, after a shopping trip to Port-Au-Prince in March, a team of eight men came down for a week in April to work along-side the men of Debauche in the fabrication of the 4/12 gabled roof structure and to install the corrugated sheet-metal roof. This was a daunting task, a week of non-stop work from sunrise to sunset, but it was completed and celebrated the night before the team was to depart. In November of that same year, a team was sent in to build the 16 bunkbeds in the new dormitory that would house visiting teams, complete the two new visitor's bathrooms (indoor plumbing!), build the kitchen for the school cooks (who were up until then still spending all day cooking on an open fire), and build a good number of picnic tables for the children's lunchtime. During spring-break of 2016, our youth pastor, Brian Stebbins, led the first team to be housed in our new dormitory!

Since the completion of this building, we have been able to send more teams from the states. Teams from a number of other churches as well: medical teams, dental teams, education teams, worship teams, youth teams, maintenance, painting and construction teams.

In the fall of 2017, again with a special offering from FBJB, a team was sent to help install fifteen solar panels of the roof of the multi-purpose building, with a bank of 16 storage batteries. No longer was it necessary to fire up a noisy portable generator (that was very temperamental) to have lights to see at night. Yet even greater than this new convenience, was something unheard of in our area: refrigeration! Not only do we now have lighting and paddle fans in our buildings, not only can we pop popcorn and show movies to the children, but we can store food safely and long-term. We now had the only electricity in Debauche! This was a true game changer.

In 2018, as vehicles take a real pounding on the Haitian "roads", we sent a 2004 GMC Sierra to replace our worn-out Mazda-Ford pick-up. Due to the cratered "roads" we encounter during travel, maintenance (especially tires and suspension parts) is continually needed.

And Today in Debauche.....

Let's flash forward to 2024:

As of our last visit in December 2023, our school attendance was approximately 160, for the three school days Tim Huggins, my son Jim, and I were able to observe. Due to the political turmoil in Haiti there have been periodic school closings. The children will be attending school through mid-July, as state exams must be completed at that time. They will then adjourn for the school year, and then re-open late September. The Sunday church service was to overflowing (over 100) on the Sunday we were in attendance. Mlle. Santhia Vixamar led the congregation in worship and M. Zackarie Selmont blessed us with an acapella solo. During this visit along with the local men we replaced the twenty-plus year-old metal roofs on the church and school buildings. Most importantly we got to hang out with the children and deliver Christmas presents, converse with the teachers and staff about any concerns they might have, and walk the area, visiting with our local congregants and neighbors.

One of the staff we conversed with while in country, was Larousse Selmont (pronounced "Laos", like the country). Larousse, for lack of a better title, is the dean/superintendent of our school. Larousse is a nephew of Zackarie and Carena, and grew up in Debauche. He was proud to tell us that he was in the very first class that we held upon obtaining the property in 2002. Larousse went on to graduate secondary school in St. Michel, and then (like many Haitian young men) went on to spend two years working in the Dominican Republic. In 2014, on a visit home, Pastor Webert encouraged him to stay on as his assistant. He has risen to a level of great trust, and now, along with Pastor Webert and our principal, is truly indispensable to the day-to-day operations of the school. Larousse wanted us to know that, *"before your church came, there was nothing. There was primary school in St. Michel, but very few made that ten-mile walk. God blessed Debauche with the school. I just want to give back"*. Larousse is not the first to come back and serve. We have had teachers that started their school careers in Debauche; Mackendy Vixamat was one that taught here for a number of years, until her family moved away last year. Our current housekeeper and general aide, Rachelle Orelus, the grand-daughter of one of our matriarchs, was a student of our as well.

Not much has occurred new-construction-wise at our church and school of late, but maintenance remains a task that is naturally on-going. When on site we continually train the men on staff, especially Roger Petit-Frere (pronounced "Whoa-gee", "r's" are usually silent in Haitian Creole), our maintenance/watchman/jack-of-all trades. Rain gutters to the cisterns are in constant need of repair (we have cisterns on all three buildings now) due mainly to falling mangoes and limbs, hand pumps wear-out, school furniture needs re-building, doors and roofs repaired, to name a few.

With the Covid-19 situation in early 2020, travel to Haiti was halted, and then, when we were finally allowed to travel the following year, we had to find a way get a negative test to re-enter the US. This was certainly a challenging time for us. From Covid to the upheaval in the government and the insanity in Port-Au-Prince, travel to Haiti has very much curtailed. Many people have a fear of traveling to Haiti, certainly justifiable after watching the evening news; yet when people ask how we would dare to venture into a country of such turmoil, our response is very simple and true: “you don’t know MY Haiti”. Debauche remains unaffected by the turmoil. It is certainly true that Port-Au-Prince remains a war zone, we have not ventured into that city since Pastor Jeff Fields took a trip with us in 2019, and we enjoyed a steak dinner overlooking the harbor on the way back. Hopefully one day that once beautiful city can return to its relative peacefulness.

Haiti is not a large country. It’s portion of the island of Hispaniola is smaller than Florida, yet we do not measure distance in miles; mainly due to the disrepair of the roads, we measure travel in hours. That being said, Debauche remains 6 to 7 hours from the current evils of Port-Au-Prince. Very few, if any, of the local populus care to venture there. Our peaceful mountain-valley remains just that. It’s a completely different world. On our last trip we felt as welcomed and as safe as ever. We fly on DC-3 cargo planes (often with substantial cargo) with Missionary Fights International (MFI) out of Fort Pierce, clear customs in either Cap Haitian or PAP, then land on a grassy airstrip in a small community called Pignon (pronounced Pee-yon). We then jostle (putting it mildly) our way over crumpled dirt roads for about two hours that connect the small towns of St. Raphael and St. Michel, coasting at last into our compound in Debauche.

For those of us whose hearts have been pierced by this loving and joyful community, our plans are to continually return to support our sister church and school. While our people are grateful for our continued prayers and financial support, nothing says love like showing up. Our plan (that has been thwarted in recent years due to Covid-19 and government upheaval) remains that we be on the ground at a minimum of three times a year to show our support: in early December to deliver 200-plus Christmas boxes to the children and staff, in March to celebrate our anniversary and the Easter/Lenten season, and in June, before the Haitian “monsoon” season kicks in.

On a final note, I’d like to talk dollars and cents; let me explain exactly where the monthly support goes for this amazing ministry. Below you will find a copy of the yearly statement Pastor Webert provides to us to account for just where our monthly support goes. The report is signed by all employees.

FRIST BAPTIST MISSION JENSEN BEACH

Adresse: Debauché 8^e section l'Attalaye

Financial Statement

Month Ending, May 30th

DATE	#	EXPENSES PER MONTH	HT dollar	US dollar	BALANCE	SIGNATURE
30/05/2023	001	Support the month ending May 30th			\$2840	Charlier webert
30/05/2023	002	Charlier Webert{Admin .director}	\$6000	\$222.22	\$2617.78	Charlier webert
30/05/2023	003	Selmont Esteve{Pedagogic director}	\$3400	\$125.92	\$2491.86	Selmont Esteve
30/05/2023	004	Selmont Larousse supervisor	\$2500	\$92.60	\$2399.26	Selmont Larousse
30/05/2023	005	Joseph lefort {teacher}	\$1700	\$62.96	\$2336.30	Joseph lefort
30/05/2023	006	Vixama Makendy {Teacher}	\$1600	\$59.25	\$2277.05	Vixama Makendy
30/05/2023	007	Pierrelus Arcene{teacher}	\$1600	\$59.25	\$2217.80	Pierrelus Arcene
30/05/2023	008	Selmont esteve{teacher}	\$1600	\$59.25	\$2158.55	Selmont Esteve
30/05/2023	009	Pierrelus Reginald Teacher}	\$1600	\$59.25	\$2099.30	Pierrelus Reginald
30/05/2023	010	Norvilus Jovens{teacher}	\$1600	\$59.25	\$2040.05	Norvilus Jovens
30/05/2023	011	Albatre Mirlene {Teacher}	\$1600	\$59.25	\$1980.80	Albatre Mirlene
30/05/2023	012	Mondestin Nehemie {teacher}	\$1600	\$59.25	\$1921.55	Mondestin Nehemie
30/05/2023	013	Roger Petit-Frere{watch man}	\$2000	\$74.05	\$1847.50	Roger Petit-Frere
30/05/2023	013	Selmont Zacharie{Deacon}	\$2000	\$74.05	\$1773.45	Selmont Zacharie
30/05/2023	014	Orelus Rachelle{Guests House keeper}	\$2000}	\$74.05	\$1699.40	Orelus Rachelle
30/05/2023	015	Rene Prina{Cook for the school}	\$1200	\$44.44	\$1654.96	Rene Prina
30/05/2023	016	Selmont Mrs Zacharie waitress	\$1200	44.44	\$1610.52	Selmont Mrs Zacharie
30/05/2023	017	Morris Mrs Emmanuel Servant	\$800	\$29.62	\$1580.90	Morris Mrs Emmanuel
30/05/2023	018	Selmont carena{retired}	\$500	\$18.51	\$1562.39	Selmont carena
30/05/2023	019	Selmont Rosemene{waitress}	\$500	\$18.51	\$1543.88	Selmont Rosemene
30/05/2023	020	Purchase food for the school	\$20000	\$740.74	\$803.14	Charlier w
30/05/2023	021	Support for 6 kids/secondary school	\$2430	\$90	\$713.14	Roger petit-f
30/05/2023	022	Gas for truck,moto,and grass machine	\$4050	\$150	\$563.14	Charlier w
30/05/2023	023	Maintenance for vehicles	\$2700	\$100	\$453.14	Charlier w
30/05/2023	024	Boni{One extra month for employees}	\$1855	\$68.70	\$394.44	Charlier w
30/05/2023	025	Saving for anniversary ,christmas	\$4320	\$160	\$234.44	Charlier w
30/05/2023	026	Benevolence	\$4050	\$150	\$84.30	Charlier w
30/05/2023	027	Cleaning Supplies	\$929.88	\$34.44	\$49.86	Charlier w
30/05/2023	028	Expenses for communication/internet	\$1346.22	\$49.86	-----	Charlier w
30/05/2023	029	TOTAL CUMULATED	\$77510.9	\$2840	-----	

Let's quickly break this down: Pastor Webert receives \$2,840.00 per month for support of both the school and the church. Most all of the money goes to staff payroll. Pastor Webert makes \$222.22 per month to be both pastor of our church and overseer of the school. The principal, Esteve, makes \$125.92. The dean or facilitator, Larousse, \$92.60. The teachers average under \$60/month. Roger, our jack-of-all-trades brings in \$74.05. Zacharie, our deacon, a man who wears so many hats he puts Bartholomew Cubbins to shame, gets the same. The rest of the staff are the ladies who cook for the children, serve, clean-up and maintain. These five average

\$42.21/month. Carena, our deacon emeritus (he has gone blind, but gets a very small retirement for all he has done for us), gets \$18.51/month. Groceries to feed our children cost \$740.74 per month. We support six of our own graduates in St. Michel secondary school to the tune of \$90/month. Fuel is now down to ONLY \$6/gallon as of last month, so \$150/month goes to this. Last year fuel (with gangs in PAP road blocking the distribution facilities) rocketed to over \$30/gallon. Maintenance for our vehicles (Pastor Webert also has a small motorcycle) averages \$100/month. We save \$68.70/month to give the employees a bonus. We earmark \$160/month for special occasions where we invite our neighbors and neighboring communities to celebrate and be fed (both physically and spiritually). Pastor Webert has \$150/month at his disposal to bless others as the need arises. He is very wise with the use of these funds. Cleaning supplies and cell phone/internet expenses round out the remaining expenses.

As you can see, every cent is accountable for and used wisely and with frugality. With the cost of living in Haiti being extreme (ex: milk is over \$9/gallon), I'm not sure just how these folks live on what we pay them. Yet no one complains, they are happy to have the employment, and they are dedicated to what they do. Would I like to give them all a raise? Absolutely. But I will be content and grateful today for merely a continuum.

Our mission in Debauche is easy to observe and account. Every cent we send goes directly to the mission. Supporting this ministry in rural Haiti at \$2,840.00/month, or just over \$34K/year is absolutely the best bargain ever. For less than we would likely pay just one of our lower tier staff members, we support this vital mission. How can a church of close to 100 and a school of over 160 children, with 18 staff members be supported for such a meager amount? In the words of Jesus, *"With man it would be impossible, but with God all things are possible"* Mat 19:26

The continual question that has come up over the years is, "When do you see this ministry becoming self-sustaining?" The short and perhaps unpopular answer is, "we don't". Maybe this is a deal breaker for many. Surely there must be an exit strategy? I'm afraid that to exit would be the instant demise of the ministry. Haiti is the poorest nation in the western hemisphere, if we can even call it a nation right now, for there is no real government in existence at this time. We find ourselves not only in this catastrophically poor and desperate nation, but in perhaps the most rural and poverty-stricken area of that nation. Employment opportunities, are few to non-existent. We employ eighteen people at the moment, the rest of our community are simple poor farmers. We are truly all they have. Their investment portfolios just have no room for financing a church and school. Perhaps this should have been taken into consideration 23 years ago, but the church saw the need of the children and acted with its heart. Like our Lord commands, doing for the least of these.

This wonderful ministry had been funded completely by First Baptist Church of Jensen Beach for well over twenty years. Due largely to financial difficulties that were exasperated by the Covid years, FBJB accepted the offer from Family Church to come alongside and aid in the continuance of the ministry of the gospel in Jensen Beach. Family Church graciously took on the support of our church and school in Debauche for almost two years, but never intended to support long

term, for the ministry did not fit in with their primary mission of reaching every neighborhood in South Florida for the gospel.

In the fall of 2024, seeing the need fast approaching for continued funding of the ministry, Calvary Baptist Church of Dothan Alabama committed to fully fund the first two months of 2024 and then \$1000/month for the rest of the year. At the same time, seeing the need for further fund raising, a number of individuals who have their hearts in Debauche, started a non-profit corporation to continue the support of this ministry. As you are reading this, "Jensen Beach Church & School at Debauche, Inc" is up and running. The 501(c)(3) is active.

If you have read this far, perhaps your interest has been stirred, and you would like to pray about perhaps making a trip with us to see first-hand this wonderful ministry. We can comfortably accommodate up to sixteen guests, but have had as many as twenty-six (hammocks are popular with many of us). They people enjoy having us, but truth be told, they really appreciate the women and youth who visit. They continually ask about Miss Debbie, Miss Kay, and Miss Vicky, among others. Would I send my own family? I have, and I look forward to being on campus with my son again very soon.

Visitors pay their own way for airfare, travel in-country, water and food, and for customs to name a few items covered. This cost averages between \$900 and \$1,000 per person. Some of us are blessed to be able to fund these expenses ourselves, others, knowing that they have some months to prepare, are able to raise the funds through friends, family and caring church members.

Not ready to fly into Haiti? That's OK. What we really covet is your prayers for this ministry. Nothing is more powerful.

After that? Well, we are hoping that you will be moved to support this ministry with your financial gifts. Primarily, we still need to make up another \$1840/month just to support our existing church and school. Your monthly commitment will be fully tax-deductable. Not able to commit long-term? One-time gifts are also extremely helpful. Maintenance issues arise frequently, and must be paid for somehow outside of the monthly support.

In closing, I will quote Pastor Paul Thompson, for he sums it up very well:

"For more than 2 decades now the people of FBJB have supported this ministry with their prayers, their money, their labors, and their lives. Surely the church's ministry there has been its most defining, enduring, and successful missional endeavor in the church's history. Multiple pastors have supported the ministry personally and led the church enthusiastically to serve in Haiti. Key volunteers have given countless hours, dollars, expertise, and leadership to God's work there. Beautiful and God-honoring partnerships have been established with faithful men like Pastor Weibert. As a result, thousands of children have been educated. Thousands of people have heard the gospel. More people than I can say have been saved. It is no exaggeration to state that the

presence of this ministry - from its humble beginnings to today - has been transformational in this community."

The work in Debauche will surely continue for the glory of God and the good of the people in Debauche. As you can see those benefiting from this ministry are real people, real families, with real names. They are our families.

Thank-you for taking the time to read this somewhat lengthy report and request. Please view the attached photos. I felt it important to paint the full picture of where we came from, where we are today, and our prayer for the future. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me, Alan Morris, at 772-215-0074, Or email me at albomo@bellsouth.net.

Pignon International Airport:



Greeted by Pastor Webert:



The School:

Youth Painting Team & Dental Team:



Sunday Afternoon Baptism:





Celebration in the Multi-Purpose Building:



Webert & Clarke:



School in Session:



Sunday Worship:



Work Team:



The Spring, our old water source (see the green plant leaf slowly feeding the bucket):



Assembly Before School:



Neighboring Homes:



Rec Time:



Multi-Purpose Building w/Solar Panels:



Eight Bed Dorm Room (one of two):

