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# Doing Good That Is Good

The newsletter of FARMS International

August 2014 Special Report on Haiti

Providing revolving entrepreneurial loans to poor Christian families - Galatians 6:10



## Dear Friends in Jesus!

Do you want to hear some good news? I think we all do! In this letter, I will share some really good news from the country of Haiti that I am sure you will enjoy.

Gary Wiebe, president of FARMS International, and I recently made a trip to Haiti to visit our two loan programs and to encourage the volunteers that serve on the loan committees. So much was accomplished. We flew into Cap Haitien on the north coast and later in our visit, traveled south to Bohoc to visit our program on the Central Plateau. Gary and I were both impressed with the perseverance of the believers during this difficult time for Haiti.



Joe Richter and Gary Wiebe

## Tale of Two Widows

Widows are vulnerable and throughout God's word, widows are singled out for special consideration. In fact, the Holy Spirit defines "Pure religion" this way: **"Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world."** James 1:27 So, religion in the true sense is something you do, not something you belong to! And one thing you are expected to do is to "visit" the widows and the fatherless! This means, you get involved in their lives, you help them. Because of you, FARMS is able to help many widows in their affliction.

Our loan program helps many widows around the world and I will share with you two special stories of widows we met on this trip to Haiti.

## The Jelly Lady



It was truly a delight to visit **Madame Saul** in Cap Haitien. Her husband passed away some time ago. She found herself in a difficult situation and needing to support her daughter and two sons alone. Not a woman to give up, she trusted that God would make a way for her to provide for her family. Although, Madame Saul was a part time teacher, her income was not enough to cover the costs of raising a family. Early on in the FARMS program, the Cap Haitien FARMS committee began working with her to provide working capital for her home based canning business. Because all FARMS loans are interest free, businesses like hers can prosper and grow much faster. What God did in her life was amazing.

Over time, with the profits from her business, she built a beautiful home. It is a spacious three bedroom cement home. Not at all typical for a Haitian dwelling! She was excited to show us her kitchen, where she prepared peanut butter and fruit preserves for sale. She had a stove, a refrigerator, and a freezer and a large area for preparation and bottling. The variety of products she sold was impressive. We sampled several items and she graciously sent some samples home with us. Some of her products are sold locally, but she also ships to and sells her products in the capital of Port-au-Prince. She proudly shared that her buyers deposit their payments in her bank account in the capital.

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Gary Wiebe and the FARMS Bohoc Committee



Education is not free in Haiti, but is a real privilege for those that can afford it.



## Memorial and Honor

In Memory of:

From:

Sterling Newby

Anchor Point Community Church

Otto and Eleanor Olson

Laura B Manistee

Virginia Stephenson

Mrs. & Mrs. John B Woodward

Carl & Chris Stephenson

In Honor of:

Our friendship since refugee  
Camp in 1979 (Joe & Pat Richter)

Laura B Manistee

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The life of a widow is always challenging, but in Haiti it is extremely difficult. Through the fire this woman is not defeated. She was very thankful for our loan program, and credited it for helping her prosper. She said the committee taught her about tithing and she regularly supports her church. She feels that this is why God has blessed her so much. Beyond the beautiful house is something even more remarkable. She sent each of her three children to college. Her generosity illuminates her surroundings. Next time we come, she insists, we must stay for a Haitian meal from her own kitchen.



**Madame Ano** lost her husband 20 years ago. She lives in a small town of Bohoc on the Central Plateau of Haiti. The interior of Haiti is very poor, with little infrastructure and in many ways has grown dependent on foreign development money. Sister Ano though, was not afraid to make her own way for her young struggling family. FARMS has been working in the Central Plateau for over 12 years now and she was one of the original loan recipients. She now serves on the FARMS volunteer loan committee, helping her fellow Christians just like she was helped. Her business is buying and selling clothing and other items that are in great demand on the plateau. This is how she has supported herself and her family over the years. She uses her loans for purchasing stock for her business.

Madame Ano's son, nicknamed Caesar, is a welder, and has a shop next to their home. She was delighted to share that she tithes to her church, and kidded with us that her tithe was not for her pastor, who was standing next to her! She had a great sense of humor.



Renauld Philistine (FARMS chairman), Madame Saul and her son who helps in her business while attending college



Madame Ano, her son Caesar, and her pastor, Pastor Georges

## Tale of Two Wives

Proverbs 31 describes the many facets of a good wife. One attribute, is her care for her family and how she demonstrates this by pursuing a business to help the family prosper. We met two ladies like her in Haiti. **They both were not afraid of work and took great pride in helping their families have a better life. Their stories are a testimony to God's faithfulness.**

Sister Marie is the wife of a pastor. She was very candid about the struggles they faced in the ministry. Times were so tough they wanted to give up. They wanted to leave the ministry. Thankfully, she says, they held on. She said, her business has helped the family immensely! Besides the normal need of food and clothing, and housing, the extra income enabled them to send their two daughters to university. The oldest is 22. She is a nurse. Her sister is 18. Following in her sisters footsteps she is also attending University with a bright future to look forward to.

She was excited to share that through the extra earning of her project, they are now building a home of their own. She described FARMS as a "wonderful program"; because it is interest free and only a small fee is charged for overhead costs. She also liked the flexibility of the program and how it is designed to really help people like her prosper.

Sister Marie's business is selling used clothing as well as used electronics. On our last trip to Haiti, we visited her project and it was obvious that she had grown the business and now operates out of a small store instead of along the street.

We asked how we in America could pray for her. Her answer was, "Pray that we always follow the will of God and do what is right. Pray also that we stay firm in our faith and call, even though it is very difficult at times.



Joe Richter, and missionary Hudson Hess in front of Marie's store; pineapples were a gift!

## The Canteen Lady

**Madam Tulien** was unmistakably filled with the joy of the Lord. She is married and a member of Good Shepherd Church. Her project through FARMS is a school canteen. Because of her honesty and integrity, she is allowed to be the sole proprietor at a private school in Cap Haitien. She provides snacks, water and drinks for the children at the school as well as small lunches. Her concession consists of a refrigerator, and a large freezer. Along with the luxuries of climate controlled food storage she enjoys a great location with no competition.

She is extremely thankful for the help FARMS has been to her. She remarked, "Next to the Lord, this has been the greatest thing in my life." It has meant a lot to their family, enabling them to send their children to school as well as providing for their everyday needs. She also said, "I am glad to tithe, and I follow the FARMS plan happily."



## FARMS Spurs Church Growth!

The Evangelical Church of Plaisance has a congregation of over 500 people, but its beginnings were very small. It began as a church plant with 10 families. They had no building and few in the small town even knew that it was a church. They had no building and very little funding. That all changed when the FARMS loan committee from Cap Haitien included this small group in their lending program. Tithing increased measurably! They now had funds for outreach and in one of their early meetings, they had 40 people baptized. The church began to grow fast and through the many families with FARMS loans, the tithing reached a point that they could buy land and erect a large church to accommodate the growing congregation. They now have a Christian school as well.



Evangelical Church of Plaisance

We were impressed by the faithfulness of the project holders. We met with over 20 of them in a special meeting where they shared their stories and their hopes for the future. They now have over 30 active project holders in their group and five families waiting for loans.

Evangelism and church growth are the reason FARMS is so different than most loan programs among the poor. This church was a prime example of what can happen when the poor learn to prosper through faithful giving. Some of the project holders and their projects are shown below.



Project holders waiting to share their testimonies



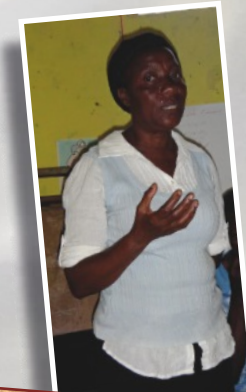
Blacksmithing project: Man running the bellows has been a project holder for 6 years and sent all his children to school. He has three men working for him making door hinges and other hardware.



This lady had a series of 5 loans. She is a widow with 4 children. She sells shoes and other items. Her needs were great, she recently bought a new home, moving out of her mud hut.



This brother shared how he was not able to send his children to school. Now his soft drink business has made this possible!



Madame Peir John sells beans, oil, sweet potatoes and other food. She is very happy with the program because it helps her support their 4 children.



This young man is single and is supporting himself by selling cell phones. His dream is to become a cabinet maker.