



A BETTER TOMORROW STARTS WITH HOPE

## Activities and Accomplishments

### Practicing Perseverance in Turbulent Times

2019 was a year of significant political turbulence in Haiti (see story on back page), which posed a number of challenges to providing services there. Limited to a single trip in September, we at Espwa relied more than ever on our local partners to keep our projects running. And they came through, demonstrating the tremendous power of connections, sustainability, and perseverance.



A shining example of that perseverance is Dr. Eugene Maklin, the founder of New Hope Hospital and long-time friend of Espwa. On December 5, 2018, Dr. Maklin was shot twice and left in the street. The attack shattered one of his elbows and much of his faith. By the fall, though, Dr. Maklin was back serving his people and thanking God for this ability. October saw him celebrating the Hospital's third anniversary and distributing Espwa-sponsored food aid to the surrounding community (see picture at right).



A different kind of milestone was reached with the purchase of choir robes and uniforms for the "Grande Chorale" ("Big Choir") and the "Chorale de La Jeunesse" ("Youth Choir") of Morne Rouge in Cap-Haïtien. Pictured at left, the Grande Chorale selected a traditional white and red robe, whereas the Youths, pictured above, opted for a more modern look designed by Haitian designers and stitched by Haitian hands. For years we've had the joy of making and recording music with these choirs, and the resulting wardrobes were made possible by CD sales and individual donations. We could not be more proud of the joy and empowerment expressed in these pictures.



The Hoshama Evangelism Ministry of Pastor Benjamin Fleurant continued to thrive, as more and more people heard the good news and put their faith in Jesus. In the first quarter of 2019, Pastor Benjamin attended two conferences in the Dominican Republic, and preached at Morne Rouge, Bois Caiman, Blue Hills, Michel de Latalay, Carrefour des Peres, and Jean Michel. Additional evangelism events took place during the year at Vaudrevuil, Trou du Nord, New Hope Hospital, Limbe, and Balan.

At the May event in Balan, Pastor helped free a man who had been trapped in voodooism and was in a zombie-like state. In addition to his quarterly evangelism crusades, Pastor continued to visit New Hope Hospital weekly, conduct open air services, visit homes, and teach classes for new believers. *(story continues on next page)*





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We also witnessed – and supported – great optimism in the Haitian economy, in spite of the country's political circumstances. At the end of June, for example, we sponsored Frantz Louis-Charles and Michael Morusma of Haitian Creole Tour, an Espwa-backed small business started in 2014, to attend the Cap-Haïtien Tourism Innovation Summit. The three-day event included dozens of speakers, networking, and planning for the future of Haiti's tourism industry. 2020 marks the 350th anniversary of Cap-Haïtien, and the 200th anniversary of the death of Henri Christophe, a leader in Haiti's revolution.

In September, we visited our newest partner organization, New Roots Haiti, an organic farm and holistic ministry focused on empowering parents to care for their families through education, employment, and nutrition assistance. The work and vision of New Roots falls right in line with Espwa's, and we are happy to support them. What's more,



our friend Jovenel Kenold has become the New Roots Production Manager (pictured above with Nick Stolberg, New Roots' Director).

Last but not least, we couldn't let our inability to travel to Haiti in the summer stop the Peace & Joy families from enjoying a day at the beach. We enlisted liaisons Frantz, Paul, and Michael to lead the trip, and as with last year, we invited others from the community to foster neighborly relationships. In all, we treated 54 people to a full day at the beach, including two meals and a lot of fun and relaxation.

## SPOTLIGHT PROJECTS



### Espwa Is Driving Small Businesses

Early in 2019, Walky Bauplan and Fannie Compere approached Espwa with an idea for a small business: purchase a motorcycle with a loan from Espwa, hire a driver, and start a moto-taxi. A portion of the taxi fares would be used to repay part of the loan, another portion would go toward additional motorcycle purchases, and after one year, the driver would keep the existing motorcycle. We've been so pleased with this business model we're considering similar arrangements in 2020.



### Joel & Sony's Family Is Home

Our 2018 report of the completion of Joel & Sony's family home turned out to be half-accurate: while the house was finished, the lack of nearby water prevented the family from moving in. That changed with the installation of a well directly outside. Joel, Sony, their seven brothers, mother and step-father were able to move in before the year's end.

## Where There's a Well, There's a Way

There's a saying in Haiti, "Dlo se lavi," that means, "Water is life." We witnessed that truth in a few different contexts in 2019.

Early in the year, our partners at Haiti Hope Rising, a Missouri-based relief organization, sponsored the digging of a new well in the Peace & Joy community. Gone are the days of walking several miles for clean water, a resource so critical to basic health and development!

Later in the year, the well dug at Joel and Sony's family home was the final

step to making the residence habitable (see Spotlight story at right).

We were so impressed by the difference access to clean water can make that during our strategic planning weekend (see story on page 3), we resolved to explore options in 2020 for establishing or supporting a water project.



### Anne Is Married and Graduating

We are delighted to announce that Anne Lormeus will graduate with a college accounting degree in early 2020. This is not quite as early as expected – Anne's schooling was delayed for a few months due to protests in Port-au-Prince. She did end 2019 by becoming a Mrs., though, celebrating her nuptials on Christmas Day! We wish her all the best in these new chapters of her life!



# Happenings at Home

## A Year of Successful -- and Fun -- Fundraising!

Despite its other challenges, 2019 was a big year for fundraising. On May 5, Espwa fielded four relay teams – our most ever – in the Eleventh Annual Pittsburgh Marathon, with participants hailing from Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Ohio. As is tradition, runners and their families and supporters gathered the night before for carbo-loading and camaraderie. Our teams ran strong through a morning of unpredictable weather, and raised nearly \$13,000!

A month after the marathon, on June 1, we hosted a new event called Hoops for Haiti. Students of various ages gathered for the timed free-throw challenge at a Virginia elementary school. Our goal of netting \$5,000 was vastly exceeded, with final donations totaling just over \$9,100. The proceeds will fund Doctor Rodlin “Roro” Paul to work an extra day per week at St. Anthony’s Clinic.

Last, though certainly not least, our second annual adventure biking fundraiser, Ride the GAP, kicked off on August 2, 2019. The three-day event began in Cumberland, MD, and followed the Great Allegheny Passage (or “GAP”) all the way to Pittsburgh, PA. This year, we had ten single riders, two support volunteers, and a pair of riders on a tandem bicycle, who remained good friends despite being nearly joined at the hip for 150 miles! Just slightly more incredibly, our blazing saddlers brought in over \$25,000.

The generosity of our supporters for each of these events was also precedent-setting – we thank you all, very much!



## OUR MISSION AND VALUES

Espwa exists to develop projects that empower the people of Haiti, alleviate poverty, build relationships, and ultimately encourage hope through Christ’s love. In carrying out this mission, we observe the following values:

1. We are Christ-focused.
2. We are committed to the poor.
3. We believe everything begins with relationships.
4. We act as good stewards.
5. We recognize partnerships are critical to accomplishing our mission.
6. We work with local leaders and indigenous churches.
7. Our goal is to create sustainable solutions for poverty alleviation.
8. We strive for excellence in all we do.

## Evolving Organizationally

Espwa will turn ten years old in the fall of 2020. The approach of that milestone has made us mindful of the great strides we’ve made as an organization, including several in 2019 alone.

For example, for the second year in a row Espwa received a Gold Seal of Transparency from GuideStar, the world’s largest monitor of nonprofit activity. We also applied for accreditation by the Better Business Bureau of Metro Washington and Pennsylvania. As part of the accreditation process, Espwa is evaluated against twenty different standards in categories including governance, oversight, effectiveness, and finances.

In the summer of 2019, we increased our Board of Directors to seven members, and in the fall, we met in Virginia for our first ever strategic planning weekend. We came away from the two-day gathering with defined strategies and goals for 2020, and a renewed sense of purpose.

As we mature organizationally, we will continue to be faithful stewards of the mission and patronage entrusted to us.

## A Very Special Thank You

Online readers can view a phenomenal thank you video featuring our Haitian project liaisons, courtesy of Erikson Corbin, a long-time Espwa supporter

# Through Political Unrest Haiti Hangs On

As of the writing of this Annual Report, the political turbulence in Haiti has continued for more than a year, with many frustrated at the government's mismanagement of funds and alleged corruption. Haitians have faced massive inflation, gas shortages, bank and school closures, and many rounds of protests. In February 2019, the U.S. State Department issued a "Do Not Travel" advisory for Haiti, which had a huge economic impact: inflation rose dramatically, and the country lost significant revenue from tourist and missionary travel.



Much of the current unrest stemmed from a perfect storm of government meddling in private industry, mismanaging funds, and refusing to acknowledge its missteps. A 2006 agreement by Venezuela to supply oil in the form of development loans to Haiti fell under suspicion for a lack of visible results. A

collapsing Venezuela then cinched off oil supplies, leading to steep price increases in Haiti. Yet Haiti's government continued to act as the sole purchaser of oil and gas for the country, from a steadily dwindling supply. When gas was available, lines were so long they literally shut down cities by making them impassable. On the resale market, the price of gas rose as high as \$15 a gallon.

While tensions subsided enough for the State Department to revise its advisory to

"Reconsider Travel" in June 2019, Haiti is far from out of the woods.

And yet, we think there is still cause for hope. Having worked in Haiti for nearly a decade, we know the

Haitian spirit is to hang on in the face of challenge. We are reminded of this fortitude in the inset photo here, taken during one of our 2018 trips. We are proud and privileged to support that spirit, and immeasurably grateful to the organizations and individuals who make it all possible.



## ESPWA FINANCIAL INFORMATION\*

# \$92,349

Gross income in fiscal year 2019

## FISCAL YEAR 2019 EXPENSES

PROGRAM: \$68,522

ADMINISTRATIVE: \$10,718

FUNDRAISING: \$9,111

# \$64,699

Net assets in fiscal year 2019



## OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: CHRISTOPHER PFEIFFER

MEDICAL DIRECTOR: JENNIFER M. SCHMIDT

CREATIVE PROJECTS & FARMING DIRECTOR: JOSEPH SHAFFER

TREASURER: GARY MOLINARO

SECRETARY: KRISTIN RUMCIK

SPECIAL PROJECTS DIRECTOR: BRADY CILLO

LEGAL ADVISOR: JOELLE LASZLO

# +ESPWA

## THE ESPWA FOUNDATION

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