

SCHOOL OPERATIONS

Sponsoring a student – Income from fees paid by the parents provides less than 20% of the cost of running the school. The remainder has to be covered by monthly donations from sponsors and, in addition, special gifts which are given from time to time. Currently about 110 students are sponsored by persons or families. Sponsoring is the base income from the US for operation of the school. In the past, special gifts have been given which have helped supply the daily meal for each student and teacher, text books and occasional medical help.

The sponsoring income is increasingly critical, as enrollment keeps rising, and is about 1,460 now. Consistency in meeting pledges and the addition of new sponsors is necessary to meet this school expansion. The parents in Bayonnais have the same desires for their offspring as do people in the United States. They see the K-13 education as the only way for their children to improve their lives. Quarterly statements will be sent for contributions made through:

\$30/month, or can be paid quarterly, semi-annually or annually, by check or bank draft
contact: South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church
8601 Bryant Farms Rd., Charlotte NC 28277 704 544-0404

Any questions? Please contact Helen Hunter by e-mail at [HYPERLINK](mailto:grammahu7@aol.com)
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COLLEGE STUDENT SUPPORT SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships for full-time college students in Haiti - Samuel Mondelus is in the 8th year of medical training. Six are in their 3rd year at Quisqueya or Episcopal Universities in Port-Au-Prince. Two are in their 2nd year at the Christian University of North Haiti at Limbe (Jesula in Business and Amilor, taking Theology). Two additional graduates are taking business courses in Gonaives part-time. Eleven more full-time college students started September, 2005, in Port-Au-Prince and Cap-Haitien. Their majors include nursing, medical technician, dentist, kindergarten administration, computer science and various other majors useful for future teaching in the OFCB school. None could afford college without this aid. All have contracts to return to Bayonnais to be employed by OFCB in teaching, medical, ministerial, farming, management or technical positions in return for the college scholarships.

Many more college-trained people will be needed in Bayonnais. In the summer of 2006, nine students graduated from the high school (13th grade), passing their national exams and being qualified for college. **HOWEVER**, none of these nine were able to start college because of lack of funding! **In addition**, most of the 2007 13th grade class (12 students) graduated and OFCB hopes that they will also be able to attend college. This is, of course, a very sad situation for the graduates, for OFCB and for Bayonnais. As of September 7, there is only support for a few of these graduates to start college.

Costs range from \$3,000 to \$6,500, all expenses included, depending on the school or curriculum, as well as living expenses. All of the students' college living conditions are difficult.

DESIGNATED PROJECT SUPPORT NEEDED

Classrooms - The school had 1,460 students last year (1000+ K-6 in the morning, 400 7th-13th in the

afternoon). More are expected in the current year, especially in high school. The school building has five small classrooms. The old church handles 3-4 primary classes, less for high school. The new church is handling as many as possible, limited by the babble of multiple classes rather than the space. All other classes are taught on bench-desks under mango trees in the school yard.

Construction of the first floor of a **second classroom building** started in May, 2006. A gift from SMPC enabled this start of the addition of 7 large classrooms across the soccer field from the original classrooms. A grant from Myers Park UMC is enabling finishing the 1st floor. Construction started in August.

Adding a 2nd floor - \$60,000

Another step will be to add a **second floor to the current multipurpose building**. This will include restructuring the computer facility and adding 6-8 other rooms for the school.

Estimated cost - \$62,000

Language lab – Four languages (Creole, French, English and Spanish) are taught. Support for written and conversational language, especially in English in high school, is greatly needed. A Charlotte church is planning to set up the language lab in November. It will be located in the old church building.

Improvement of old church building – Although the building is used every day, it was never completely finished in 1996 when it was built. It needs a concrete floor, new tin roof, plastering and painting to increase its utility for school children. The estimated cost is \$ 3,700.

More musical instruments - 3 clarinets, 2 alto saxophones, 2 baritone saxophones, 1 bass guitar (instruments may be donated, or money given to purchase used instruments). Instruments are needed for the church band and for the music program in the school.

School library – As the school adds educational materials, a place for students to learn from them and to study is needed. The building will be 9X16 meters (30X53 feet), and will be added to the end of the existing school. Additional language lab stations would be included.

Estimated cost - \$40,000

Second floor to the old school building will add 8 indoor classrooms:

Estimated cost - \$58,000

Repair of main road to access Bayonnais from Route 1 – repairs to this dirt road would include improving drainage and building gravel surfaces as needed. Estimated cost - \$5,000

Copy machine for school approximately \$3,500
This would be used for reproduction of a high volume of school tests and instructional materials.

Medical clinic - There are no medical facilities for the 10's of 1,000's of people in Bayonnais. Samuel

Mondelus finishes medical school mid-2007. He will complete residency and a year of government service by 2010. OFCB owns land for and plans to start up a clinic near the school and church in 2009-10. A second doctor, Faustin Charles, is two to three years behind Samuel. A nurse and a medical lab technician have started college and will be available mid-2009. A dentist will finish training in 2011.

The stages for OFCB to develop a medical clinic are:

- Invite medical mission teams from the US to have clinics in Bayonnais. The first one (9 medical people in April, 2006) saw over 700 people in 3 days. Medical records were started for those seen. More such visits are expected and solicited. A second team will visit in mid-October, 2007.
- Continue discussions with U.S. groups participating in successful clinics elsewhere in Haiti. Learn what works, and what doesn't, what facilities and equipment are needed for particular kinds of clinics and make a best practices analysis to meet needs in Bayonnais. Visit clinics and hospitals in Haiti.
- Start plans for services to be offered initially, including teaching about sanitation, child-birth and other common sources of illness or death.
- Define the long term plans for the facility. Design the first start building and estimate the cost for structure, equipment, medicine and other needs. Raise funds along the way as information about financial needs becomes clear.
- Start construction by mid-2009, to be finished by September, 2010.
- Outfit building at a level suitable for the initial planned level of care.
- Hire and train local people to fill the non-professional employee needs of an active clinic.

Drip irrigation is currently being tested at the school and on a number of farms. This is a way to maximize efficiency of getting water to plant roots and minimizing loss by evaporation. The installation and testing is being funded by a Presbyterian church from Florence, SC.

Irrigation for higher elevations could open up arid hillsides for growing food, starting a fruit tree nursery for the community and trying new crops. Investigation will be made of possible improvements, including solar pumps, ram pumps, new pipelines, and new irrigation channels. This could lead to expanded farming opportunities for people in the upper valley area. A related goal is reforestation on the mountainsides stripped of trees over the past two decades. In the long term, this will reverse a trend that has caused terrible flooding and deaths in recent years.

Contributions will be needed for mapping of existing water systems and for construction in the future. This will be one of the important projects to be undertaken after the college graduation of the first two agronomists.

Development of new business in the area - OFCB is investigating some businesses that could be started in their area including a communications utility. EWB (Engineers Without Borders) is helping with this, and will bring some examples of possible business ideas and equipment to Bayonnais from time to time. Capital needs will be presented as they are defined.

Other businesses being investigated by OFCB currently with other people are chicken farming and fish farming.

