

Gardener, Pastor, Lover of the Gospel

Pastor Jean Francois is tall and lanky with a carefree exuberance running head to toe.

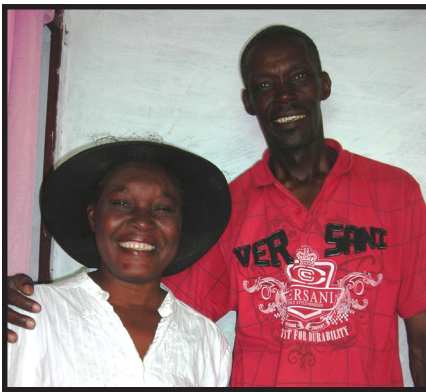
A hearty handshake or hug extended from his long arms reflects his passionate love for the Lord and compassion for the people in his community.

Growing in Vision

I first met Jean Francois when I moved to Gonaives in 1986 where he was a very hard working gardener, loving plants and enjoying seeing the desert flourish. Many times he taught Bible lessons using illustrations from his gardening knowledge.

In early 1990, Jean Francois received a visa to visit the United States. He stayed with me in Raleigh for several months, meeting and developing a deep friendship with Robert Logan

of Logan Trading Co (a local plant nursery business) and experiencing the early stages of Building Together Ministries (the urban ministry where I worked). He often



Pastor Jean Francois Vivil with his wife

refers to this early time in Raleigh as when the Lord instilled in him a desire to reach out in practical ways to the folks in his community and also teach God's word. He would begin the Building Together of Haiti!

Growing in Ministry

"In Haiti", says Jean Francois, "we have blind people that cannot see and need help and someone to walk with them. We have children that cannot go to school. And so I was reflecting upon this and wondering what we could do in this regard."

"When I returned to Haiti after my trip to the US, I searched and

found some elderly people that were blind. I found people that were not able to braid their own hair and I found people to make their heads pretty, gave soap so they could clean themselves."

"When I helped them in this way, I was able to give them the gospel as well. When I gave the gospel, I was also able to give food. Every time we distributed food in these communities, we would pray in advance that the day would go well and that we could share the gospel."

"One day as we were distributing food, a girl fell down and was sick in front of us. I hurried and took her to the Doctor but the Doctor could not do anything for her. So I told the Doctor, if she could not do anything, I would go to my Doctor Jesus in prayer. While I was praying, I realized it was not a sickness for a medical Doctor but a bad spirit that this girl had. And so I commanded in the name of Jesus for this evil spirit to leave this little girl. When the spirit left this girl, the girl spoke with me and told me she was from Souvenance and I took her to her grandmother who had custody of her."

"As I was leaving, the evil spirit came back upon the girl again. I needed to find another person to help me pray for her, but I did not find anyone."

God spoke to my heart and said that this area really needed a church. I started with an evangelization program and people started coming to the Lord. People gave me a piece of land where we could have a church which began with a building of coconut leaves."

(Continued on back)

January 2011

After a bumpy bus ride, we walked along a rocky path, past tiny shack-like homes to reach a clearing. A small structure, sides made of remnants of material pieced together, stood beside a rumbling generator. One strip of salvaged plastic wrapping bore the lettering "US AID"; another appeared to be a discarded shower curtain.

I peeked inside to see a dirt floor, crude wooden benches, a solitary light bulb burning and tree-branch "poles" holding the structure together. Haitian men, women and children sat and knelt at the benches, quietly but persistently praying. I understood none of their prayers. What was communicated clearly, however, was the reverent, fervent manner in which they addressed the Lord. It dawned upon me that these Haitians bear heavy burdens, ones for which I have no reference point. And I found myself jealous of their joy!

Church members had inexplicably found comfortable chairs for us, and placed them in the front, while they sat on benches. Their humble hearts were evident.

As I enjoyed the privilege of worshiping alongside them, the thought came to me clearly that I was exactly where the Lord desired me to be. In daydreams of heaven, I had pictured something similar to Westminster Abbey but never again. I now believe that heaven will much more resemble the holy ground of the New Revelation Church in Dolan.

(Journal entry shared by Susanne Berger)

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Get a glimpse of Pastor Jean Francois and the Church in Haiti!

<http://www.youtube.com/user/heartsandhandshaiti>

A Haiti Herald, April 2011

Gardener, Pastor, ... *(Continued from front)*

Growing as the Church

Pastor Jean Francois is not only ministering in this community but others as well. He now leads several New Revelation Churches (a name the Lord gave him in a dream) in Souvenance, Tarasse and Dolan as well as Bible studies in other areas.

He loves to bring his churches together for joint services, ministers to the elderly and offers music lessons, adult literacy programs and sewing classes for young ladies.

Though his wife has had several strokes at a young age, they faithfully minister along with their church family to those in need.

Just this spring, numerous people came to faith in Christ during revival meetings and one person was miraculously healed.

We are so grateful for Pastor Jean Francois' faithfulness and his eagerness to be a beacon of Christ's love in a spiritually dark place.

Stan Wiebe, Director of HHH

HHH partners with four leaders and the rural community ministries they have founded around Gonaives, Haiti.

Stan Wiebe has been blessed to know and work with these men for the past 25 years.

The stories of our other leaders, Jean Pere Nadieul (Dec/09), Cherismond Delva (May/08) and Jeremiah Dorsaint (Feb/06), can be found in newsletters available on our website.

Giving Thanks!

- We have been approved for another **container of food** from Stop Hunger Now. This means we can:

- Provide a nutritious **lunch every school day** at all three of our primary schools with over 1,000 students in 2011-12

- **Feed the elderly** in our rural communities and some food for the children's home.



- The run-off **elections** on March 20th were relatively peaceful. Thank you, Lord!

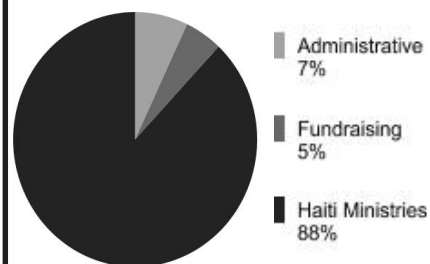
Please Pray For....

- effectiveness** of the ministry leaders, pastors, school teachers and home staff as they train the next generation for Christ.
- the **new government**: that they would work as a team to lead and assist their country.

Upcoming Events

- 1st Friday of May** – the **HHH monthly prayer meeting** will be held at the Crocketts' home at 620 Marlowe Road at 7:30 PM.

HHH Distribution of 2010 Funds



100% of Haiti and sponsorship donations go to Haiti.

- April 2011 - Bruce Hansen (with Literacy & Evangelism International) along with Stan, Patty and Jonathan Wiebe will **travel to Haiti**.
- June 2011 - Our **Stop Hunger Now container** of food is scheduled to be shipped.

Can you help us collect 600 lbs of shoes (gently used or new) to include with this shipment?

We are also looking for donors to assist us with the \$8,000 cost of shipping, customs etc.

- Late July 2011 - A team will assist and teach at summer youth camps, as well as a Pastors'/leaders' conference.

WATCH VIDEOS AT:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/heartsandhandshaiti>



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