

Upstream: While there is a strong tradition of shared leadership at the informal grassroots level in Haiti, leadership of institutions tends to be very authoritarian. Given Haiti's brutal colonial history, this isn't a surprise. The only model of leadership was the slave master. But schools, churches, and organizations that depend so heavily on the absolute control of an individual are fragile and vulnerable to corruption and the excesses of unchecked power.



In October we began introducing some teachers to a new curriculum that will help them work more effectively in rural communities where it's difficult to find qualified teachers. Teachers are supported with distance learning technology, including lesson support provided over the radio or through tape recordings.

Our Work: Beyond Borders promotes participatory models of leadership. We offer a variety of tools that have made hundreds of schools, churches, and organizations more dynamic, participatory, and life-giving. Leaders learn the value of sharing power and nurturing leadership in other people. Churches are brought to life as ordinary church members are given new tools and the space to nurture spiritual growth in one another. ✕

Inviting You to **Make a Difference Upstream**

We're profoundly grateful for the generosity that makes this work for change possible. Here is an update on giving from July 1 to November 1, 2008. Please consider giving to make a lasting difference.

Double Your Impact Upstream!

A generous donor has offered to match dollar for dollar any gift or new pledge of support that you make for 2009. Gifts and new pledges must be received by January 10, 2009 to be matched.

Your gift will:

- Educate farmers to produce more food and prevent floods.
- Help turn the tide against the practice of child servitude.
- Enable churches and schools to become more life-giving.



For the fourth consecutive year, Beyond Borders received a 4-star evaluation (its highest) from Charity Navigator, the largest independent evaluator of nonprofit organizations in the U.S. This fiscally responsible performance places Beyond Borders in the top 9 percent of charities in the country.



For the second consecutive year, Beyond Borders is included in the WorldBlu list of most democratic workplaces (referring to organizational practices and decision-making) for 2008.

Total needed by June 30, 2009: **\$941,936** ▶

Gifts received as of November 1, 2008: **\$294,142** ▶



Haiti Benefit Dinner **WITH TONY CAMPOLO** in Vero Beach, Florida

Join us for an inspiring evening that will also include special musical guest Bryan Sirchio.

**Friday evening
February 6, 2009
at the Heritage Center**

Call 772-539-8521 or email kent@beyondborders.net for more details or to buy tickets.

BEYOND BORDERS is a group of people who join together out of devotion to Christ to work for justice and peace by fostering transformative learning within and across cultural and economic borders. We work primarily among the people of Haiti and North America in these areas:

- ✕ Children's rights
- ✕ Christian education
- ✕ Cultural exchange
- ✕ Leadership development
- ✕ Literacy
- ✕ Teacher training

Tony Campolo's speaking schedule can be found at www.tonymcampolo.org. If you have questions about Dr. Campolo's schedule, please call us toll free at 1-866-424-8410.

Beyond Borders Staff: Kent Annan, David Diggs, John Engle, Jonathan Haggard, Coleen Hedglin, Cara Kennedy, Cindy Koser, Kevin Koser, Kim Montroll

Limyè Lavi Staff: Jude Appolon, Fremy Cesar, Guerda Lexima Constant, Ulrick Denis, Jean Prosper Etie, Samson Joseph, Marc Orel Lindor, Emmanuel Milien, Jhony St. Louis (*Limyè Lavi is our main partner in Haiti.*)

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PO Box 2132, Norristown, PA 19404 ✕ PO Box 2865, Vero Beach, FL 32961 ✕ Toll-free: 866-424-8403 ✕ Email: mail@BeyondBorders.net ✕ www.BeyondBorders.net

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BEYOND BORDERS



WORKING IN HAITI FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE OUT OF DEVOTION TO CHRIST

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WORKING UP THE RIVER

by David Diggs and Kent Annan

Two quick stories, one beside a river and the other along the road to Jericho: Suppose you're having a picnic with friends on the shores of a beautiful river. Suddenly, you see someone flailing in the water and crying out, "Help!" You and your friends run over. Maybe one of you dives in, or you scramble to find a branch to reach out. Thankfully, you are able to pull that person to safety.

Then you see another desperate person who's getting swept down the river. And then another. You and your friends are all scrambling to rescue people. You're helping some of them, but others are drowning. There are more than you can handle. And they just keep coming.

Even though you're overwhelmed by those urgently in need, eventually you need to send someone *up the river* to find out why people are getting thrown in the river in the first place...and you try to stop it.

The second story is one of Jesus' most familiar parables. Jesus tells of a man who has been beaten by robbers and left by the side of the road between Jerusalem and Jericho. Several people pass by and don't help...but eventually the Samaritan stops to help and gets the guy some care.

But here's the question: What if every time that Good Samaritan traveled that road, he found someone



Trajean Laguerre (left) and other members of the village of Bresillienne. They're standing next to the remains of an elementary school and church that were torn apart when their community was devastated by the hurricanes this summer. We have since helped repair the building and are working with their school and churches on several educational initiatives. We are also developing a new agricultural initiative to help respond to hunger and poverty in the community.

else lying beside the road, beaten and bloodied? Well, it's likely he'd try to help the next person, and the next. But he'd also realize the need to address the root causes—like the economy and lack of security—to prevent the assaults from continuing to happen.

So what should we do? Should we help the person who's drowning in the river and the one left for dead by the roadside? Or should we focus on solving the root causes? The answer, of course, is both—though we know our resources are limited.

In Haiti, the day-to-day situation
Working Up the River continued on page 2.

is and has been very bad for many people. The vast majority of people in Haiti live on less than \$2 a day, and only 50 percent of children are able to attend school. This summer, a series of hurricanes and tropical storms devastated the country. It's essential to meet the urgent need for basics like food, water, medical care, and shelter—while also urgently addressing problems that contribute to Haiti being so vulnerable in storms like these.

Beyond Borders has been able to help with some urgent needs like rebuilding some schools and buying seeds for farmers. Our hearts ache that we can't do more when the needs are so severe, but we remain committed to our work "up the river" in ways that address these pressing needs—but also get at the causes.

We work and pray for the day when Haitians aren't so vulnerable to the storms—and when they're also able to change their communities into better places for their children long into the future. Here is how we're helping.

Flooding and Hunger

Why did more than 600 people die in Haiti this summer from the widespread flooding caused by four hurricanes while only a few died in neighboring nations that were hit almost as hard? Answer this question and you'll also understand a key reason Haiti has become one of the hungriest countries in the world.

Upstream: Haiti's mountainous terrain has become almost completely deforested. Poor farmers cut trees to make and sell charcoal and burn off land before cultivation. Without tree cover or roots, the naked soil is easily washed down the steep slopes. Without soil to capture



These parents in a small rural area outside the town of Sodo gathered in a church this summer to discuss the challenges they face educating and feeding their children. Beyond Borders helps organize hundreds of meetings like these all over Haiti that serve to ignite hope and birth new grassroots initiatives to address problems upstream.

runoff, rain fills ravines that quickly become raging rivers. The loss of soil is just as deadly when the rains stop. Without soil farmers can't grow food. They lose

land and are planting trees and building contour barriers that prevent soil erosion. They've learned composting, organic pest control, and natural fertilizing—techniques that cost almost nothing and allow farmers to grow more food, protect their land, and reduce flooding.

Child Slavery

As many as one in ten Haitian children (about 300,000) live

apart from their families in domestic servitude.

Upstream: The most desperate rural families can't afford to migrate as an entire family unit to the cities. So these families send one or more of their children away to work for a poor urban family, believing this offers the best hope for those children. Yet the reality is quite different. While adults in these urban households scramble for work and send their own kids to school, these migrant children live essentially as household slaves, working every waking hour with no time to rest, play, form friendships, or attend school. Many endure unimaginable abuse and humiliation.

Our Work: We are working to make the exploitation and abuse of children socially unacceptable and pressuring the Haitian government to enforce laws to protect children. We are helping rural parents understand the grave risks facing children sent to work for



These leaders in the rural community of Meno are learning how to do social mapping of their region. The maps they create will help them identify families and children that are in greatest need and design strategies that are tailored to address particular needs.

their livelihoods and flee to cities swelling with some of the poorest slums in the world.

Our Work: Working with two partner organizations in Haiti (Fonkoze and Limyè Lavi) Beyond Borders recently developed a new adult education

other families. We are designing systems to help the poorest rural families not only keep and better care for their children but also retrieve children they've already sent into servitude.

Illiteracy and Extreme Poverty

The poorest half of Haiti's population struggles for survival on incomes that average 44 cents a day (IMF, 2007). The great majority of these people are illiterate. Only about half of Haiti's children attend school at all, and very few are able to complete elementary school.

Upstream: Illiteracy is both a cause and consequence of poverty in Haiti. One reinforces the other. Many rural communities have no schools. And four out of five schools charge tuition. Even when this tuition is very modest, it puts education out of reach of the poorest children.

Our Work: Beyond Borders invests in schools and literacy centers that break the cycle of illiteracy and poverty. We do so in ways that empower communities to eventually both support and run their local schools with very limited or no outside support.

Schools and Churches that Don't Educate

Education should both free the mind and equip one for life's challenges. In Haiti, too many schools and churches strangle the mind and prejudice students against the very work that's needed to improve their lives.

Upstream: Few Haitian teachers have any specialized training to teach. They



These are a few of the hundreds of children in the rural community of Bedwet who have never attended school. The closest school is too far away to reach by foot. Beyond Borders in association with Concern International is working with community leaders to start a new school here to provide new hope, improve the quality of life, and reduce the number of children sent into servitude.

often perpetuate the same repressive teaching they endured, bullying students into the most mind-numbing busywork imaginable. Day after day students memorize and recite long texts in French, a language that neither the students nor their teachers understand. Curiosity is crowded out by fear. Memorization is mistaken for learning. And the same approach is often taken in churches and Sunday schools.

Our Work: Beyond Borders provides training and materials that help teachers turn their classrooms into laborato-

ries for learning. Curiosity and student participation are encouraged rather than suppressed. Students discover their own unique gifts and become active participants in creating better lives and healthier communities even before they graduate.

Leaders Who Become Dictators

Haiti has suffered under the misrule of autocratic and violent leaders for most of its history. While Haiti is making encouraging progress toward stable democracy on the national level, the model of leadership in local institutions still tends to be extremely autocratic. This is a problem in schools where ill-equipped teachers squash opportunities for authentic learning. And it's also true in churches where authoritarian church leaders deny their people opportunities for spiritual growth.



These children who missed out on school when they were younger were identified and are being tested for placement in a new accelerated education program that will help them catch up to their appropriate grade level.