

## **DISCIPLES Program (Living Words Christian Education)**

Providing 10,000 people a year in churches and literacy centers with Bibles and training, in partnership with the Canadian Bible Society

### **Your Partnership**

- Provides 10,000 individuals with Bibles, who otherwise wouldn't have them
- Provides children and adults with empowering approaches to Christian education
- Prints and distributes dynamic Christian education materials in Haitian-Creole

### **The Need**

- 95% of Haitians identify themselves as Christians and the church is one of Haiti's key institutions. This program answers several needs:
- Bibles for Christians who can't afford one when a Bible costs about \$10 and 80% of Haitians live on less than \$2 a day.
- Approaches to Scripture accessible to the 50% of Haitian adults who are illiterate.
- Quality Christian education materials in Creole that are relevant to people's daily lives.
- Models of servant leadership where too often the leader dominates instead of serves.

And as the Bishop Desmond Tutu says, "If you want to keep people subjugated, the last thing you place in their hands is a Bible. There's nothing more radical, nothing more revolutionary, nothing more subversive against injustice and oppression than the Bible."

### **Strategy**

Provide 10,000 people a year with Bibles in churches, schools, and literacy centers. Each distribution is accompanied by training in lectio divina-based approaches to Bible study, as well as other materials. This approach invites those who are illiterate to participate, and encourages servant leadership that deeply values the voice of each person. Profound things happen as the group listens to Scripture for God's direction for their personal lives and for their community.

All of our trainers, who live in different parts of the country, have been doing this

work for at least five years, and they're all part of ongoing training. Most are part of our LEADERS Program, where they're continuing to develop their capacity as leaders and trainers for this program as well as their other community leadership roles.

The four books we've developed and we print and distribute with training are:

- Bible study for children, based on lectio divina
- Bible study for adults, based on lectio divina
- Prayer of Examen, based on the ancient practice of reflective prayer at the end of each day and asking God for direction for the next day
- Theology Discussion Booklet, which has ancient and modern texts, from a wide variety of theological perspectives, to encourage good theological reflection in a way that is also teaching a discussion-based approach to education.

### **Going Deeper**

To learn more about *lectio divina*, which is the basis for our approach in this program, see: *Lectio Divina: Renewing the Ancient Practices of Praying the Scriptures* (by M. Basil Pennington); *Too Deep for Words: Rediscovering Lectio Divina* (by Thelma Hall); *Sacred Reading: The Ancient Art of Lectio Divina* (by Michael Casey), and *The God of Intimacy and Action* (by Tony Campolo and Mary Albert Darling).

### **Goals**

To help people in churches, schools, and literacy centers continue to:

- Have access to God's living Word
- See their spiritual lives grow through our four Haitian-Creole books (Bible studies for children and adults, the Prayer of Examen, and a Theology Discussion Book)
- Foster unity within their communities and between different churches
- See their spiritual practices lead to practical efforts to improve local communities

### **How you can help**

- \$250 per month provides a trainer's salary and expenses
- \$300 provides a church or literacy center with 2 training sessions and a follow-up visit, which includes about 50 people receiving Bibles