



# Together - Transforming Tomorrow



*This Fall.....Watch for our new Partners With Purpose web site!*

## **WALK A THON**

A proverb Haitian ladies are fond of quoting is “*Si ou gen yon chodyè, ou kap kuit.*” The literal translation for this is “If you have a pot, you can cook.” However, Haitian proverbs always have a greater connotation than merely the words. This one delivers the simple, matter-of-fact message to just take what you have and do something with it. To begin now with what you have and not wait for more to come. To have a pot in Haiti means that you have everything you need to begin cooking. This precept is exemplified on every square inch of Haiti daily by people surviving with every little bit of anything they have. For them, waiting until tomorrow for more to come may be the very thing that causes tomorrow not to come at all!



As our walk a thon day fast approaches, we would like to challenge all our partners and friends to take an inventory of what you have, embrace the Haitian “you can” spirit and help us make this fund raising effort one for the P.W.P. record books. After all, if you have feet, you can walk. If you have hands you can roll. (the walking trail is groomed for all non-motorized vehicles.) If you have a voice you can ask your church, work place or school to sponsor you. If you have one friend or one relative, you can get one sponsor. And, if you have the desire, you can find a way.

We will begin this 5 km walk on the Rails To

Trails entrance on County Road 26 in Belwood on September 14 at 9:30 am. You may copy the pledge form accompanying this newsletter as needed. Please make sure all your sponsors fill in their complete address including the postal code for receipting purposes at year end. See you on the trail!

## **ALL SYSTEMS GO -----**

“Go and get a visa and come to Canada.” Oh Boy! Was that easier said than done! However, with persistent prayer, a trip to the Canadian Embassy in Port au Prince and a little bit of (maybe not so Christ-like) pigheadedness, P.W.P. has scaled the bureaucratic wall and are now praising God on the other side!

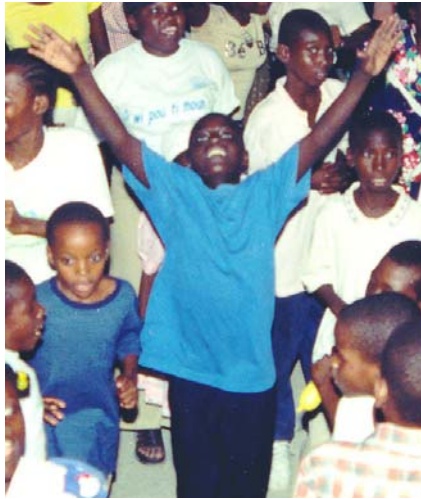
Pastor Ecclesias Donatien will be coming to Canada as planned from September 20<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>. He is the founder and Senior Pastor of the largest and fastest growing church in Haiti. His weekly meetings see crowds of over 15,000 and special revival services have attracted masses in excess of 35,000! The “wonder” of what God is doing through Pastor Ecclesias at the Tabernacle Of Praise has drawn people from all over the Caribbean, United States, Canada and as far away as Nigeria and Zaire, Africa.

In this tiny, turbulent nation, inundated with an endless list of trials and tragedies, our God is standing up and standing out in His exceeding greatness daily at the Tabernacle! You will be challenged in many ways as you listen to Pastor Ecclesias chronicle his years of following hard after God and the triumphant testimony of the birth and rapid growth of the Tabernacle Of Praise. As P.W.P.’s partner in Haiti, Pastor Ecclesias will also share with you his thoughts and anticipation for the work God has directed us to in Haiti.

*We encourage you to contact us as soon as possible if you would like to invite Pastor Ecclesias to speak to your church or group – large or small. We will be scheduling meetings on a first come, first served basis. We urge you to take advantage of this opportunity.*

## LIFT EVERY VOICE

On Saturday, September 28 at 7:00 pm P.W.P. will host a celebration of contemporary, Christian music at the beautiful River Run Centre in Guelph. We heartily invite you to come out and be favoured with the eclectic, diverse sounds of “The Covenant House Band.” Enjoy this band’s unique style as they take command of the grand piano and fill the air with their eloquent, evocative vocals. Recording artist, “Trevor Dick”, accompanied by electric and acoustic violin, is sure to take us all on an impassioned, lyrical journey. Trevor is an extraordinary,



anointed musician guaranteed to administer an explosion of notes and chords - a true symphony on strings. Pastor Ecclesias Donatien will be with us from Cap-Haitien, Haiti to deliver a brief commentary concerning P.W.P.’s work there, where the proceeds raised from the evening’s ticket sales (after expenses) will be directed.

Come and join us for this great musical celebration knowing that as you are in the house being blessed, your attendance will also be creating a blessing for the Haitian people that P.W.P. is working with.

*Tickets are available only through the River Run Centre Box Office at 519-763-3000 or online at [www.riverrun.guelph.on.ca](http://www.riverrun.guelph.on.ca)*

### “POTO MITAN “.....Centre Pole

To say she was *courageous* would be like saying Mother Teresa was *kind*. There are certain people whose life goes beyond exemplary – beyond words. Her story is true. Her name is Alerte. Listen as she recounts an incident in her life: “They came to kill me. The vicious ones chopped me during the night. They sliced me into pieces with machete strokes. They cut out my tongue, my mouth, gums, plates, teeth and jaw on my right side. They cut my ear open. They cut my body, my whole shoulder, neck and back with machete blows. They cut off my right arm. They slashed my left arm totally and cut off the ends of all my fingers on my left hand. Also, they slashed my whole head up with machete blows.”

Her crime? She had bubbled over the capacity of what she could hold in, squash down, cover up, or push away. She spoke. In 1991, she spoke, encouraging people to vote for democracy. Alerte continues: “The death squad was so convinced I had died that they dragged me further away to dump me. When I was in the bushes, what passed through my spirit and my head were my three children. I am their mother. I am their father.”

Listing in and out of consciousness, unable to see through eyes closed tight with a crust of blood, she was compelled to move by the vision of her children who would be left alone. This mother - this paradigm held on to her right arm which remained attached only by a thin slice of skin and propelled herself through the bush to a roadside by pushing her body off of tree trunks with her feet.

This summer I went to Haiti on my own and spent most of my time in the company of Haitian women. From the 700 plus ladies representing the Dorcas Society in their churches, who had gathered for their annual meeting in Limbè, to the four young girls working at the house where I was staying and all those I observed everywhere I went, carrying the *burden de jour* on their heads, in their arms or on their backs. The Dorcas ladies had gathered to share and learn from each other how to better serve the poor in their villages. These ladies, so poor themselves that most had arrived for the whole week with one change of clothing and a 2 x 4 foot grass mat to sleep on. I witnessed the four girls in my house work from sun up to sun down and learned that this is their lot in life 7 days a week, 365 days a year. And, as for all the oth-

ers I saw – well, sometimes what one sees in Haiti is destined to remain in image form only as words just don’t have the capacity to capture, compartmentalize and spit out what has been seen.

Haitian women are unquestionably the “*Poto Mitan*” (centre pole) in their families, - in their country. The tears burning down the face of a little Restavèk (child slave) girl who, at ten years of age had just survived her second year of arduous servitude has firmly cemented this truth in my heart forever. Her tears licked hungrily at the corners of every word she dared to whisper. The only thing she wanted to say to the camera was “I want my mother.”

There is a scripture in Psalms 119 that says “*God will be a light unto our path.*” God used my recent trip to Haiti, Alerte’s existence and the cry of this little girl’s heart as a greater *light* for me and the P.W.P. ministry. For us to truly make a difference in the life of a Haitian child, we must work to provide choices for their mothers. The bottom line is – they will eat the food we give them, they will wear the second hand clothes we send, they will subsist in the orphanages we build. But, the truth is – Haitian children want *their* mothers and Haitian mothers want *their* children. P.W.P. will continue on the divinely lit path towards the creation of “Liberty School For Women.”

Alerte, alive and living somewhere, concludes my thoughts best as she says – “I have only a stub where my right arm used to be and the fingers of my left hand have been severed. That hand can’t do anything for me. That’s why I say to you: “consider that you, who have two arms and two hands, should say, “Oh, let me help this woman carry the cause.”

Julie Groves



**HAITIAN  
PROVERB:**  
“*Grangou pa gen  
zòrey.*”  
“Hunger has no  
ears.”