



May 2005

## IT'S TIME TO MEET THE TEACHERS

If you read our last newsletter, you know that in early 2005, P. W.P. provided training to 25 women in Cap-Haitien to be able to teach literacy. We are happy to report that finances allowed us to open ten literacy centers and employ 10 of those teachers. They were trained in a very new methodology and they embraced it wholeheartedly. Reports have been coming in recently of how this training has transformed their lives and we couldn't wait to share them with you so you could see how your support is contributing to long-term change in Haiti. We will get more of these testimonies out to you in the upcoming months so you can get to know these inspiring ladies and continue to support their work.

## WHAT IS CLE, REFLECTION CIRCLE AND OPEN SPACE?

In our February, 2005 newsletter we went into detail on these training methods used by P.W.P. to train teachers for our literacy centers. If you did not get a chance to read it, please visit our web site at [www.partnerswithpurpose.com](http://www.partnerswithpurpose.com) and you can find it on our Newsletter Archives page. A condensed summary is included in this newsletter just to remind everyone how these methods work and just how avant-garde they are in a Country like Haiti.

*As you read the following testimonies of two of our teachers, remember that before this new training, all their education had taken place in the traditional method of fear and memorization. Also consider that a woman in Haiti is rarely permitted to share her thoughts or ideas, even in her own home! To feel they have a right to think, speak and receive respect is a new concept. Through our programs, doors have been opened that must never be closed. Many thanks to our partners who made all this happen!*

### LUSNILE DONAT

My name is Lusnile Donat. I am a young woman, thirty yrs. old. I lived in a tiny village called Derak in the north of Haiti near Lake Obe. To go from Derak to Cap-Haitien takes three hours in a truck. I lived there with my God Mother since I was a little girl. It was hard for my mom and dad because they couldn't give me food, clothes, school or other things. That is why they had to give me away to my God Mother. She was a seamstress and so she could take better care of me because she had a job.

Because she was a seamstress, she taught me so I could be a seamstress too. She thought this would make a way for me to earn a little money so I could get along in life. When I got older I learned how to make a little commerce by purchasing things in the city of Port au Prince and Cap-Haitien and re-selling them. This is how I stayed alive until 2003.

In 2003 I got pregnant and started to have health problems with my heart. I have not been able to do much to earn money since that time. In 2005 I decided I needed to begin again with God's grace. I have had to borrow money from my husband and some friends to get by and they want me to pay them back.

In 2005 God made a way for me to join a group of women to learn how to teach literacy for a job. He is so

good to me. All I am learning from the CLE (concentrated language encounter), Reflection Circles and Open Space training is giving me a lot of practical help. It is a method that will help me with any job or relationship I have. Since I have finished the training and have a job paying me to teach, my life has turned around and I am blessed every day.

Today, I am happy to speak with you and give many compliments to all those who made this program possible, think about us, give money for it and all the other things you are doing. It has permitted me to join in the strong chain of persons involved in Reflection Circles and the literacy program. I take my hat off to you and say "thank-you!"

Now I have a big objective to help people to read and write in the village I lived in when I was a little girl. Now I want to reinforce the capacity of young boys and girls in my area to participate in a democratic fashion so they can aid in the development of our country, Haiti.

I believe these training methods are critical to building equality for everyone. It has already helped in my family. What I am learning, teaching and practicing with my husband and children makes us a great example in our village. I can say for sure, what helped me in my family life was this Reflection Circle group. Here I learned how to speak and not be shy. I learned how to live with others better by discussing things. I did not know how to have these habits before this group. Now, in my life I have more collaboration in my family. I can talk better with my husband. I can open up more dialogue and testify how this group has helped me. My husband can now talk with me as his partner and all the intelligent dialogue in our hearts can come out and join together.

I am a person truly happy to be able to give you this message. I ask God to give me much strength and determination to help me be able to take the training I have received and give it to many, many Haitians. Now I have a job and I also have respect.



---

## NATACHA SUGRIN

My name is Natacha Sugrin. I have been responsible for a young children's school for several years now. I have so much more ability to teach them now since I participated in the CLE, Reflection Circle and Open Space training. I can use what I have learned in my new job teaching literacy to adults as well as incorporating the new methodology with the children I teach in the daytime. These methods are like three tools that help guide my work. It helps me to communicate both with adults and children.

I am happy to make this little conversation with you because I am always thinking about these new methods you gave me. They have changed my life and because I will share them with everyone I can, they will change many Haitian lives to. I hold them carefully in my heart. Thank you for giving me the chance to join the Reflection Circle group. It has shown me that our words are like seeds. Seeds for change.

I think of the training like an acronym for the word **L'Art**. For me these four letters make a word expressing how all persons can enjoy the privileges of life.

*L = Light (limyè)* Light which can make your night as clear as your morning. It is a light that can shine in the eyes of every person equally.

*A = Love (amou)* Love which can permit us great respect one to another.

*R = Respect (respè)* Respect which can demonstrate what is best so you don't need to be frustrated with anything.

*T = Tolerance (tolerans)* Tolerance shows that if a person does something bad to you – the first time it is good to talk about it and let them know what they did was not good. If they do it a second time, talk with them a little more and maybe bring some friends. If they do it a third time, then it is okay to seek justice and perhaps take further action.

I now live believing in Light, Love, Respect and Tolerance and without these you cannot live well. The methods of training I received enhance my work and my family life. I want to say how much these methods have served me to help me in my family. For example: My husband now knows that if he has a problem with me he must speak with me first and allow me to give a response. We agree to make sure each other finishes speaking and after we have listened respectfully, then we give a response. Before we did not do this and it caused a lot of division. In Haiti it is assumed that women should not exercise their voice even at home. Now we listen to each other and give a response with love, respect and tolerance. It has created a dynamic that makes us want to live all of our days with this kind of equality.

How can one little person like myself, Natacha Sugrin, know how to properly let you know how these tools will change and rebuild our country one little person at a time. My thank you comes with Light, Love, Respect and Tolerance.

---

**CONCENTRATED LANGUAGE ENCOUNTER (CLE):** The literacy initiative called ROTALPHA was founded in 1998 by a Rotary Club in Haiti. Haiti's population has been surveyed by international organizations to find that approximately 80% of Haiti's people are considered functionally illiterate. From its conception, ROTALPHA brings together talented, skilled and committed people from diverse backgrounds to further literacy in the country of Haiti. The CLE method was developed by Rotarian, Richard Walker as an approach particularly relevant for both traditional schools and literacy programs where books and reading material are often scarce. CLE is participant-driven. Children or adults learn to read and write as a result of discussions and lessons directly connected to their environment. Using CLE, a person who has little to no base knowledge in reading and writing can become literate in their mother tongue in six to nine months. The teachers must have high school education and the training takes place over the course of two weekends and teaching materials are provided upon completion.

**REFLECTION CIRCLES AND OPEN SPACE:** This training enhances the CLE training and continues for approximately nine months to give the students time to hone their skills and bring this to their classrooms. For more information, please visit [www.beyondborders.net](http://www.beyondborders.net) to read about the Touchstones Project that developed these methods. Since 1997, the Touchstones Discussion Project has been working with non-profit organizations (like P.W.P.) in Haiti developing two projects: one for adult literacy and one for the education of impoverished children. The projects aim to assist in the development of reading skills and to offer the students of Haiti a chance to experience a learning situation that develops their strengths, minimizes their weaknesses, and embraces their individual thoughts and opinions. The opportunity to sit in a circle and have everyone's ideas and insights heard and respected is as foreign to Haitian adults as the idea of slavery is to us.

The empowerment that comes from this kind of thinking and discussing is needed by many of us. For citizens of a country like Haiti, this necessity is even stronger, especially in regards to educational reform. In many ways, these courses serve not only as supplements to their education but also as a means of freeing the students from their education bonds of rigid lessons, rote memorization and authoritarian teaching practices. These methods are, in many respects, the antithesis of what is worst in the Haitian educational tradition. In most Haitian schools, students are required, under threat of beatings and humiliation, to memorize long, irrelevant texts in a language (French) they do not understand.

By contrast, the use of Reflection Circles and Open Space sessions cultivates in students many of the skills and habits most needed for the exercise of democracy. Skills that will serve them not only in their struggle for survival, but in their effort to both imagine and build a better society. Participants in this training push one another to become better readers and better listeners. They learn to work together to articulate their own questions and ideas. This methodology is looked at like a quiet revolution preparing teachers and students to open the way for wider reform and improvements in teaching all over Haiti.

# URGENT NEEDS!

Haitian educator, Pierre Richard Pierre says “if you eradicate the illiteracy, you will end the misery”. Right now P.W.P. is using up our general funds to pay our ten literacy teachers each month. These centers of hope simply must continue. We pray and by faith have met the payroll each month. We also pray and believe for folks to sponsor these dedicated teachers and ease P.W.P.’s burden each month as well. We really need your help. Each center requires \$100 per month to cover all costs including the teacher’s salary. We are asking our partners to prayerfully consider sponsoring a center. If \$100 per month is too large an amount for you as an individual, perhaps you could get the other members of your family to join you, or your church group, or book club, or civic group or any number of combinations of compassionate friends who truly want to contribute to this immeasurably worthy cause. If you feel God leading you in this direction, please see the sponsorship form for details. May God bless you in advance for your commitment.

## Let There Be Light

The teachers have asked if we could supply them with special gas lamps for their classes. As most adults have to spend their days trying to barter etc. to get food, the classes take place in the evening. There is no reliable electricity in the City of Cap-Haitien and it usually is completely dark by 6:00 pm. Right now they are using candles. These lamps are \$140.00. If you would like to purchase a lamp for a literacy class, please send your tax-deductible donation to P.W.P. with a note stating what it is for and, “thank-you” in advance.



**SPONSOR A LITERACY CENTER**

\$100.00 PER MONTH \_\_\_\_\_  
(one center)

\$200.00 PER MONTH \_\_\_\_\_  
(two centers)

\$300.00 PER MONTH \_\_\_\_\_  
(three centers)

\$400.00 PER MONTH \_\_\_\_\_  
(four centers)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ PER MONTH FOR CENTERS \_\_\_\_\_

**Partnership Agreement**  
I agree to sponsor Literacy Center/Centers for a period of 12 months with 12 post dated cheques or one cheque for the total, appropriate amount for a 12 month period relative to the number of Literacy Center/Centers I am sponsoring.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**12 POST DATED CHEQUES ENCLOSED**  
(P.W.P. can hold your post dated cheques for one year on file)

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, amount per cheque is \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**ONE CHEQUE FOR A TWELVE MONTH PERIOD**

Total amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ For Centers \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE PRINT:**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ POSTAL CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

REGISTERED CHARITY #: 86917 2866 RR0001  
INCOME TAX RECEIPTS ARE ISSUED AT YEARS END.

**Partners With Purpose,  
P.O. Box 121,  
Fergus, Ontario, Canada. N1M 2W7**

**Tel: (519) 843-3444  
Visit us at: [www.partnerswithpurpose.com](http://www.partnerswithpurpose.com)  
Email: [info@partnerswithpurpose.com](mailto:info@partnerswithpurpose.com)**