



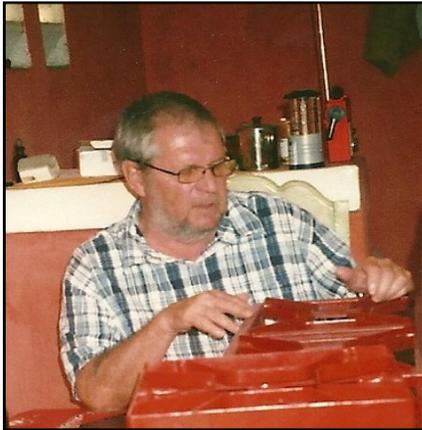
KAMI

FOUNDATION FOR HAITI

FEBRUARY 2011

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 1

December 2010 Mission Trip to Terrier-Rouge



Michel Jobin inspects KAMI stoves.

This last trip to Terrier-Rouge , Haiti was certainly the most difficult one that I have lived in many years. Not because of the threat of Cholera, which remains very present in the country, not because of the disturbance caused by elections. In the past 23 years, I have survived three elections, two "Coups d'état", over ten "Defacto" governments and one "Embargo" etc. My biggest problem during this trip was my health. I am recovering from a stroke which I suffered in September 2010, along

with several bumps and bruises caused by two falls to the cement floors. My pride is also hurt, but I will recover.

In spite of this, there were many successes resulting from this trip, which makes me happy. Some of the goals I was aiming to achieve were as follows:

- 1) To open the "Lakay KAMI (Home of KAMI) to visitors of our program "Awareness Trip to Haiti". This went very well, thanks to the presence of Idalina and Kathleen.
- 2) Thanks to the ladies, we were able to transport 45 burner sets which will allow KAMI to continue installing stoves in the area.
- 3) To negotiate terms of reference with local vegetable grower cooperatives on planting **Jatropha** trees. Several meetings were held with leaders; they in turn consulted with their members.

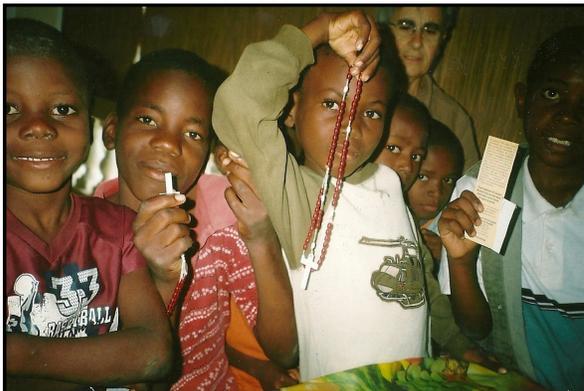
After my return to Canada, I was informed that two cooperatives are ready to contract with KAMI, based on the terms already presented to S.H.A.R.E Agriculture Foundation last September.

4) I have found that we have three candidates wishing to compete for the Ag. Tech position for KAMI. This will take place during my next trip.

5) Finally, we have found a local welder who is able to manufacture kerosene tanks at a reasonable cost. This can represent a saving of 50% in weight and 80% in volume of future shipments from the Philippines to Haiti. It has been a good trip, after all.

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Young Boys Pray For a Broken Haiti

A group of boys during their daily visits to "Lakay KAMI (Home of KAMI) to pray for their country.

Boys Visiting and Praying for Haiti

Newsletter Editor:
Mike Labelle

The Gravity Fed Kerosene Stove and it's Precision F-2 Burner



Mr. Enrique Laguinia Inventor.

PRECISION F-2 BURNER



The Precision F-2 Burner Used on All KAMI Stoves in Haiti

The Story of Goodfire

Pump type kerosene stoves have been around since the beginning of the 20th century. Kerosene lamps have been a constant fixture, it was inevitable that stoves run by kerosene would become the next most common household item.

Enrique Laguinia has always been a 'tinkerer'. Working after hours at the back of his father's restaurant, he had many, many inventions in the works. His mother had a store about 40 kms. from the city; there, the women did the cooking with the pump type kerosene stove. He thought, 'there must be an easier way to cook!'

He remembered the dextrose bottles he used while working with the hospital company during World War II.

He also remembered how gravity made the dextrose flow. "Why not apply this to the kerosene stove?" He thought. For 10 years he worked to find a way to make it work.

By 1955 he had his working model, the GF-2 which was promptly sold to one of the restaurant's customers.

He continued to refine his invention, and in the early 1960's he got the chance to move to the big city, Manila. There he opened a shop in middle of Chinatown beside the fire station and employed one person. He began building and selling his kerosene stoves. With perseverance, a lot of sweat and luck, he was able to open a factory in the city by the mid 1960's.

One day he got to thinking that the burners were getting expensive and he should build an alternative.

Again, after many years of trying and testing, the company introduced the F-2 Burner. This burner was cost effective replacement to the four legged burner known as the Standard #2 burner. The new burner was simpler with only two legs, had fewer welded parts and was easier to clean. This translated in better value for the buyer. Goodfire Stoves Corporation has been making kerosene stoves and burners since 1955. We continue to refine and test our products to give our customers the best and safest products that we can. *By Elma Laguinia.*

GOODFIRE STOVES INC.

Philippines

Collaboration between LIGHT FOR ALL, South West of Haiti and KAMI Foundation for Haiti, Terrier-Rouge

In January "LaKay KAMI" hosted two visitors from Jeremie (South-West of Haiti). They are members of "LIGHT FOR ALL", an NGO based in Florida. They read about KAMI and it's stove on our website.

With great enthusiasm, they came to Terrier-Rouge to learn how to manufacture the kerosene stoves which will function on biodiesel extracted from **Jatropha**. Chavanne and Dieu-Seul were well hosted by Jocelyn, KAMI's agent and Nazou.

During their two day stay, they were briefed on KAMI's method of functioning. They spent some time with our manufacturers to exchange information and they visited several families who use our stoves.

LIGHT FOR ALL has two plantations with a total of 30,000 trees and are disposed to help with our plantation in the near future.



Jocelyn (KAMI), Frankie (Manufacturer), Chavanne and Dieu Seul (LIGHT FOR ALL), and Johnson (Manufacturer)

Awareness Trip to Terrier-Rouge, Haiti

Observations Of Our First Two Visitors in November, 2010

Here are some of my notes and reflections concerning my experience on the path of this Awareness Trip.

Blessed by the positive unfolding of events, we could leave on November 23rd, 2010, after some uncertainties regarding Michel's health condition and his readiness to travel.

I was fortunate to share the company of our "KAMI couple": Kathleen and Michel Jobin, both familiar with the places and culture that we were entering. THANKS Michel and Kathleen for being there; for your companionship, our sharing together along the road, and in LaKay Kami. I send an extended THANKS to Jocelyn Latour (Kami's Local Agent in Terrier-Rouge) who kindly came to meet us at the border, facilitating our entry and our stay in Haiti.

Entering Haiti from the Dominican Republic, we cleared customs with relative ease. We crossed the so called "Massacre River" which separates the two countries, by winding along their borders. I was informed that the river gets its name, stemming from a historical event. Dominican Dictator Trojillo ordered the killing of 30,000 Haitians along this river; their bodies littered the currents of the river. I thought to myself, this place seems to have kept traces of a suffocated atmosphere, still today.

I watched people going back and forth, restless and scared, pushing each other, shouting to one another, looking for some kind of rescue as if in despair; the fight being who would carry the load and be paid for their services. Haitians compete for the traveller's attention, hoping to make some money.

Once on the other side of the river, the hour long drive to Terrier-Rouge was smooth and scenic. I took in the beautiful sights of hills and landscapes. From the back of our truck, this trip was breathtaking and simply gorgeous. We were in the rainy season, patches of green grass cropped up here and there, over mostly arid acres. Only small shrubs were visible in some areas, a few 'very' poor villages lined the tarred road side. Also, some banana plants could be seen accenting some small run down houses as we travelled.

Arriving at our final destination, we unloaded our luggage, rested and ate, got acquainted with the house and surroundings and I slowly began to relationship with the local



Idalina Ferreira

residents; we started with the four Haitians who formed our entourage. Mr. Louis: our night guardian and water carrier, Nazou: a joyous young lady, responsible for our evening meals, Benson: a young boy who ran errands, attended school and lived with us, and finally, Jocelyn Latour: who every morning, came to meet with us and share our lives. He also lead the program of the day. We were a family despite the language barriers, Michel was our interpreter. One day we visited a few aged and sick people, with special needs and who are confined to their little huts. Talk about hope, one very elderly gentleman, had just adopted a 4 year old boy for companionship. He told us that even with all his limitations, he decided to raise this poor child. He took great care and compassion with the boy. When we approached the little boy, he preciously gripped the old man's hand, happy that he was feeling secure in his company. Love and kindness within misery for sure!

The elderly people were all ill and in lonely solitude; they are people who have no one to care for them. Jocelyn and Sister Reine, a Canadian Sister from New Brunswick, are trying to organise assistance for them. They distribute food to them when it is available. They visit once a week, get the elderly people together to socialize by speaking with them, sharing a meal and simply harmonizing to uplift the human condition. I wished that I had learned to speak Creole, the native language. I could have listened and shared their stories of sorrows and joy. I truly know that the Saviour was born for such people amidst their pains and suffering.

Looking at faces on the streets, at the market place, by the fountain area, or simply doing chores around their houses, I witnessed most commonly SMILES, tainted by sadness. I attempted to read their expressions. Often, the conversations were centered on concerns about the Cholera epidemic, which is never far away. The most common question, "Will the outbreak spread this far north?"

Continued on next page.

Continued: Idalina Ferreira

Thankfully, the population is getting specific instructions and demonstrations on how to prevent contamination, something positive to put the people at ease.

I also encountered people of faith and faithful people. Each day, I attended church prayer service at 6:00 am, and each morning a different group would lead the half hour prayer of fervent supplications for the end of Cholera and for the increase in well being of all.

As elsewhere in the country, there is much scarcity in Terrier-Rouge; it is a rural area. Members of the Agricultural Cooperative told us that all of their small crops had been destroyed by devastating rain and winds of hurricane Thomas. They were left at point zero, with nothing. People were discouraged; they find themselves looking for some other ways to survive. I do believe that this fact contributed to why we did not see or speak with more members of the Co-op or KAMI stove users. They are very difficult times, even more than usual.

The NEED for more stove is immense. People HOPE for significant changes, including KAMI and all friends of Haiti.

It was the final week of the election campaign, sleep was shortened by the noisy political rallies held throughout the town and often right out front of the KAMI headquarters. Elections? Yes! Eight million people wait on the government to do something; to reverse the situation and give back hope. Will the next government move the "heavy stone" away?

The words of Carolyn McDade come to my mind and would much translate my feelings:

"My heart was moved by all I cannot save,
So much has been destroyed.

I have to cast my lot with those who age
after age, persevere,

With no extraordinary power,
To reconstitute the world." (C.D.)

I'm aware that there IS in sight, definitely the grounding resources-humane resources, richness abundance of God's gifts. If ONLY we believe it.

Among the blessings I saw those numerous children on the streets. They come as if to put balance on the scene. Children live in the present moment, so they play everywhere, have fun with almost anything they find. On two evenings, we had the group of children. They came to pray with us. They chant, laugh, and run all over the place. The streets in particular are all theirs. Beautiful ALIVENESS! They are the unfolding tomorrow.

Families value education and are very proud of their children. They are sent to school so well dressed and neat. Miracles!

Every Sunday morning at 8:30 am mass, the church is full of happy children, singing from the depths of their hearts and souls. POWERFUL vibrations. GOD WITH US! Light and Joy.

I have returned from this sacred experience and I am still meditating on the voyage. I am thankful for the role of the Churches and the Non-Governed Organizations.

It was a beautiful experience, in spite of the hardships all around me. Re-entries are challenging, questions arise in my heart, first about me:

What changes in my life am I invited to make, so to more adequately collaborate toward a more just world? Is my solidarity a path for Transformation?

Am I doing something concrete and meaningful to help increase fraternity and equality in our country and in theirs? Just sharing!

To all my friends and family, I thank you all and God Bless.

Idalina.



Two young boys sharing a chair and plate of food at LaKay KAMI

Kathleen's Word

On September 16th 2010, the same day that Michel suffered his stroke, he had received information from Jocelyn Latour that the 14 year old son of Mr. Morilon Louis, our night watchman in Terrier-Rouge, had fallen from a mango tree and broken both arms.

Wadlyn had been taken to the hospital in Cap Haitian, but in Haiti any treatment has to be paid in advance of treatment; the family did not have the money.

I was able to send enough money so that Wadlyn Louis could receive pain medication and basic care. Mr. Louis stayed at his son's bedside to bring food to him and to look after his daily needs.

When Rick Rolfe, Chancellor for Council 8851, Knights of Columbus,

Orangeville heard about the need, he asked Coun

Children With A Smile

Local boys and girls, visiting LaKay KAMI. They take great pride in displaying the culture of Haiti.

It is very pleasing to see children get so much out of so little.

God has blessed them.



Kathleen Jobin, Wadlyn and his father Morilon Louis

cil to pass a motion to donate the \$700 required for surgery.

It took nearly two months, because the surgeon fell ill, but finally Wadlyn received the needed surgery to repair his arm.

During the week that I spent in Haiti near the end of November 2010, Jocelyn Latour took Idalina, our visitor from Winnipeg and me to visit Mr. Louis' family; later Mr. Louis brought his

son to visit us at KAMI's headquarters. Michel took a picture to mark the event.

It is humbling and very moving to see the patience and dignity of people who have so little and suffered so much. With tears in his eyes, Mr. Louis expressed his gratitude on behalf of his son and his family. Thanks to the generosity of the Knights of Columbus, Wadlyn Louis will not have to go through life with his arm deformed or even amputated.

Neighbour Marie Belle, who lives next door, kindly supplies the residents and visitors to LaKay KAMI with fresh eggs and vegetables on a weekly basis.



Marie Belle, Neighbour

Some Fine Residents Of Terrier-Rouge, Who Have Become Cherished Friends.



Housekeeper and Fine Cook Nazou

GOOD NEWS For Supporters of KAMI



Completed KAMI Stove

Receipts for Donors

KAMI can now issue receipts for personal income tax purposes, thanks to our partnership with S.H.A.R.E Agricultural Foundation.

The cheque, for \$100 or more must be made payable to:

S.H.A.R.E Agricultural Foundation with **KAMI Foundation** in the memo box.

mail all cheques to:

KAMI FOUNDATION for Haiti

834474 4TH LINE

TOWN OF MONO

R.R.1 ORANGEVILLE, ONTARIO CANADA L9W 2Y8

Awareness Trips to LaKay Kami in Terrier-Rouge, Haiti

We invite friends of KAMI Foundation for Haiti to consider planning a trip to Haiti. We assure you that it will be informative and educational.

The village of Terrier-Rouge is situated about 40kms. from the northern border, between Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Although a considerable distance from the Capital, Port-Au-Prince, Terrier-Rouge is easily accessible from Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic.

Assorted types of visits can be arranged; for the inquisitive visitor, we will arrange for you to see the KAMI stoves in households, where they are used.

You will also visit the manufacturing facilities, including schools and cooperative. For those with gifts in music, arts, sports, we can arrange for you to lead workshops with local groups.

Please contact Michel and Kathleen Jobin for more details at: kami-haiti@hotmail.ca

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Ann Lay's Second Annual Coffee Morning

On February 26, 2011, at 10 am, Ann Lay will host a Morning Coffee Event at her home in the Village of Melville (Caledon) in order to update friends, supporters and anyone who would like to know more, about the work of the KAMI Foundation for Haiti, and especially to provide an update on Michel's most recent trip to Terrier-Rouge, Haiti.



Ann Lay and Rosie

If you are interested, please confirm your attendance by calling Ann at 519-940-3659. Also, please bring a friend (or two) !



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