



## Spring Trip to Haiti

During this past April and May, I spent my time in Haiti. This trip is the fourth since the creation of KAMI Foundation for Haiti. Our activities there are proceeding in a great fashion, despite the degrading economy and our very limited budget.

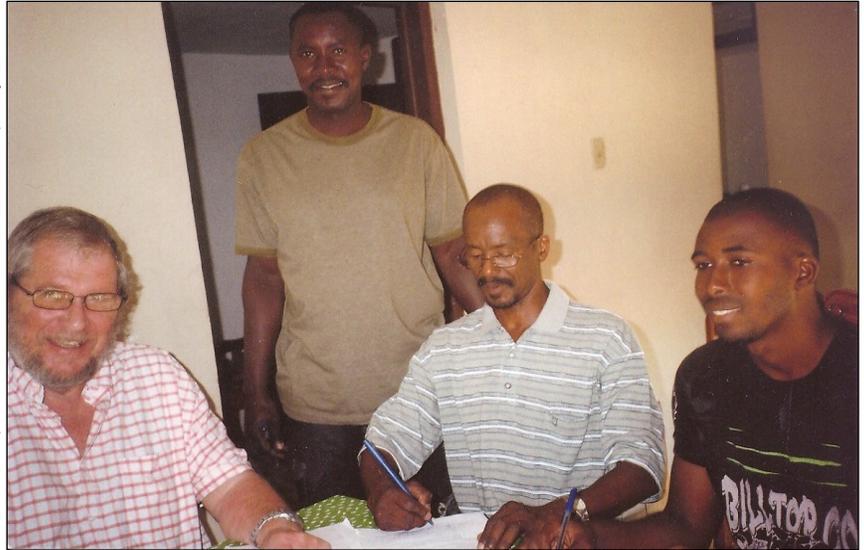
While I was in Terrier-Rouge, a new president of the Republic was elected with 67% of the popular vote. Michel Martelly, a popular singer was the choice, especially among the younger generation. His program and mandate also appeals

to all Haitians. He has already begun some positive moves on the reconstruction of devastated cities caused by the January 2010 earthquake. The environment and food production are among his highest priorities. He Also wants to get the young people off the streets.

*“The streets are not made for you, they are made for cars”,* he said recently when addressing a group of street kids. *“That is why I will make school attendance not only gratis, for all, but compulsory.”* He has committed himself to enforce the rights of all children in Haiti.

Also, there are positive signs that the First Lady of the Republic, Sophia Martelly mother of four children, is playing an active role in this government. She is already representing the President at international public functions. To me, this is encouraging news. I hope sincerely that it will contribute to more stability to this beautiful little country.

## Jatropha Plantation Project



**Signing Plantation Contract with The “Pat-de-chien” Cooperative**

This project was generously financed by S.H.A.R.E. Agriculture Foundation for the present year. During the process of selecting the best candidate for the agriculture technician contract, eight interviews were held.

The eight month temporary job was offered to Mr. Louis Pierre, who graduated from St. Barnabas Agriculture College 10 years ago.

Mr. Pierre is presently working under the supervision of our local agent, Jocelyn Latour. His duties mainly consist of providing formation to all planters involved in our project.

He is performing weekly inspections of 2000 Jatropha seedlings, and recommends payment to planters following his final inspections. He is also doing the same during the phase of bare-root trees after they are planted.

The 2000 superior seeds were imported from Mexico. Larger than local seeds, their germination is supposed to be 80% successful and their yield in oil is higher at 32% instead of 20%. The seeds were purchased from (Light for All), a valuable collaborator of KAMI. (“Light for All is an NGO based in Florida U.S.A. and operating near Jeremie in the south west of Haiti.)

The young trees should produce sufficient nuts to be pressed into oil within three years. By that time, hopefully KAMI should have acquired the funds to purchase an oil extruder, and set up a milling facility to process the Jatropha oil which will be used to operate the KAMI stoves and fuel the oil lamps. The mill, when set up, should be under the direction of KAMI’s staff within KAMI’s rented facility in the village of Terrier-Rouge Haiti.

## Kerosene/Biodiesel Stove Project



**M. Pierre Ag Tech and Boss Ti pa manufacturer of the stove fuel tanks.**

When I left Canada, there was one question about which I was uncertain. The stove operates well with kerosene but would it be as effective using Jatropha oil? Since Jatropha oil is of different viscosity, will we need to mix the fuels, or will we need to further process the Jatropha oil? These were questions to which I had no answers.

Our friends from “Light For All” had sent me two different modified burners developed by our Filipino suppliers. While in Haiti, our staff did a series of tests using these burners with Jatropha oil. We found that with one of the modified burners, the flame was not quite right and difficult to adjust. We discovered that by just raising the fuel tank by 4 inches to increase pressure, the second one performed at 100% capability. This is indeed great news. It means that when we produce Jatropha oil, we will be able to use this fuel as is with no further processing or mixing will be required. Present users will just have to trade the existing nozzle within the burner for a no.76 and elevate the oil tank.

Another achievement is that we found a local manufacturer, named Boss Ti pa who is now making the fuel tanks for KAMI. 50 satisfactory tanks were delivered in May and an order for 100 more tanks was placed while I was there.

At present, over 150 homes in Terrier-Rouge are using KAMI stoves every day with great satisfaction. No fires or accidents have taken place in the homes of users and there has been no need for repair or to replace parts in any of the stoves in use.

## IMPROVEMENT TO KAMI'S OFFICE BUILDING

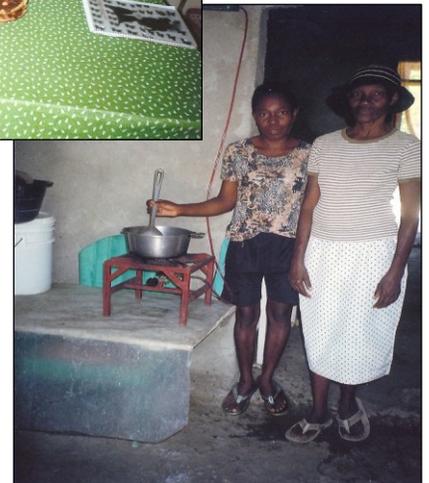
A badly needed new interior toilet was installed in one of our guest bedrooms on the second floor of the building. This will certainly better accommodate our female visitors. Other repairs were done on the eavestrough which will facilitate the flow of rain water into our two water reservoirs.

The large almond tree in the middle of our backyard was drastically pruned to allow more sunlight to help dry clothing on the outside clothes lines.



**Nazou and Benson showing homemade Pizza (above)**

**Mrs. Marlene Joseph and her daughter, happy owners of a KAMI stove.**



## IN CONCLUSION:

As you may know, Haiti is not an easy place to work in, and whatever we may want to accomplish takes quite a bit of time and patience; we do feel happy about our realisations. It is also important to mention the sincere devotion of our staff, both our part time employees and our permanent staff. Our people play a major role in taking care of my well-being, and collaborating in the goals of KAMI for Haiti.

In particular Jocelyn Latour, our local agent, who assists me 7 days a week in arranging meetings, letting me use his cell phone, and who gives me precious advice on how to meet the many challenges we face there. When back in Canada, Jocelyn reports weekly on our programs and developments in Haiti.

## *Awareness Trip To LaKay KAMI in Terrier Rouge, Haiti*



Theresa and Manfred with House Staff

### **New Visitors to Lakay KAMI in Haiti**

*“We are no strangers to the plight of the Haitian people. We have been money for families in Haiti for seven years now, we have visited schools in Cap Haitien. The deforestation that we have seen as we looked down on Haiti from the air had been a shock to us. At our jazz fundraiser in December of 2010, we heard of KAMI. Kathleen and Michel Jobin were addressing this problem by offering Haitians an alternative, environmentally responsible way of cooking their one meal per day. We were eager to learn more about this initiative and asked Michel if we could join him on his upcoming trip to Terrier-Rouge.*

*At the well stocked KAMI office, we met Jocelyn who manages the assembly of the stoves, sales and distribution, along with assisting with installation of the stoves. He is also responsible for ordering cans for kerosene which fuels them from a local manufacturer.*

*Michel had many meetings with members of the farming cooperative to assure the planting and nurturing of Jatropha, which will supply an environmentally friendly oil to replace kerosene. The plants will also protect crops from animals. Arranging meetings is by no means an easy task where there are only dirt roads, no mail service, and only broken down trucks, bicycles and donkeys for transportation. However, Michel manages to overcome these obstacles to communication.*

*The fact that much of the running of KAMI is in Haitian hands, is encouraging. Training a Haitian person to do the job takes patience as well as knowledge of the Creole language and appreciation of the culture.*

*Many aid organizations appear to be solely conduits for money to flow for projects in which Haitians have little part to play. Michel and Kathleen have great respect and love for the country and its people.*

*We met musicians who played instruments which we would regard unplayable. We met a neighbor who supplied us with weekly vegetables. We fondly remember Nazou who cooked our meals and made delicious marmalade from bitter oranges. Benson the young boy who fetched our daily water from the public pump, also organized soccer games for the neighborhood kids on the street outside our door.*

*We thank Kathleen and Michel for inviting us to observe the grassroots movement to provide clean and sustainable energy for one little impoverished community”.*

Theresa and Manfred Koch, Toronto.



Mr.. Gue, troubadour of Terrier-Rouge



## Jatropha Trees, Truly diamonds in the rough

### What is Jatropha?

Jatropha (*Jatropha Curcas*) is a small tropical tree, about the size of a citrus tree, which is native to Haiti and produces non-edible seed oil. While largely unnoticed in Haiti today, its seeds are a high yield source of liquid bio-fuel.

### Jatropha Facts:

- Easily cultivated without irrigation or fertilization
- Grows on marginal land too dry or poor for food crops
- Adapted to a range of rainfall and elevations
- Adapted to grow in difficult places, including arid mountain slopes
- Inedible by goats and grazing animals
- Pests and disease resistant
- Best planted in field as 3 month old seedlings
- Reaches full seed production within 3 years
- Produces for 40 to 50 years
- Easily harvested by hand labour
- 2,500 trees per hectare when planted like a citrus grove
- Oil yield of more than 1,500 kilos per hectare, which is 4 times more than soybeans
- Jatropha plantations can represent carbon credits
- Jatropha can be re-vegetated and stabilize denuded hillsides

Jatropha oil squeezed from the seeds can be used directly in KAMI stoves, lamps and simple diesel engines. It can also be used to make soap, and the “seed cake” remaining after pressing the seeds can be used as a high nitrogen fertilizer. Jatropha oil can provide very good value-added returns to local farmers and small businesses.

## KAMI needs wheels



*“Can You Help?  
We are in very much need of a mode of transportation, this motorcycle is the best solution.”*

As you may see in this issue, KAMI’s involvement in Haiti is growing. We have passed the stages of designing, developing and experimentation of a kerosene stove suited for the needs of the Haitian people. It is now made available at a reasonable cost to villagers. We are entering a new phase where we hope to soon replace kerosene with a bio-diesel extracted from *Jatropha*. See article **“What is *Jatropha*?”** in this issue.

Our Agricultural Technician’s main duty at present is to visit our three emplacements where *Jatropha* is growing as part of a contract with KAMI, in order to inspect the quality and health of the plants. These farms are quite a distance from town, too far to do the trek on foot: 6 kilometres, 7 kilometres and 2 kilometres all in different directions. At present we have to rent a motorcycle for a half day each week at a cost of \$50 each time. Because of this added expense, we will soon run into difficulty. Jocelyn Latour, the National Agent who is responsible for the promotion, marketing, advising and safety inspection of stoves is receiving more and more demands from surrounding towns and villages and is unable to respond due to the distances involved.

We urgently need a means of transportation and we call upon anyone to help us in gathering the necessary funding to purchase a motorcycle, which is vital to fulfill our commitment to the Haitian community in our sector. Used motorcycles available aren't feasible, since they are in serious need of repair. Our best option is to purchase a new **Honda 125 cc** from the Dominican Republic. This is our best option due to its durability on dirt roads and easy availability of parts. The cost of the purchase would be approximately \$6000 U.S.D.



### **Kathleen and Michel Jobin**

Founders of KAMI for Haiti

This picture was taken at May Maskow's home on March 30, 2011. during her well attended "Coffee Morning" KAMI Fundraiser.

## **Receipts for Donors**

Although KAMI cannot issue Charitable Receipts for Income Tax purpose, S.H.A.R.E. Agriculture Foundation has kindly agreed to do so for amount of \$100. Or more, when cheques are made payable to:

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

Please mail all donations to:  
KAMI for Haiti

834474 4th Line

Town of Mono

R.R.1 Orangeville, Ontario L9W 2Y8

## **Awareness Trips to LaKay KAMI in Terrier-Rouge, Haiti.**

We continue to extend an invitation to all of our friends and supporters 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 40 kilometres from the northern border between Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Although a considerable distance from the Capital of 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 households, where they are being 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.