

Distributed By:  
First United Methodist Church  
of Germantown  
6023 Germantown Ave.  
Philadelphia, PA 19144-2192  
David Fonda, Editor

First  
Class  
Postage



# NOUVEL FONDWA

ASSOCIATION  
PAYSAN  
FONDWA

BOX 13062 • DELMAS, HAITI • (FAX) 509-23-8972

Number 13 • January - September 1998

## Our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!



*Dear Friends,*

*This past April marked APF's 10th anniversary*

*-- a milestone to be proud of. The growth of a peasants' association in Haiti over a ten-year period is the product of work, energy, creativity and support from many, many people both here in Haiti and on the part of our friends overseas. It is a living, tangible product of our hope and faith. We thank you all for choosing to be a part of our journey over these past years and for joining us in solidarity as we continue our work for justice among the peasants of Haiti.*

*We are taking this anniversary year to review our accomplishments to date, to reevaluate our resources and to examine our direction as we enter our second decade. This reflection has resulted in an important change in our approach to APF projects. As you know, during our first ten years we focused on infrastructure: road, water, credit union, clinic, school, etc. These efforts have been far from sustainable, as the peasants are unable to pay for services received (services which in most countries are government funded).*

*Therefore we are now shifting our focus to put our resources into establishing a sustainable economy in the region. In this way many of the infrastructures eventually can be supported by the local economy, and can continue to grow and be maintained. To this end we are working on plans to start a number of small businesses: poultry houses, a cooperative pig venture and meat processing plant, a bakery and*

*restaurant, a chair-making center, and an ecotourism program. In all of these we will be building on what we have learned through our prior projects and our ten years of experience in organizing with the peasants. You will be able to read about our plans for these businesses elsewhere in this issue (see the article on Sustainable Economic Development).*

*At the same time, we have launched a major effort to find funding to continue with the infrastructure projects until such time as Fondwa is truly economically independent. See the Consolidation Project article for more details on this grant proposal.*

*While we are working on these projects, we still don't see how we can pay our team over the next six months. We need about \$3,000 per month to meet the salaries of our professional staff working in Fondwa and Port au Prince. Since the secretariat does not directly bring in income, it is very difficult for us to maintain this budget. We thank our staff who during this time of financial crisis are willing to work part-time.*

*As you know, we rely on people such as yourselves who generously choose to share what you have with those who have less. We congratulate our ongoing supporters who have continued to be steadfast in helping APF to continue its work over the past ten years. We ask our God of the Poor to bless you always.*

*-- Fr. Joseph Philippe*



# Fondwa Hosts International Visitors

So far 1998 has been a year rich in visitors. In January a medical team from Duke University returned for their second annual visit, seeing over 170 patients in two days. In addition, they brought medical supplies and information for our nurses and ran a pediatric clinic for the kids at Fatima House... then gave emergency aid to Guy Paraison, our administrator, when he was carried in from a motorcycle accident! (Guy is fine)

In February we were very pleased to welcome the Fonkoze USA Board of Directors, who visited APF as an example of a member organization of Fonkoze, which is dedicated to collaborating with grassroots organizations. Also in February we received a group of students from Mont Sacre Coeur High School in Quebec. They spent over six months preparing for their visit (including Creole lessons) and were most welcome guests. They interviewed APF members and staff, planted trees, visited the school and spent a night in the homes of peasant families.

In March we welcomed an Epica delegation, and student groups from Notre Dame and Duquesne Universities. The Duquesne students have now organized three visits to Fondwa and are helping to support the orphanage and our reforestation efforts. Additionally, a group of students from the masters' program in international development at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., made Fondwa a stop on their 2-week itinerary in Haiti. The visit was mutually enriching: we found their questions and observations very valuable and they stated that their visit to Fondwa was a highlight of their trip. To quote them, "The exposure to such a remarkable example of self-created and self-sustaining development work is very encouraging. Without a doubt, Fondwa provides hope and inspiration for other villages like it around the world. As development professionals, we will certainly use it as an example in our future careers." Thanks to this evaluation, we are contacting other schools with similar programs to invite them to incorporate a visit into their curriculum. We also wish to thank the GWU students for a large donation (26 boxes) of clothing and school supplies they collected and sent to Fondwa upon their return home.

In July we were happy to host three American college students. Meagan Earls, an undergraduate student in Peace and Social Justice from Earlham College in Indiana, spent three weeks with us, during which time she planned and completed an

interview project asking the peasants what it means to them to be a member of APF. Meagan's visit overlapped with visits from two students who came to Fondwa through Tèt Ansanm, a California organization which brings university students to Haiti for extended summer work. Katie Fischer, from Berkeley, and Kinja Liautaud, from UC Santa Cruz, also worked on a project interviewing peasants about reforestation.

September saw us hosting a group of representatives from the Association of the

Peasants of Vallée (APV), a peasants' association located a few hours' drive from Fondwa. APV had already hosted APF. This linking of peasant associations is crucial for the strength of the peasant movement in Haiti. September also saw the visit of Don McClanen of the Ministry of Money, a longtime supporter of APF and of other projects in Haiti. Don brought a group of young men from Cité Soleil, and we exchanged ideas about the challenges of development work.

Finally, in September we welcomed two Cubans who are interested in supporting APF's efforts for sustainable economic development (*see page 3*).

## Consolidation Project Funding Sought

We have prepared a three-year Consolidation Project grant proposal which seeks funding for our wide range of ongoing programs: the pig project; our many water projects (irrigation reservoirs, family cisterns, family outhouses, and community showers and wash houses); our reforestation and bean seed projects; and constructing a new school building and an orphanage.

While we seek this funding for the sake of the infrastructures we hope to build, at the same time a major benefit of the funds will be the provision of jobs to people living in the region. With a policy of spreading the work among many people by hiring people to work for 3-month periods, we hope to train some 600 people to work as community educators, teaching the

peasants about the projects and enlisting their support and help. We plan to train about 300 people in skilled jobs such as carpentry and masonry, and then hire them as laborers for the building projects. We also expect the Consolidation Project would indirectly create about 1000 additional jobs in the economy of the Fondwa region, in areas such as selling and transporting materials for the building.

We have submitted the proposal to governments and international NGOs who are active in aid programs in Haiti. However, the current trend among these organizations is withdrawal of funds from Haiti. Fr. Joseph spent much of his time in Europe this summer seeking support through the EEC. We are still hopeful that this will prove fruitful.

# AP.F., Fonkoze and Cuba Join to Foster Sustainable Economic Development

This past summer Fr. Joseph and Anne Hastings attended a conference in Cuba on sustainable development. There they met a large community of Cubans and Haitian Cubans who are interested in contributing to the struggle for economic justice in Haiti. As a result, two Cuban professionals, Roberto Caballero Grande, an agronomist who works with peasants on sustainable agriculture projects, and Bruno Henriques, an expert in alternative energy, visited APF in September to learn more about the specifics of our situation and to formulate a program of Cuban/Haitian solidarity.

After numerous meetings a 3-year agreement was drawn up between APF, the Cuban government, and Fonkoze, an alternative bank for the organized poor, which is interested in investing in this APF project as a pilot project of economic development in a rural community. The thrust of the project is to set up four sustainable businesses in Fondwa to encourage the development of a decentralized local economy.

The economic problems of Haiti today are closely linked with educational and environmental needs. Thus the project will approach each business endeavor on three levels: establishing the business as a viable economic activity; establishing a training program for young people to learn the trade; and linking the business with a related environmental project.

The projects includes:

- a bakery, to be paired with a soil conservation project to renew barren land which will be used to plant crops for use in bread baking;
- a pig-raising business, to be paired with an alternative energy project which transforms pig waste into biogas for local electricity generation;
- a poultry business, paired with a project to build cisterns

& outhouses and locate untapped water sources;

- a chair-making business, to be paired with a reforestation project that will establish a renewable source of wood and palm for the chairs.

Fonkoze will assist APF in preparing business proposals for these projects and will provide loan or investment dollars, as well as help to locate grant funding.

Cuba will send a team of four professionals to work with APF for one year: an agronomist, a veterinarian, a baker/nutritionist, and an animal breeder with biogas expertise. They will also provide scholarships for people from Fondwa to be trained in Cuba in general medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, reforestation, agronomy, sociology, and management of rural sustainable development. APF will be responsible for carrying out the project.

This project marks an exciting milestone in APF's history, and should shape our future for years to come.

Fonkoze investors who wish to support this project can direct Fonkoze to use their funds to that effect.

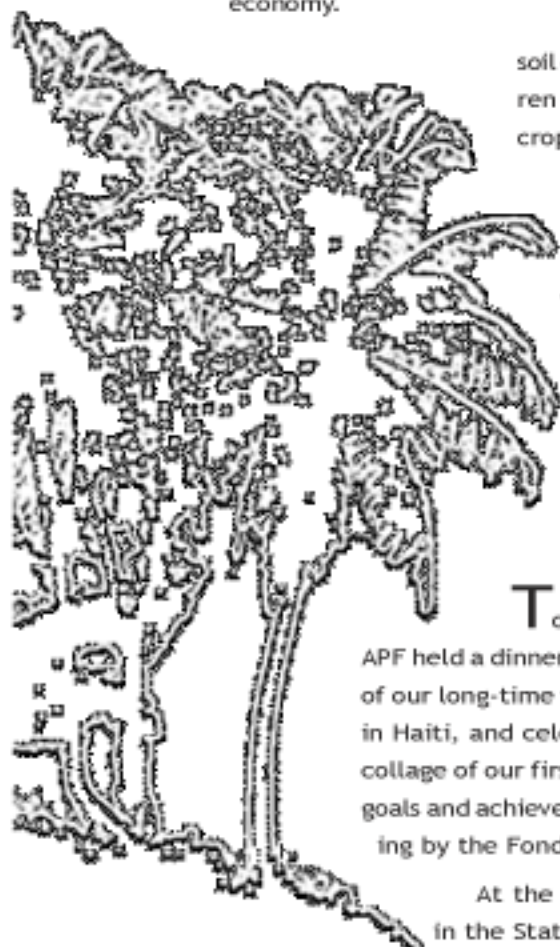


## Solidarity Dinners Mark Anniversary

To mark our tenth anniversary, APF held a dinner on May 9. We invited many of our long-time friends and supporters here in Haiti, and celebrated with food, a photo collage of our first ten years, a review of our goals and achievements, and music and dancing by the Fondwa Contradance Group.

At the same time, several groups in the States held parallel dinners, so

that, while unable to be with us in fact, they were very much with us in spirit. Special thanks to Fonkoze USA, which sponsored a dinner in Washington, DC; the Pittsburgh Haiti Solidarity Committee; and the Haiti Partners Project of the Brooklyn (NY) Ethical Culture Society. The evening ended with a conference call between Haiti, DC, Pittsburgh & California.



# Hurricane Georges Blows Through Fondwa

Yes, Fondwa was hit by Hurricane Georges. Fortunately, no lives were lost in our immediate area and the homes are still standing. Some kitchens were toppled, and a few animals were lost, but more importantly, the plantain trees were all flattened. Rice, beans and plantain are the three staples of the Fondwa diet.

While the beans and plantain are grown in Fondwa, rice must be purchased from the outside. It is estimated that it will take 18 months for the lost plantain crop to be replaced. This means the supply of food will be very seriously reduced for the next year and a half, as people will not have plantain to eat or to sell for rice. Please pray for them, that they will find enough to eat during this time.

The hurricane did manage to do quite a bit of minor but costly damage at the APF center: our three antennas were all torn down (for the radio station, our communications radio, and the TV) along with our lightning rod; one of our septic systems washed out; one of our chicken coops blew away; we lost some of our water system pipes; and the panels over our solar chimney are gone.

The cost of replacing all of this has been estimated at \$3,000 US. In addition, the school lost many sections of wall and roof, especially in the preschool lean-to. We are happy to report that the road held, including the few hundred yards of concrete we poured this year to cross the steepest section on the way to Anbatonel.



## Free Radio Berkeley Aids Radyo Zetwal

Thanks to Pierre LaBossiere, four instructors from Free Radio Berkeley traveled to Haiti to conduct a 5-day radio engineering training session. Free Radio Berkeley is dedicated to helping grassroots organizations to establish community radio stations.

From May 12 to 16 APF welcomed some 25 technicians from throughout Haiti, including three APF members who have been involved in Radyo Zetwal (Radio of the Stars). They studied how to build and repair antennas, amplifiers and transmitters.

After the workshop was completed the instructors visited Fondwa, where they repaired our amplifier and boosted our 15-watt transmitter to 40-watts. We look forward to the return of the California team in December, when they will follow up on their spring-time work.



## Fondwa Goings and Comings

In April we said good-bye to Ginette Clouvel, a nurse from France who spent eight months in Fondwa working in the clinic in Sr. Carmelle's absence. In addition to her daily clinic work, Ginette prepared and taught a course for assistant nurses. Six young women completed the course and received training at Hospital St. Croix in Leogane and at a Port au Prince clinic, and are now qualified assistant nurses.

In July we welcomed Sr. Carmelle and Gina back from their one-year training course in early childhood development in Trinidad. They arrived full of ideas for Fatima House -- and well prepared to serve as interpreters to our English-speaking visitors.

Also in July we welcomed Corey Hastings, who has come for an indefinite period of time to live and work with APF. Corey will be living down the hill from Fatima House and will be working as business coordinator of the Cuban/Haitian Solidarity Project.

Corey is currently spending a three-month apprenticeship with a master carpenter in Jacmel, learning the elements of the chairmaking business. With him is Roody Vernet, a young man from Fondwa who was sent to Trinidad by APF for a year's study of education and carpentry, and who hopes to work with the chairmaking trade school.

Thanks to the help received in May, Radyo Zetwal is now broadcasting every evening, offering music and educational programs. It is also proving invaluable as a means of local communication: all meetings and programs are announced on the radio -- and if someone is kept at the center due to rain, a message is broadcast to their family so no one will worry.

Contributions to APF can be made out to APF and sent to:

APF  
Box 13062  
Delmas, Haiti

We respect all requests that donations be used for specific projects.