

Fondwa News

February 2015



Ringing in the New Year - by Chris Wallace

After a two-week vacation in the USA, we returned to our home in Haiti to celebrate New Year's in Fondwa. Natalie's mother and two sisters joined us in Haiti for a visit. New Year's is also Haiti's Independence Day. As in America, the holiday began on December 31st. After dinner we walked to the Saint Antoine Church with the Sisters. There we enjoyed singing, dancing, and a message as we welcomed 2015 together.

The morning of January 1st began with an important Haitian tradition: eating soup joumou, or pumpkin soup. We enjoyed several different varieties that our friends had prepared. Besides the pureed pumpkin, soup joumou generally includes any combination of potatoes, meat, various vegetables, and a number of spices. Eating soup joumou is an important tradition because prior to Haitian Independence Day in 1804, the then Haitian slaves were forbidden to eat the soup.

Our day continued with an additional mass at the Fatima House Orphanage with the Sisters and children. The orphanage was beautifully decorated for the holiday with bright colors and balloons, which startled partiers as they continually popped in the heat. Following mass, we all received another small feast of Haitian cuisine. Our experience is a testament to the religious continuity January 1st has for Haitians. While Christmas is a very popular holiday, many of the children agreed that the New Year is a bigger holiday in Haiti.

We are very glad we were able to return in time for the celebration in Fondwa. Bon Ane! Happy New Year!



New Year's Day mass at the orphanage.

The Beautiful Game - by Chris Wallace

In Fondwa, if you enjoy sports, you play soccer or you don't play anything. Since I was young, soccer has been a passion. Baseball was too slow; football had too much standing around, but soccer, that was a sport I could get into. I've quickly learned that the manicured lawns, shoes with cleats, and nice balls that I experienced as a child are completely unnecessary for the beautiful game. While in Fondwa, I've both witnessed and played soccer with whiffle balls, flat volleyballs and basketballs, bottle caps, empty water bottles, and small fruits. The real soccer balls do not last long on the main soccer field in the area because the field is simply a rough, gravelly cement surface.

The joy of the game is not in the equipment. It is in the spirit of competition, in the pass that threads the needle, and in the one-on-one move that leaves a defender in the dust. Haiti has taught me more about the game than the many years I spent going to practice, playing in games, and competing on the playground. Here, the beautiful game is enjoyed as it's meant to be, with the heart and passion of a child.



Fatima House children playing soccer.

Student Spotlight

Rose Marie Populaire

This past November, Rose Marie celebrated her 17th birthday. She is in the 10th grade at the Saint Antoine School of Fondwa and lives at the Fatima House Orphanage.

Rose Marie is one of the smartest, hardest working students we have encountered at the school. She strives for the best in English class as well as her other studies.

As an older girl at the Fatima House, she has a number of duties in addition to her school work. She helps with the cleaning, washing clothes, cooking, and carrying water to name a few. Rose Marie does these things for herself, and also for the younger children at the Fatima House.

When we spoke with Rose Marie about her future plans, we were not surprised to hear that she hopes to follow her passions far. Upon completing her studies, Rose Marie plans to study at a university in Haiti dreams of becoming a medical doctor. She wants to use her degree to provide medical care for the poor and unhealthy in Haiti.

Rose Marie has many passions and dreams. One of Rose Marie's passions is hip-hop dance. She has always enjoyed watching music videos and learning how to dance. As she often does now, she plans to put others first in her future aspirations. Thank you for joining all of the students of the St. Antoine School of Fondwa and for being a part of Rose Marie's story.



Share the Love This Valentine's Day

In celebration of Valentine's Day 2015, Family Health Ministries is hosting the "Share the Love" Campaign. Our goal: to find 14 sponsors for 14 children at the Saint Antoine School and Fatima House Orphanage (Fondwa, Haiti) by Saturday, February 14th. You can help us to reach our goal by inviting your friends, family and co-workers to sponsor a student. For only \$25 each month, or \$300 a year, you can make a huge difference in the life of a child in Fondwa. Thank you for your continued support of FHM's children's programs in Haiti! Thank you for helping us spread the word and SHARE THE LOVE this Valentine's Day.

How to sponsor:

- 1) Visit our website and enroll at <http://familyhm.donorshops.com>
- 2) Contact Katelyn Blanchard at 919.382.5500 or FHMSponsorship@gmail.com

Fondwa Life at a Glance



Winter walk on the road to Fondwa.



New Year's Day/ Haitian Independence Day celebration meal at the orphanage.



Soccer Game in Fondwa.

Deliveries to your Sponsor Student?

Jamalyn Peigh Williamson will be going to Fondwa March 13th. If you would like to send a letter or photos to your student, mail them to her at 100 West 86th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46260. Items **MUST** be received **NO LATER THAN Monday, March 9th**. Contents must fit into a flat 9x12 manilla envelope.