

The History of Bon Samaritan (formerly Ste. Marie Madeleine) In Bondeau Haiti and the South Florida Haiti Project

Circa 1980

A visionary Haitian priest, Pere Octave Lafontant, purchases small plots of land in the northern part of the Western peninsula of Haiti for the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti to develop new parishes and schools. Included plots for 3 parishes... one was Bondeau.

Circa 2000

Food for the Poor with Bishop Frade as a member of their Board, organized trips to Haiti that included Anita Thorstad, and the then Rector of St. Gregory's in Boca, Fr. George Price.

Anita at this time worked for Food for the Poor with frequent assignments in Haiti. Also similar time, individuals at The Chapel of St. Andrew with connection to Anita begin to support pay for teachers at Ste. Marie Madeleine School which was then a part of St. Marc's Parish at Jeannette supported by the Diocese of Milwaukee.

Fr. George Price at St. Gregory's, travels to Haiti with Food for the Poor. Brings speaker from FOP to preach at St. Gregory's, generating new interest in outreach to Haiti.

St. Gregory's develops small group of people led by Anita Thorstad interested in Haiti and working to support the school at Bondeau.

Circa 2003

With support from Anita Thorstad, and Sr. Warden David Gury, St. Gregory's Episcopal Church Boca Raton, FL begins relationship with Ste. Marie Madeleine in Bondeau Haiti.

Individuals at the Chapel of St. Andrew and St. Gregory's continue financial to support teachers at St. Marie Madeleine.

2004

St. Gregory's begins to raise funds to build a school on the donated land at Bondeau held by the Diocese of Haiti.

2006

New school construction began funded by St. Gregory's and built by Food for the Poor.

2007

St. Marie Madeleine School and chapel was dedicated April 22, 2007, by Bishop Duracin of Haiti

2008

Feeding program started - daily meal provided for the students.

St. Paul's Delray Beach became a partner. Several mission trips take place.

A loosely organized committee of people interested in Haiti representing St. Paul's and St. Gregory's begins

2009

South Florida Haiti Project is formalized

Bishop Duracin makes Ste. Marie Madeleine a parish.

Additional land is purchased increasing the campus many fold allowing for construction of Maison d'Amitie/Guest House.

Infrastructure work: diesel generator purchased, 2 wells drilled, school yard lighting

Maison d'Amitie/Guest House, built and opened in November.

2010

January 12, 2010 – the devastating earthquake that impacted Haiti in every way.

Main highway construction begins that passes by Bondeau.

Mission teams visited in May 2010 and July 2010.

Children's Home construction begun.

2011

Housing consisting of 40 housing units, 38 families, 145 people for the people of Bidaw Island completed.

Kay Timoun (Children's Home) begins operation in Presbytery.

July Cornerstone laid for new church foundation

2012

Pere Jean Berthold Phanord was named Priest-in-Charge

SFHP Board Members traveled in December of 2012 – met with community leaders to identify priorities

- 1) A church building
- 2) Healthcare
- 3) Clean Water

2013

- March 13-16 – Medical mission with the team from St. Paul's & Church of the Advent, Palm City
- June 6-10 – St. Gregory's Youth Mission Trip
- July Foundation is completed for the church led by Rev. Sam Owens of the New York Diocese
- Dorcas Boucher's 2-week mission trip
- First Food Packing at St. Paul's Delray Beach
- November 7-10 Medical mission

2014

- March 18-22 Medical mission
- May UTO Grant received for Music Program at School
- August 5-9 Combined Medical Mission and Church of the Advent Chicken Project
- Sept 13 Food Packing Event at St. Mark's in Palm Beach Gardens
- October Grades 7, 8 and 9 are added to the school
- Water For Small Villages founders visit Bondeau to evaluate water supply
- Nov 11-15 Medical Mission

2015

Name of Church and School are changed from Ste. Marie Madeleine to Bon Samaritan

- April 20-25 Medical Mission
- May 26-30 Church of the Advent Maintenance Mission (Roof on secondary school)
- July Solar power system installed for Guest House and Kay Timoun
- July 15 Church building is dedicated on Bon Samaritan Feast Day
- August Musical Instruments delivered to Bondeau purchased with UTO Grant
- September School expanded to Grades 10 and 11
- Oct 17 Food Packing at St. Mark's in Palm Beach Gardens
- October 26-30 Medical Mission

2016

- May 2-7 Medical Mission
- June 6-10 Church of the Advent Maintenance Mission (completion of secondary school)
- July Pews installed in new church
- September Teacher Training by Touissaint L'Oueverture High School administration
"Teaching by Heart" curriculum developed for Haiti
- August FAU Mental Health Survey
- September School expands to Grades 12
- October 4 Hurricane Matthew devastates southern Haiti
- Nov 5 Food Packing at St. Mark's in Palm Beach Gardens for school lunches

2017

- Jan 30- Feb 2 Healthcare Mission
- February 2nd Teacher Training by Touissaint L'Oueverture High School administration
"Teaching by Heart" curriculum developed for Haiti
- 22 roofs replaced on Bondeau homes damaged in Hurricane Matthew
- May Tile installed in church
- May Board completes Strategic Agenda
- June Well-Drilling led by Water for Small Villages in partnership with
2 pumps installed for non-potable water for utilitarian use
- Summer Solar power system installed at church
- September School expands to Grade 13 now offering all grade levels
- September 3rd Teacher Training by Touissaint L'Oueverture High School administration
"Teaching by Heart" curriculum developed for Haiti
- September Night School began for teens and adults through a \$20,000 grant
- June 24 of 25 Ninth Graders passed the national ninth grade exam
- October 9-14 Healthcare Mission
- October Bondeau Bows economic sustainability project begins
- October Pilgrimage with Good Shepherd
- December Kay Timoun closes

2018

- June 1st Graduating Class from school with 15 of the 17 passing the national high school exam
- June 6 Graduates pursuing higher education
- Food For The Poor builds 20 new homes for Bondeau families
- September 4th Teacher Training by Touissaint L'Oueverture High School administration
"Teaching by Heart" curriculum developed for Haiti
- September Night School for Adults and Teens expands to 3 classes
- October Board visits Bondeau for meeting with administrators & Vestry

2019

- January 12 Food Packing at Good Shepherd
- January 14 Healthcare Mission
- September Record enrollment of 360 students in Preschool - 13
- June 100% of 9th graders and Graduating Class passed their national exams
- School Library established in school
- \$15,000 Grant received from Bethesda by the Sea Episcopal Church to fund Chicken Project
- Political unrest with violent demonstrations prohibits safe travel within Haiti cancelling all mission trips

2020

- Covid-19 Pandemic cancels all mission trip possibilities
- February 1 Food Packing at St. Mark's
- Feb/Mar Chicken Broiler Project begins in partnership with Food For The Poor