

August, 2017 Update – Yvonne Martin Memorial Fund

Three weeks ago I had the wonderful opportunity to meet with one of the recipients of the Yvonne Martin Memorial Scholarship Fund right here in Waterloo Region. It is a great story: Samuel Charles from Cape Haitian, Haiti and studying at Quisqueya University in Port au Prince had the privilege to travel to Montreal to study for the month of July at McGill University. Several of the Martin family members were able to join together to hear Samuel's story and to be blessed by the amazing outcomes of the Memorial honouring their mother (nurse) Yvonne who died in the 2010 Earthquake. The evening gathering was a very moving experience for all who participated.

Samuel is not the only student to have the opportunity to travel outside Haiti this summer.



Ms. Telsie is just completing her medical studies at Quisqueya University. Telsie, (in red) and another young medical student have travelled to Martinique where they will have a good opportunity to put into practice the theory that they have learned. Ms. Telsie will be away for 2-3 months. Telsie will be the first medical

student to graduate from medical school having benefitted from the Scholarship Fund. Dr. Bradley completed his studies at Notre Dame University. He was sponsored for only the last 3 years of his education.

Presently, there are 6 students, who are beneficiaries of the Scholarship set up in Yvonne's memory. Along with Samuel, who is beginning and Telsie who is finishing, there are four nursing students in varying stages of studies.

Let me introduce them. Some you know already:



Gary Augustin has just completed his 4th year of nursing in Fort Liberte. Gary loves pediatrics and hopes to pursue further studies in this specialty once he has some experience under his belt. He begins his year of service at the Clinic at Gens de Nantes in October 2017.



Mis Oducia (far left) is entering her 4th year of nursing this fall, in Fort Liberte. Oducia is from Gens de Nantes; she looks forward to working in the Gens de Nantes Clinic following graduation. Mis Edeline attends the same college and is in her 3rd year of nursing. She is from the city of Ouanaminthe.

Mis Djedsonlove has completed her 2nd year of nursing, at the Notre Dame University, Hinche Campus. I have not met Djedson and do not have a photo. She is from Cerca Carvajal, northwest of Hinche. She is the daughter of Pastor and Mrs. Jeannius Jean Pierre.



Starting in September 2017, Mis Wadeline Desir will join the scholarship program. She has completed her third year of nursing in Port au Prince; she has one more year. Her family is from near Hinche. Her father is a teacher but funding for the school students was eliminated last year. The family is unable to continue to pay her tuition. There are 4 children; Wadeline is the eldest. Because of the economic situation of the family, 2 other children who have finished high school do not have opportunity to continue with their education. Wadeline is determined to complete her education so that she can become employed and then support her siblings through school.

And where are the graduates by now?



Kathleen is presently serving her year at the Gens de Nantes Clinic. After she completed her 4-year nursing program she was accepted into the midwifery program in Hinche. Kathleen is an excellent nurse-midwife. She serves wholeheartedly at the clinic. She loves midwifery.

Kathleen will complete her year in December. Following that she is trusting God to open the door for future employment. She would be a great asset as head nurse-midwife at the GDN Maternity. Pray that she would consider that as an option.



Mis Ruth has completed her 1-year of service at the GDN clinic. Due to staffing needs there, she has agreed to a 6-month contract, working until Gary graduates and begins his year of service there. Mis Ruth has adapted well to rural life in the GDN clinic and community but she misses her family; she plans to seek employment back home in Port au Prince.

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Mis Kerlande graduated from her nursing program. She also was accepted into the midwifery course in Hinche. She graduated a year ago. She had already completed her year of service at the GDN clinic. Kerlande was married at Christmas last year and now resides in Hinche with her husband. She manages a pharmacy out of her home. At present, I do not know if she is employed as a nurse/midwife.



Dr. Bradley presently has a small private practice in Port au Prince. He is also enrolled in further studies to gain a Master's in Public Health. Bradley has decided to forego his year of service to the AEM and will remit the funds that he received for the last 3 years of his medical studies to the Scholarship Fund.

Wow, here we are at year 7 of the fund. And here we are at 10 students and counting. What a legacy for Yvonne and family. Each student will tell you that he or she would not be where they are today had it not been for the Scholarship. Each student is ever grateful for the amazing opportunity. And each one says thank you so very much to the Martin Family.

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Submitted by Marilyn McIlroy
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