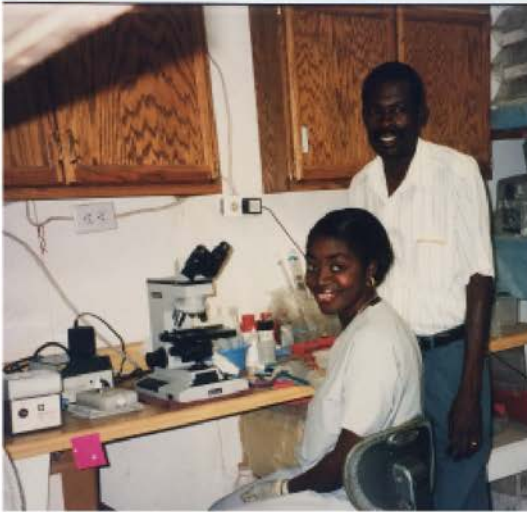




# Missions Of Love

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Christophe Velcine training lab tech in 2003

One of the most significant and personally satisfying results of our long years of serving in medical missions to Haiti has been the happy and gratifying witnessing of several young people who have crawled out of the poverty and ignorance surrounding them to make something of themselves. With a little help from Betty and I, along with several others who have lent financial support to such youngsters through their association with MOL, we've been blessed to have watched as many of these kids grew into mature adults to become medical technologists, nurses, and even doctors. More importantly, they've become leaders in a new and modern Haitian culture where voodoo and black magic have been replaced by the saving grace of Jesus Christ and a Christian ethic which is gradually changing the face, the future, the very destiny of Haiti. by young leaders such as these. **Christophe Velcine is a perfect example.**

(Continued on Back)

## My Mission Trip



**Brenda Lewis**  
Age: 72  
Retired Accountant  
Evansville, IN

**Q: Have you ever been on a mission trip before?** No  
**Q: How did you hear about Missions Of Love?** Bishop Darrell Cook, Senior Pastor, Bethesda Ministries, Int'l, Evansville, IN.  
**Q: When was your trip?** Oct. 29-Nov.29, 2015  
**Q: Have you always had a desire to do mission work?** Yes. I have had a deep desire to go to the foreign field and teach the Word of God since I was 16 yrs. old. Now 56 years later, I realized the dream of a foreign missionary.

**Q: What was the purpose of this trip?** To share the gospel of Jesus Christ during a Women's Conference.

**Q: Were you able to accomplish it?** Yes, along with Pastor Tonya Cook, retired MOL Director, Pat Duarte, Sis. Kori Hinton, and an interpreter. It gave me great joy to proclaim the Word of God to women eager to hear!

**Q: Was there one person and/or experience that really touched your heart?** The worship services at Tabernacle Bethesda Haiti were awesome! I appreciated the exuberant music and singing although I could not understand the words, and loved the fact that the services were on an FM radio station called The Holy Ghost that broadcasts The Word of God in many unserved areas. I also enjoyed the Ordination Service where several evangelists, pastors, and bishops were ordained. And, the baptism of a former Voodoo priestess.

**Q: How was your travel to Jolivet?** After 36 hours from boarding the plane in Evansville, Indiana, two transfers and about seven-hour drive over rough terrain in a SUV, we arrived at the Missions of Love Compound. (See Back)

## Spotlight: Jolivert Medical Clinic

### Nearly 25 years ago...

Dr. Robert Johnson and his wife/nurse, Betty, of Hartford, KY, purposed it in their hearts that they would serve The Lord through their gifts, talents and careers in the rural Artibonites of Haiti along the Les Trois Rivieres. Although they began their humble mission providing medical care and sleeping outdoors while on brief mission trips, within a few years, along with the support and generosity of others, they had acquired land and built a metal building to house Jolivert's own Missions Of Love Medical Clinic.

In 1992, a young man named Christophe Velcine had been touched by the love, dedication, and hard work of The Johnson's and became a member of Missions Of Love staff. "Dr. Bob and Miss Betty inspired me to become a missionary," said Christophe Velcine as to why he began working at the then-newly developing Christian medical mission. By 2000, Christophe had completed his studies and began working full-time at the MOL Medical Clinic as a Medical Lab Technician.

As more American medical teams continued to visit the MOL campus bringing with them advanced medical education, technology and supplies, and sharing the love of Jesus, the Haitian community began to trust and respect Dr. Bob and Miz Betty, the visiting missionaries, and Missions Of Love.

### The Mission continued to grow...

As did Christophe's responsibilities. In addition to being a Lab Tech, Christophe also began helping MOL Director, Blaud Mondesir, earning the title of Assistant Director. When the Mission grew to include many more

programs, ministries and mission teams, Dr. Bob offered the position of MOL Clinic Director to a now-experienced Christophe. "I was so pleased to receive it!" Christophe recalled, "I had been well-trained and had been helping Blaud for a long time, so I was ready. My role changed," explained Christophe. "When I was a working as a Lab Tech, I just focused on lab works. But, now as Administrator of the Medical Clinic I supervise all the sections, Consultation, Lab, Pharmacy, oversee equipment, perform weekly inventories, control the Clinic finances, conduct staff meetings, maintain constant relationship with community leaders, the MSPP (government health minister) and others who intend to work with MOL. Now, I must be open to in order to make it all work effective."

### Five reasons he loves his job...

"The Medical Clinic has made a huge difference in Jolivert, because of these reasons," said Christophe.

1.) Physical: Now, the community is healthier. No children die at age three or before because of lack of medical care or no education on preventable diseases.

2.) Education: More children go to school and university. That helps them to be independent and to help themselves and their families.

3.) Socially: Because of the years of working with the government, Jolivert is well known by the government and the International Community, which it was not

(Continued on Back...)

before. It is good to work with the government in Haiti.

4.) Spiritually: Because of the gospel (brought through Missions Of Love and its missionaries), more people get out of the darkness (of Voodoo) and superstition and now have freedom to experience the life and hope that Jesus gives.

5.) For me: I work for Missions Of Love because as the primary mission of MOL is to serve and show the love of Jesus Christ, so MOL gives me the opportunity to serve and show the love of Jesus Christ.



### 24 Years of Positive Change

"When we first started working fulltime at the Jolivert Clinic in 2000, we saw an average of 70 – 80 patients a day," recalled Christophe. "The studies showed that most of the patients had preventable diseases, so we began to start prevention programs like Safe Water, daily health education, and home visits for follow up care. That reduced completely the number of our patients.

Today, Jolivert Clinic averages about 20 patients a day, treating common things like typhoid, malaria, parasites, high blood pressure, blood sugar, anemia, UTI, STD's, HIV testing, counseling and care. And, we only charge a small fee for those who can pay, to help us to maintain the clinic and keep it sustainable."



### Looking Ahead

"I hope in the future to be able to give better care to community," said Christophe as he shared his wish list. "We hope to one day have X-ray available, be able to perform all lab tests, have a full-time dentist, equipment to keep the yard clean and safe, an incinerator to properly dispose of medical waste, an ambulance for emergencies, and to have medical and dental teams come in frequently to continue to share their knowledge, wisdom and love. And, I know that all this is possible... with God."

We first met Christophe at his mom's small and very modest home in the sleepy little village of Dufaille, high in the mountains above Port-au-Prince. He was, as I recall, a shy and modest, gangly - even downright skinny - young teenager. He, his mom and his twelve-year-old sister, Yvrose, invited us to sit down to dinner with them when we'd dropped by for a visit at Yvrose's request. It consisted of a single bowl of a gruel made from boiled "piti-mi" - a local grain similar to milo, the grain we use to feed our livestock. His mom, with pained expression, apologized for that being all she had to offer.

Long story short: we eventually sent Yvrose off to nursing school which she graduated from near the top of her class, and ultimately came to work for us at Clinique Jolivert. She proved to be an exceptionally well-trained R.N., highly skilled in all aspects of medical care including the suturing of wounds and the delivering of babies.

While serving as our nursing director under Betty's supervision, she met an American missionary, Kendall Johnson, also serving at Jolivert at the time; fell in love with him, married him, and returned with him to his home in Winchester, Kentucky where he died prematurely of liver disease, and where she then resided as an American citizen. But the intense needs of her people led her to return to Haiti where she now runs a small medical clinic and a Christian church school of her own, with help from one of the Christian churches in the Lexington area.

Christophe himself won the heart of one of our lady missionaries from the Pleasant Ridge area who committed to putting him through lab school. Soon thereafter, he became an employee of our mission clinic at Jolivert, and the rest, of course, is history.

A man for all seasons, Christophe juggles about as many programs and projects as any health professional I have ever met. Apart from his many duties as clinic director, he has headed up our outreach program for sick children in the remote mountainous areas surrounding Jolivert, and is also the director of our highly successful safe water program, now being touted by WHO and other leading relief organizations as being one of the most cost-efficient, yet simplistic water purification programs to be found anywhere in the Third World. It now brings clean and potable water to tens of thousands of homes all over Haiti.

Christophe is a devoted Christian family man with a lovely wife—who is also a medical technologist and MOL employee-- and three delightful children. We simply could not possibly be any prouder of him.

-- by Dr. Robert T. Johnson

## Dr. Bob's Recommended Read

**Killing With Kindness**

by  
Mark Schuller



**Q: How were the accommodations at the MOL Campus?** Very comfortable, and the food was very well prepared and delicious thanks to Blaud and the MOL kitchen staff.

**Q: Was there anything that stands out in your heart from this trip?** I enjoyed the fellowship with the other ladies. My heart was pricked because of the dire living conditions of many families in Haiti. While there are many services (medical, dental, optical and even safe water) being provided to residents in Jolivert by Missions of Love, (I believe) the need is great particularly in evangelism.

**Q: Would you like to return to Haiti?** Yes! Yes! I look forward to returning with great expectation, in whatever capacity I can serve!



Mz. Edline and her lab tech are sorting through medical supplies and equipment Christophe brought back from a recent visit to Supplies Over Seas, Louisville, KY and Dr. Ann Ayer, Beaver Dam, KY while in the U.S.

## In Honor of a Good Man...



Please follow next month's newsletter as we pay tribute to Missions Of Love President

**Greg Seelig**

who finished his race here on earth on August 13, 2016