AN EVOLVING HAITI MISSION PROJECT



Submitted by Gilles Michaud

Following the Ignatian Family Conference on 25th Sep, 2021 I was filled with gratefulness and generosity for the grace of being called to my commitment to a CLC vocation. A CLC vocation is steeped in living out of a Spirituality, more specifically an Ignatian Spirituality, and the experience of encountering the Sacred. Discerning and finding God in all things. This seeking leads us beyond the structures of most traditional religious spaces and into places that hold more of us, more love, more diversity, more honesty, more brokenness, more joy, more adventures, more questions, more hope.

At the Central Regional Assembly in 2019 Kuruvila Zachariah met with Sr Nadia from CVX Haiti and offered to share his knowledge and his acquired skills to members of CVX Haiti. This would be in the form of small inexpensive computers, called Raspberry Pi. Under the leadership of Mary Balfe, this initial effort became the Raspberry Pi Working Group, which remains active.

At that meeting, Kuruvila and I discovered that we had a longstanding interest in the fabrication of small agricultural machinery, as one way to make disadvantaged communities self-sufficient. In the past few months, 4 members of CLC Canada with one Jesuit in Haiti, that I will name later, came together in a surprising way (The God of surprises). What had started as a shared interest, has now morphed into a Mission project called **Haiti Integrated Development (HID)**.

This past year, more by the grace of God, this Haiti mission project resurfaced. In a conversation with Kuruvila I mentioned that I had met, while in Haiti, a Jesuit Brother, Marcel, living at the Jesuit Spirituality Centre in Port au Prince. Marcel had talked to me about his great passion to plant trees and how he is challenged by a lack of resources to achieve his dream. As Kuruvila and I talked, a question came up. What could we do to help Br Marcel? That is how the seed was planted.

Before going on I will mention the names of those persons involved in this mission project: Kuruvila Zachariah, Carmen and Roger Hurtubise and myself, Gilles Michaud, and Br. Marcel from Haiti. We have, over these past few months, met virtually several times to discuss how to move our dream into action. It's most interesting in that through our conversation and communal discernment we were actually following the 4 steps of the Power Cycle. We are now at the implementation stage, ACTION, setting down and implementing our priorities such as;

- Acquiring land and a location in PAP for the Worker Co-op?
- Who will the persons in Haiti asked to be part of this Worker Co-op?
- What electrical power, machinery and tools will be needed?
- How do we initiate a fund raising for this project?

As we move forward in this mission taking one step at a time, I am reminded of 2 articles (102 & 103) in the document CLC Charism:

The common mission of CLC is the mission, which Christ entrusted to CLC as a Church association. This mission is the response, which CLC feels called to give to the great needs and aspirations of today. It is its way of announcing the Good News of God's love in this present historical time. The common mission is made concrete by identifying apostolic priorities and lines of action. It does not mean that all CLC members must do the same thing. It is mission that is common: the tasks are different. This is not only because of the origin of mission, but also because of its direction. All of us, each in his/her own way, stand for the same values, follow the same aims and have the same priorities. We can speak of common involvement in the Church's mission.