



### **We have a history, We have a future**



Our relationship with the area affected by the earthquake goes back to 2015. That's when the sanctuary in Bondeau, pictured above, was consecrated for Good Samaritan Episcopal Church in Bondeau.

Martel is 30 minutes west of Bondeau. When people from Martel saw the new church in Bondeau, they approached Fr. Phanord about helping them start a school and church.

We met in Madame Nelson's shady yard in 2016. We dreamed of creating a sustainable partnership together, one that didn't depend on Americans donating money indefinitely. We talked about developing economic opportunities for the community.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church and School opened in Martel in 2017, thanks to a building grant from United Thank Offering. Fourteen Episcopal churches have joined our effort. Since then we have supported the teacher salaries for the church, providing education for nearly 100 students grades pre-K through 6.

Our dream of economic self sufficiency in Martel hasn't happened yet. But we have made some lovely relationships. Together we are building the Body of Christ. Every Sunday, lay leaders travel from Bondeau to Martel to lead worship. Good Samaritan Episcopal Church in Bondeau is evangelizing St. Luke's in Martel. As foreigners, we are not proselytizing,

but rather supporting the work that Fr. Phanord and his lay leaders are doing. We believe God has called us to be there in a ministry of presence.

## **The Body of Christ, Under the Rubble**

### **Building the Love**

I share all this so that you know the depth of our connection to this lovely community that is only 20 miles from the epicenter. We are not helicoptering in for a one-time relief effort. We've been here for a long time, and we are here to stay.

in Leogane when the 2010 earthquake hit. His church, St. Matthew, was less than five miles from that epicenter, and was destroyed. He knows very well how to care for the people following a traumatic event like this. We trust his judgment.



Now more than ever, Martel, Haiti needs your help. Please continue to pray, and give. Please give through Zelle, to [haitiangoodsam@gmail.com](mailto:haitiangoodsam@gmail.com). You can mail a check if you prefer, to The Haitian Church of the Good Samaritan, 1858 Hunt Avenue, Bronx, NY 10462.

We are collaborating with the South Florida Haiti Project, maintaining close communication with them to support both Bondeau and Martel. The guesthouse in Bondeau was badly damaged. We are the Body of Christ, working together near and far.

Christ's peace,

Sam+  
The Rev. Sam Owen  
Founder and Director  
The New York Haiti Project

PS That beautiful church in Bondeau was not damaged in the earthquake, thank God.

**New York Haiti Project | 303-886.8149**