



# CHALLENGE

OFCB (l'Organisation de la Force Chrétienne de Bayonnais) Newsletter

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## Bridge of Hope and Progress

World of God is excited to share with you a blessing that has been bestowed upon the community of Bayonnais, Haiti.

A new vehicle bridge to serve the community of Bayonnais Valley in Haiti, is close to being completed on the south side of the community. The bridge is a part of the La Couleuvre Bridges Project, which translates directly to "The Snake", because of the winding path of the river. Construction is expected to be completed by the end of this month, June. The bridge was built using the combined efforts of many skilled and experienced individuals from the United States as well as from Haiti. Coordination, Funding Support and Maintenance was provided by our sister organization, Friends of OFCB Ministries.

OFCB is a non-governmental organization which provides K-13th grade education to approximately 2,500 students. Friends of OFCB is dedicated to developing and empowering the community of Bayonnais by supporting OFCB projects and goals.

The Bayonnais valley is a remote location, which is home to approximately 80,000 people. The economy in the area is based on farming, government resources are scarce, therefore, on a daily basis it is a struggle to access basic services and resources such as food, clean water, sanitation, healthcare and education.

The bridge was engineered to hold a semi-truck, per American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO) standards. It will serve the Bayonnais community giving them access to the school, and many other services in Bayonnais as well as connect to the road used to travel to Port Au Prince, Haiti.



Transportation in Haiti is certainly varied, with much of the population depending on a combination of ways to get around the island. Whether they're living in the country or in the city, few Haitians own or have access to a personal vehicle, nor do they have access to more common forms of public transportation like city buses, trains, or subways. Instead, most Haitians rely on walking, biking, or hitching a ride on a 'tap tap.' A tap tap is essentially a Haitian version of an American taxicab.

To get back and forth to school each day many students, teachers and staff walk, traveling two to three hours on steep rocky slopes and mountainous roads that are unpaved. In addition, OFCB Ministries utilizes a school bus, provided from generous donations from many in the United States. There are times that due to the abysmal road conditions the school bus struggle to carry students to and from school.

The few that travel to and from the school each week, that may have access various means of transportation (moped, bicycle, tap-tap, etc.), must also deal with the tough road conditions. The area between school and home is extremely rural and dry. In dry conditions, the crossings run ankle deep. However, during the rainy season the area becomes very treacherous or completely impassable due to high-water levels and at times flooding at the river crossing. Water rises quickly during the rain, bringing traffic to a halt, and preventing community access to education, livelihood, and medical care. Drownings are not uncommon, and in September 2013, several teachers employed by OFCB were washed

downstream in OFCB's school bus on their way home from school. The teachers were rescued, but the bus was a total loss.

The bridge construction with the help of FOFCB, the people of Bayonnais, and many volunteers from the United States has provided a solution to this dire problem. Engineers from both Haiti and the United States designed the bridge and provided onsite construction supervision. The community provided wood, rocks and unskilled labor, and FOFCB with the support of many generous donors paid for the materials and skilled labor.

Everyday volunteers from Bayonnais, and the other communities this bridge will serve, provided volunteer labor, usually between 10 and 20 men and women. All of the volunteers seemed happy to contribute to a project that will provide safe passage for them and their families for generations.

Take a look at the progress from a few months ago: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=leGzOL2A5FY>

World of God appreciates the efforts of Friends of OFCB, OFCB Ministries and our sponsors for supporting our mission to empower and equip impoverished young people with the skills to become self-sufficient, impact their communities and achieve their dreams. And with the building of an additional bridge in the La Couleuvre Bridges Project on the south side of Bayonnais we are moving forward in our mission.



If you are interested in joining a mission team in Bayonnais, Haiti, contact David Nichols at [david5cents@aol.com](mailto:david5cents@aol.com).

Sponsoring a child is the best way to help the students at OFCB. Visit our website if you are inspired to sponsor a child: [www.worldofgod.org](http://www.worldofgod.org).