



# CHALLENGE

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

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## Thank you! You are making a difference

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Since 1985-1986, the period when Haitians from every corner stood up to chase out the Duvaliers, the professional dictatorial regime of Haiti in 2018-2019 has been the most terrible one in terms of political disturbances, including crimes, roads blocked off, the highest inflation rate ever (19%), the highest exchange rate (96 gourdes for a US\$ vs. about 72 a year ago) and certainly, unfortunately, the intelligentsia of the country just keeps fleeing for better places throughout the world for opportunities, such as jobs, foods, safety and more importantly, higher education.

OFCB Ministries, from where we have been, was negatively impacted by the hardships that Haiti has been facing. Many times this past school year, the high school could not operate due to a shortage of fuel or too high a cost when selling in small 5 liter jars in the streets, which sometimes would contain other ingredients that might destroy your engine; Or, very frequently by the roads being blocked off with barricades and burning tires. So sad!

Yet, through God's grace, we have had a great academic year. In fact, we must confess that in the midst of that everlasting mess, 2018-2019 has been the greatest year in the history of OFCB in Bayonnais with the historical river bridge that has been erected in La Ravine à Coulevres on the road to Bayonnais. Yes, OFCB and Bayonnais, with the involvement of our partners in the USA, including EWB-USA and the Carolinas (Engineers Without Borders), have made history.

For the whole month of July, Bayonnais was on every radio in the country and some televisions as well, including written media. Many different institutions in the Haiti capital have written about the Bayonnais community with their partners in the US that have built a bridge for 17,000,000 goudes without a penny from the Haitian government. That has been the biggest physical and tangible realization in the life of the ministry since its conception on August 20th, 1993.

In spite of all, we must not complain even though many schools in Port au Prince had to shut down their doors before the local final exams. OFCB schools in Cathor, Zoranger and Nicolas kept going until the 10th of July when results were proclaimed for the elementary students, 7th, 8th, 10th, 11th and 12th graders.

Ninth and thirteenth graders, (122 and 56 candidates), are now waiting for National Exam results, which should be proclaimed by the end of August. As of August 6 we have registered 158 students in 9th grade, 92 students in 12th grade and 78 students in 13th grade for September.



I would like to end this by thanking from the deepest of our hearts all of our partners who have kept the ministry on the go through World of God, Friends of OFCB and Engineers Without Borders. We are making history! We are giving a meaning to many lives!

