

# Agristewards Haiti Trip

First “Farming God’s Way - Haiti”  
Conference is a Success!



March 2017

## Upcoming Opportunities

March 25 <sup>th</sup> - April 1 <sup>st</sup>	Nicaragua
June 4 <sup>th</sup> - 17 <sup>th</sup>	Liberia
Aug. 24 <sup>th</sup> - 26 <sup>th</sup>	Farming God’s Way, USA - Training

We will be making more plans for additional fall and winter trips. Grant Dryden will be joining us again for the training in August. This will be a very special opportunity for anyone who can make it.



## So much Potential

In mid-February, several of us from Agristewards traveled to Nehemiah Vision Ministries, outside of Croix-des-Bouquets, Haiti, to put on a “Farming God’s Way” conference. We don’t know for sure, but this may have been the first time a countrywide effort to teach FGW had been attempted. We had roughly 60 participants that joined us from every area of Haiti. Some participants drove up to six hours to participate.

Our team was made up of Brian Smith, Jay Shultz, Gerald Mozingo, and Don Lamb. Special thanks go to Angie Mollenkopf who works with NVM. Angie helped to coordinate the logistics that go along with putting on a conference like this. Pastor Esperandieu Pierre helped with the teaching of the biblical principles as well.

The training was a three day event. On Wednesday and Thursday we were primarily in the classroom teaching the combination of biblical principles and farming techniques. On Friday we went to the field and planted two demonstration gardens to show what we had learned in a practical way.

## Can I get your WhatsApp?

Just like when we go to conferences here in the U.S., the best part is usually the networking. The Haitians that came from all over the country left with many new friends. WhatsApp is definitely the communication method choice of the Haitians and missionaries in general.



## So how are things in Haiti anyway?

I've been going to Haiti since 2011/ This was the most optimistic I've been in that time. It's the young people who give me hope.

Haiti is a tough place. There are good things about it for sure, but it can be a frustrating place for us Americans to visit. One good thing about Haiti, and part of the reason so many Americans go, is that it is a relatively easy travel experience. It is not too expensive. You can arrive in Haiti the same day you leave home. That's where the easy part ends. We could go on forever about the reasons why Haiti is the way it is. Anyway you boil it down, it is because evil has taken the place of good. One of the

biggest challenges Haiti has had in recent years has been brought on by us. We have given them a bunch of stuff. There are generations of Haitians that have lived in a welfare state their entire life. When you go to Haiti, the planes are always full of very well intentioned folks who have given very generously, just not always wisely. That, coupled with a corrupt government, has made it difficult for the standard Haitian to develop self-sufficiency. All of this usually adds up to an awkward feeling for a missions-minded person. Am I

really helping? There were two distinct differences this trip. One was the fact that I was able to see 60 of the "cream of the crop" Haitians gather in one spot to learn, network, and celebrate. Secondly, the young people that I have known since they were pre-teens (see photos above) are now 18 years old or older. I see a difference in them. They are smart, hardworking, and willing to learn. Non-profits are getting better at knowing what to do and what not to do. It is a slow trend, but YES, I think things are improving!

## It's Always About Divine Connections

By Brian Smith

God continues to amaze me at all the connections that continue to occur through Agristewards. Our trip to Haiti was no different. We had two Haitians lead an ice cream social Thursday night. One was Brenus, a Haitian who was at Cincinnati Bible College the same four years I was. The other man was named Job. He came to the training because I got to share about Agristewards in my father-in-laws (Ray Linn) Sunday School class. A man named Ron Cass was present and wanted to know more about my work. He had been working in northwest Haiti and was interested in getting Farming God's Way started there. Ron spoke to the church near St!Louis!di !ncrd last November and then invited them to join the training when he learned about it. If you read my Jamaica newsletter, you may remember Josiah Zupke, a man I met in Minnesota while on a family vacation.

Josiah mentioned he had a cousin working in Haiti while we were on our trip to Jamaica. I told him about the upcoming training in Haiti and he let his cousin know about it. His cousin was not in Haiti at the time but gave the information to the organization and you guessed it, they came to the training! Another man named Billy Orem helped lead some of the training. I met Billy at an ECHO conference a year and a half ago. We have been in communication ever since. He had been practicing FGW in southern Haiti so I invited him. We had around 60 in attendance from 15 different organizations from one end of Haiti to the other. It all starts with connections...divine ones!

