



40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Celebration

NEWSLETTER, WINTER 2023

## To Haiti, with Love

Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, the day of love, kicks off FLM's special campaign, **Hearts for Haiti: The Power of Love**.

**Commit** to joining FLM in this special two-month effort to support the school children of Haiti.

**Your support** will help us to send a special Valentine's Day card to the 600 children in L'ecole Mixte Devese Pamphile, or MIPADEP, the kindergarten through grade 13 school that FLM supports. The school educates boys and girls from local communities.

**Hearts can be individuals or organizations.**

**The Heart for Haiti: The Power of Love** campaign is a way to show the children of Haiti how much we care and are praying with and for them during such challenging times in Haiti.

This is love in action, a way to not only share the gospel but also our lives. Our school is currently opened during the social unrest and, when safe, our teachers and educators faithfully and diligently show up. Let them know how much we appreciate such selfless actions to educate the next generation of Haitians.

The Pittsburgh-based FLM Haiti is 40 years-old and about 90 percent of the funding raised supports teacher salaries, food to feed the students, tuition relief, equipment, and medicine and supplies.

**For more information, please contact: 412-784-0342** ●

## Here's how to become a Heart:

- **Donate** \$40, \$80, or \$120, or more
- **Commit to prayer** for FLM and Haiti for the two months of the campaign
- **Invite** 14 friends to donate at least \$40 (or more)
- **Share this link** [www.flmhaiti.org/](http://www.flmhaiti.org/) donate with 14 people in your network
- **Ask** that your church, fraternal or social organization, or family join our campaign and take up a special collection



**For more information, please visit [flmhaiti.org](http://flmhaiti.org) or call 412-784-0342**

# 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

## Celebrating 40 years of LOVE

This year, FLM Haiti marks 40 years of service.

For all of 2023, the nonprofit is celebrating with “The Power of Love,” a campaign to commemorate FLM Haiti’s 40th anniversary. We have special events, reunions, community programming, and a year of prayers. With your generosity, it is FLM’s goal to raise \$200,000 to support the ministry, care and services we provide in Haiti.

For nearly four decades, the nonprofit has dedicated itself to helping Haitians help themselves. This mission has driven FLM’s efforts across education, health care, trade skills and other advancements to enable the residents in the communities we serve to be more proud, more dignified and stronger citizens of Haiti.

**On many dimensions, FLM Haiti is a remarkable story of love.**

**It is a story of love between a man and a woman.** It was founded by **Bishop Leon Pamphile** and his wife, **Rozelle**, both natives of Haiti. Leon was a young and studious Christian when he met Rozelle, who had dedicated herself to the Lord. She was living in an orphanage. The couple married and eventually resettled in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

**It is a story of love of country.** The Pamphiles never forgot the needs of their homeland, creating FLM as a way to give back. FLM took root in the very community where Leon lived and roamed as a child. Today, the people of LaBoule, Thomassin and other areas benefit from a K-13 grade school, a technical school, and a clinic.

**It is the story of the love of the stranger.** Over the years, hundreds of mission people – nurses, ministers, doctors, teachers, writers—have come to Haiti, sharing their gifts and talents to teach, heal, and pray. They don’t know the Haitian people when they arrive, but after sharing food and love, when they leave everyone becomes brother and sister.

**Finally, it is the story of the love of God** surmounting obstacles. The challenges in Haiti are many: political and social instability is on the rise; natural disasters, and high rates of poverty and illiteracy fuel what seems like unrelenting obstacles. In recent years, COVID-19 and the return of cholera have exacerbated the challenges. Yet, in the face of adversity, FLM, powered by the love of God, with its dedicated supporters and sacrificing and preserving employees and staff in Haiti, soldiers on. ●

**Help FLM Haiti continue its work for another 40 years! Consider a legacy gift, established in memory of you or your loved ones? Contact FLM for details. ♥**

## 40th Anniversary Gala

SAVE THE DATE: October 28, 2023

COST: Gala Tickets \$75

WHERE: DoubleTree Monroeville,  
100 Mall Blvd, Monroeville, PA, 15146

TIME: 5 p.m. Meet and Greet  
6 p.m. Gala



Leon Pamphile (on the right) in Haiti with friends



Supporters Dara Marnier and Lynn Moran



Banquet founder, Carol Williams



# Institut Technique Excelsior

Informatique • Anglais • Plomberie • Electricité

## Excelsior Technical Institute, Passing on the Tools to Build a Better Future

By Christiana Dillard

On humid afternoons, when school is out, **Saincal Renestil** busies himself at his administrative desk. He is reviewing schedules, supply ledgers, enrollment forms and also electrical layouts that are designed to test students' competency at learning and applying this trade skill.



Saincal Renestil

Renestil is director of one of the newest initiatives at FLM, the Excelsior Technical Institute, or ETI, which serves to empower and prepare Haiti's citizens with the critical technical skills needed to help rebuild the nation. It is one of the few institutions of higher education in this area of Haiti.

On occasion, Renestil also teaches in ETI's electrical training. He fills in when the principal instructor can't be there, and works to ensure

that the students remain on schedule and up to par. The layouts are among the key projects that electrical students must complete to graduate. Renestil is careful with his review because he wants to create a project that measures the mastery of the students' work.

Renestil is from Thomassin, the same community where ETI is located, an area about a 40-minute drive from downtown Port au Prince, Haiti's capital. He studied electricity at the Haiti Center for Professional Training, which specializes in vocational skills, and then went to the well-regarded University of the Renaissance Haiti to study administration and management in Port-au-Prince before working as an engineer and teacher.

He has served as director of ETI since 2014 and despite the recent uptick in political and social unrest, and pandemic worries, he has helped the school to remain open, and looks forward to moving all of the students toward better lives.

After their study at ETI, says Renestil, almost all of the students find jobs. Two recent graduates, **Exantus Athanael** and **Desir Saint Hilaire**, are planning to create their own electrical installation company.

There are now about 52 students at the school. They are enrolled in a variety of classes to develop construction and technical skills, including electrical wiring, plumbing, and computer technology. These skills are applied to real-world applications such as auto repair and commercial and residential construction as a part of the technical project requirement for graduation. However, before students graduate from their programs, they must complete three courses in their subject and a designated technical project.

In recent years, ETI has developed courses in tile work, culinary skills, tailoring and window installation and fabrication.

Renestil is passionate about using knowledge and with people helping people to create a well-rounded community for all. ●

## Student Powered

By Sarah Slember



**A**mbassadors for Haiti is a newly established club at Fox Chapel Area High School. It has begun fundraising and the students are excited to continue their efforts throughout the school year to help FLM make a difference in Haiti.

I learned about FLM Haiti through my mom, [board member] Dr. Robin McGuire, who participates on the nonprofit's mission teams. Every year, I would help her pack medical items, baby clothes, and other things for the organization's mission trips to Haiti. I would also hear about the great work done by FLM; her stories were really amazing.

With the help of other students in the club, Ambassadors for Haiti holds fundraisers to raise money, which will be donated at the end of our school year. These members put in a lot of effort because they wanted to make a difference for others in need.

Now, it seems the students will become one of FLM's biggest Hearts. They are considering a pen pal exchange with our MIPADEP students. If you or students in your school are interested in this fund-raising or support efforts, please contact FLM Haiti. ●

## Briefs

**To Good Health:** FLM’s clinic, House of David, will soon celebrate its 14th anniversary. It opened on July 14, 2009.

**Hope and Love:** The **Rev. Michael Stitt** delivered an inspiring keynote address at FLM’s annual banquet, held October, 2022, at the Comfort Inn Conference Center, Pittsburgh. More than 125 people attended, and Stitt, the Senior Pastor at Saints Memorial in Bryn Mawr, near Philadelphia, spoke on the theme, “Compelled by Love.” Because of all the social and political strife in Haiti, Stitt encouraged supporters to hold on to hope.

**Summer Interns:** A thank you to our 2022 summer interns, who helped FLM prepare to pursue new grant applications. **Weikai Lu** is at Carnegie Mellon University, pursuing a master’s degree in Engineering and Public Policy. He has several research and work experiences in nonprofit fields. **Xuan Cheng** is at Carnegie Mellon, pursuing a master’s degree in Public Policy and Management. She has experience with telecommunications. **Yvette Zhang**, a second-year graduate student also at Carnegie Mellon University, studies in the Heinz College of Information Systems and Public Policy.

**Walking Success:** FLM Haiti’s annual 5K Walk and fun-a-thon, HOPE on the Move, took place on a warm Saturday morning in May 2022. This year’s walk closely aligned with Haiti’s Flag Day, a national holiday and celebration of pride and unity, helping to commemorate the creation of the flag of Haiti and the revolution that gave its people freedom from France. Thanks to dance and exercise master and fitness coach **Roland Ford**, who returned to warm up participants. Joining in the walk, virtually, were about 50 participants from Haiti. They sang the Haitian national anthem and offered greetings. ●



Rev. Michael Stitt



Weikai Lu



Xuan Cheng



Yvette Zhang

**THANK YOU TO EVERY DONOR ♥**