

A cord of three strands is not easily broken. ~ Ecclesiastes 4:12

Network Meets to Inspire One Another

Businesspeople met this May for a prayer break fast where entrepreneurs shared their unique stories filled with a *common passion for job creation in Haiti*.

Within the network of Haitian Partners for Christian Development (HPCD), business owners of every background—local mentors and mentees, association board members, and micro-entrepreneurs in the “business incubation” program—mingled over some good coffee and conversation, prayer time, and personal stories of transformation.



Guest speaker Evelien de Gier, HPCD Board President and entrepreneur, shared her vision that morning of business as a Christian mission, utilizing the story of Ruth in the Old Testament, a woman who emerged herself and her mother-in-law from poverty with dignity and work (Ruth 2).

“*Work is a biblical given,*” said de Gier. “So often in our eagerness to help, we feel we have to seek solutions ourselves. Instead, we end up stealing the dignity of the poor by not allowing them to work toward the solution as well. [...] *In job creation, we are not handing something, but helping someone.* We’re teaming up.”



Lives being transformed through these shared solutions were showcased as attendees watched a portion of a recent documentary film, created by MINUSTAH (United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti), which covered the story of each micro-entrepreneur within the HPCD business incubator program in Martissant, one of the roughest districts neighboring the capital city, Port-au-Prince.

One of the incubator entrepreneurs, Heliot Ferodin, also spoke about the ongoing *effects job creation will have in that district toward the reduction of gang violence*—a tool used by too many as their way to fight against poverty.

That morning, a network of Christian businesspeople found more than just coffee and conversation. Entrepreneurs of every sector came together and were re-inspired to pursue a shared objective: to close the gap of inequality between the poor and rich in Haiti and to “involve the rich in helping the poor to emerge from poverty.”

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Haitian Partners

FOR CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT

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Vision and Mission

Vision:

A country full of employment where social harmony lasts and economic development is based on entrepreneurship and sharing.

Mission:

To encourage strong entrepreneurship, in Haiti and around the world, that is based on foundational values, ethics, and social sharing as stated in Biblical scripture.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Martissant Incubation Graduation Ceremony and Website Launch: July 31st, 2009, 5:00 - 7:00pm @ Hotel Montana
- 35 participants begin HPCD / UN training, August 2009
- Partner's Worldwide "Partnership Summit" Conference, Oct. 8-10
- "Femmes, Création & Production" Exposition, Nov. 13-15

Women Enter Training with HPCD and United Nations



This August, 35 women will enter six months of business training after years of struggle within two of the most violent districts surrounding Port-au-Prince.

Through the collaboration of HPCD and the UN in Haiti (Minustah RVC Division), female entrepreneurs of Cite Soleil and Martissant will participate in business training three days each week, with emphasis on business plans, management, administrative skills, marketing, and leadership.

Among the 100 candidates recruited, 35 chosen participants meet the criteria of the program: 1) an entrepreneur with an existing production business, and 2) one who holds strong potential to create three or more employment opportunities within the six month training period.

After participants complete the training, 14 will be chosen to enter the business incubation process in HPCD's two incubator buildings in Varreux or Martissant, with shared access to subsidized rent and electricity, internet, and ongoing coaching.

Most participants, ages 18-35, are women who were victimized in their communities, especially over the most violent conflict period of 2004-2007. Today, many are striving to grow their businesses and are now entering an unprecedented opportunity to reach their goals.