



ANGELIA DAVIS/STAFF

Participants in the 2015 Partnership Cange Symposium at Christ Church included, from left: Reginald Cean, a director of the Centre de Formation Fritz Lafontant (CFFL), a school for vocational trades and agronomy in Corporant, Haiti; Lucien Nourissant, senior warden of the Vestry of the Bon Sauveur Episcopal Parish in Cange, and head of the Upper School of the Bon Sauveur Episcopal School in Cange; Marie Flore Chipps, deputy executive director of Zanmi Lasante, the Haitian affiliate of Partners in Health; Gillaine Warne, director of CFFL and Zanmi Agrikol /Partners in Agriculture; Dr. Reginald Booker, physician and organizer of Partnership Cange; David Vaughn of Clemson Engineers for Developing Countries.

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Christ Church, partners bring change to Haiti

Marie Flore Chipps is seeing things happen in Cange, Haiti, that have never happened there before.

An orphan who lost both his parents to HIV has become a community leader. Children are "subscribing" to learn the English language.

"There's a lot of hope," said Chipps, deputy executive director of Zanmi Lasante, the Haitian affiliate of Partners in Health. "This is how we see the change."

The change that's happening in Cange, a remote village in Haiti, is due partly to the efforts of the Christ Church and the Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina (EDUSC).

They have been partnering with the Episcopal Church (Eglise Bon Sauveur) and the people of Cange since 1979.

"We've been trying to help the people there

basically help themselves," said Dr. Reginald Booker, a Christ Church parishioner and organizer for Partnership Cange.

Chipps is among the Haitian delegates who recently visited Greenville to participate in the Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina's 2015 Partnership Cange Symposium at Christ Church's All Saints Center in downtown Greenville.

The forum was to educate and update people on the church's development efforts in Cange.

Haitian delegates involved in that work, along with representatives of Clemson University's Engineers for Developing Countries and

<http://www.edusc.org/cange-haiti/2015-partnership-cange-haiti-symposium-a-success.html>

other partners, were part of the program which attracted more than 100 people.

Booker said when the church began work in Cange, a remote island in the center of Haiti, its primary focus was on food, water, healthcare and education. He said a lot of progress has been made in those areas and today, the quality of life has improved.

But, he said, it's important to develop more partnerships and sponsorships to continue advancements in education,

economic development and infrastructure.

"We welcome anybody who would like to help us," Booker said.

"It's going to take more than we can do. For us to keep advancing with the required classes, causes and all the things that are going on that are helping enormously - education, agriculture, and health, all of these things that tie it together, to be able to really build on this vision of healthy happy well fed, well housed nation - we need a lot of players."

Greenville Rotarians are among the groups that have been very supportive of the church's work in Cange, Booker said.

Partners in Agricul-

ture helped build the Centre de Formation Fritz Lafontant (CFFL), a state-of-the-art school for vocational trades and agronomy in Corporant, Haiti, funded by the church and South Carolinians.

Booker said the CFFL was started under banana bark. It's now "the most wonderful campus," he said.

Reginald Cean, a director of the CFFL, said one of the school's pillars is entrepreneurship.

"We don't want to send (students) out as employees. We want them to go out and create jobs," he said. "We teach them to go back to the community to teach their families. Families will teach friends."

Gillaine Warne, director of CFFL, said the school's agricultural program is very, very beneficial not only to produce a noi mamba, a food medication for malnourished children, but to grow all of the peanuts at the base of this food medication and transform it.

"They also help the families who have children in this malnutrition program," she said. "It's a program that's aimed at not just cure, but preventing malnutrition."

Warne said more than 40,000 children have been treated since the program was started.

A project that will allow families to breed fish in Cange, make a profit, and give back 50 percent of the profit to help another family begin its business, is one of the many projects in the works there.

Warne said more partners are needed to help the school continue to operate and to grow the programs there..