

As momentum for the Three Bishops' Fund continues to build it is always important to reflect on the recipients of our efforts. Today I would like to share a short story about a Haitian by the name of Guilot Tibert.

Guilot is a young man, now in his early 20's, without a mother or father, sister or brother. He is a young man that Father Kesner saw fit to take under his wing at St. Paul's in Petit Trou de Nippes. Last week, I received news from Guilot that he had passed the National Examination, a necessary prerequisite to be considered for placement in the Haitian university system.

Now, one may ask, what is so special about this? While I don't claim to know all of the details, especially going back to Guilot's early childhood, consider this . . . here is a young man, who has overcome, the loss of his parents and siblings, likely as a result of the harsh conditions of day to day life in Haiti, a lack of potable water, poor sanitation, lack of access to health care, including basic vaccinations and shots for the prevention of common disease, little or no money, eating only sometimes, and on and on and on. An unimaginable scenario for any of us. But somehow in spite of it all, Guilot realized the value of education and managed to prioritize education in his life. Guilot was determined to make a better world for himself, as well as his Haitian brothers and sisters. The last several years, he has been riding his bicycle nearly 2 hours in each direction to attend a secondary school in Anse-Veau, a small village to the east of Petit-trou. Last March, as he neared the end of his secondary education, he began to prepare for the national exam. Only a passing grade on the exam would give him the possibility to attend university. Consistent with the hardships he has endured all his life, he wondered how he could possibly prepare for the exam. He had no books, no money to buy books, and no access to the books he would need in philosophy, mathematics and science. Fortunately for Guilot, the Colorado Haiti Project in collaboration, and with funding from Rotary International, had just completed a small communications project that included a small generating station, satellite, and 2 computers. So last March, as Guilot sat wondering how he could prepare for the exam, he was introduced to the internet via the newly completed communications project. After some very basic instruction on how to 'surf' the internet, his eyes lit up as he accessed online libraries full of books on philosophy, mathematics, science and much more. The world opened, and Guilot grabbed the opportunity, just as he has done all of his young life. Guilot is a young man of great character, symbolized by his commitment to his education. He is but one example of the people we serve and who in turn enrich our lives, and the lives of others.

The Three Bishops' Fund, as well as all of the other work presently done through the Colorado Haiti Project is aimed at assisting not just Guilot, but young people throughout Haiti in their quest for a better life. I hope you will find a way to participate.

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Don Snyder