

# Fontaine, Haiti

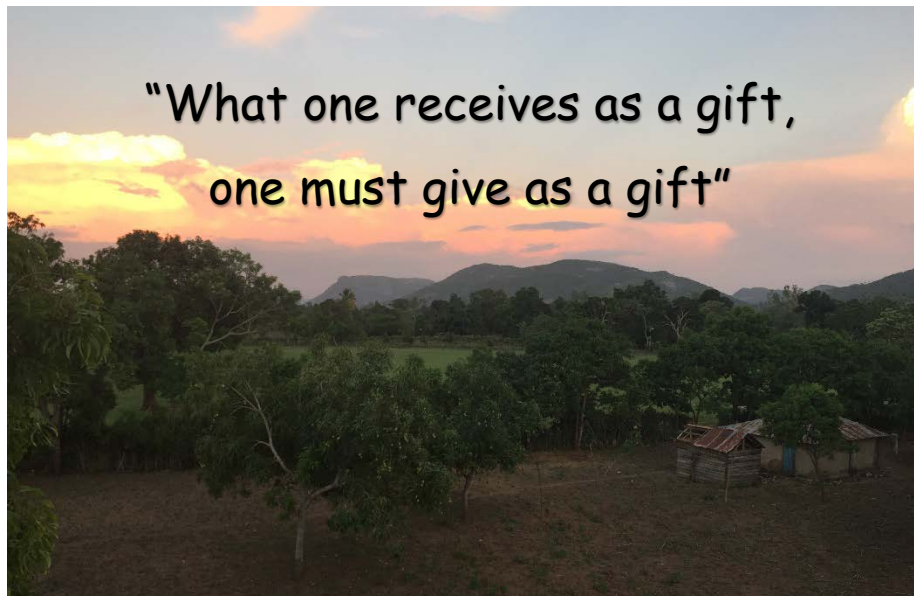
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For my Summer of Service, I had the pleasure of spending six weeks in Fontaine, Haiti with Katie Burke '18. Fontaine is a rural village on the central plateau in northern Haiti. During our time in Fontaine, we taught English at a variety of primary and secondary schools. Periodic ventures into the greater Fontaine area and La Victorie, a nearby city, allowed us to experience a wide variety of Haitian schools. As our trip progressed, we spent increasing time at a local orphanage as well connecting with the children there, both playing with and teaching them.

Weekday mornings were generally spent bouncing between and teaching at St. Gabriel's secondary school and St. Joseph's primary school. St. Gabriel's was founded by our host Pierre-Louis Joizil and is where we lived for the entirety of our trip. St. Joseph's is a neighboring primary that feeds many students into St. Gabriel's upon completion of the sixth grade. After enjoying the school lunch, afternoons were frequently consumed by a few more classes, a nap, and spending time at a local orphanage. Weekends allowed time to explore the village of Fontaine, go to the market in Pignon, attend a local church, and lesson plan for the following week, and recuperate.

Throughout the trip, Haitian hospitality shined. Haiti is beautifully rich in kindness, communalism, and emphasis of genuine personal interaction.





St. Gabriel's Secondary School where we lived for the entirety of our trip and spent the majority of our classroom time.



St. Joseph's Primary School where we spent much of classroom time and the local church where we attended services every Sunday.





Class pictures and teaching with both students at St. Gabriel's and St. Joseph's.



Local orphanage where we spent most afternoons and sporadic weekends playing soccer, Frisbee, clearing their property ensuring safer play, and teaching. We spent an increasing amount of time with these children as our trip progressed.





Weekends were spent exploring the village of Fontaine and surrounding areas. I believe it was through many of these more free form experiences that we were able to immerse ourselves into Haitian culture and build meaningful relationships. On multiple occasions, we supported the St. Gabriel's soccer team (top left) and socialized with locals during their games (top right). Loubert, a student at St. Gabriel's, and his brother Loubenson, a student at St. Joseph's frequently joined us as friends, guides, and translators (bottom left). Throughout our trip, we lived with Xaverian Brother Bill Griffin, a lifetime missionary with years of experience in Haiti, who became a close friend and source of wisdom (bottom right).