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## BEYOND OURSELVES... MISSION IN ACTION!

An official publication of the International  
Fellowship of Bible Churches



Welcome to the spring edition of our online publication, "*Beyond Ourselves*". The purpose of "*Beyond Ourselves*" is to inform readers about IFBC work in the US and beyond. We highlight one or two IFBC ministries at a time, showing how God is using our people to make advances in the Kingdom of God. Our hope in doing so is not only to provide information for dissemination among our friends, but also to incite ever-expanding development of the Kingdom of God throughout the world. May God lift your hearts as you read this quarter's edition, and may He grant you ever greater effectiveness in your life and labors for Him. For additional information regarding IFBC visit our website at [ifbc.org](http://ifbc.org).

*Dr William Sillings*

*General Superintendent*

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## BEYOND OURSELVES...with *Guenson and Claudia Charlot*



My connection with IFBC goes as far back as 2006, when, as a student, I met Dr. Sillings at Wesley Biblical Seminary (Mississippi). He then invited me to the IFBC International Assembly. During the assembly I concluded that IFBC is the right place to help me become a more

My wife, Claudia, and I moved back to Haiti in 2010 after the devastating earthquake. I am from Haiti and Claudia is from Jamaica.

In May 2012, we planted our church, **Discipleship Evangelical Church (EGED)**, with the help of Elizé Alphonse (vice-field director of IFBC- Haiti). In November of the same year, Dr. Sillings came to Haiti to encourage us, ordain us, and challenge me to become IFBC Haiti field director.



Today, our church meets on Sunday mornings with approximately 300 adults and 100 children. In addition, over 160 people meet for prayer and Bible study in homes across the city each week as part of 15 adult and youth small groups. Over 70 percent of the members are teenagers and young adults. We credit the church's success to God and the solid leadership team He has blessed us with.



The church has made great strides in the past few months. In September last year, after 6 years of renting facilities in less than ideal conditions, God opened a door for us to purchase our own land nearby. It is a miracle that a church with mostly unemployed young people could raise the \$40,000 deposit after only 3 years of fundraising. Then in the space of 2 weeks, we erected a structure with the unwavering support of Dr. Sillings and IFBC. We have \$18,000 left to pay for the land by June.

Children and youth ministries play a critical role in our strategy at EGED. I am convinced that the culture of political and economic instability is due in large part to the animistic worldview held by most Haitians. For this to change, the children and young people must be disciplined spiritually and groomed socially to take their place as responsible Christian citizens. However, since September our children's church had to be suspended because we have no facilities to house services.





hemisphere (over 50% being under 21 years old), this need is even more pressing. Haiti has an unemployment rate as high as 60%. This issue is the focus of Claudia's calling. She is the executive director of Men Leve

(Hand Up) Micro Credit ([www.menleve.org](http://www.menleve.org)) which trains church people to start their own small business and lends them small loans.

In addition, we are making plans in the medium term to provide quality education to the children in our city. We plan to start an English elementary school. This will create employment for more young people from our church and community while providing a viable source of income for the church. For this school to become a reality, we plan to send our brightest and most spiritually-mature high school graduates to colleges in the Caribbean and the States to receive an education and come back as teachers and administrators. These young scholars would need a church to adopt and sponsor them during 3 to 4 years of study. This would be a win-win because they would be able to assist their host churches in children and youth ministries; praise and worship and music ministries etc. If your church is interested in sponsoring a young person, please let us know.

IFBC work in Haiti goes beyond what EGED is doing. Four (4) years ago, we invited other pastors and churches to consider joining IFBC Haiti. Today, IFBC-Haiti is a source of encouragement and support for the 15 churches that make up the fellowship. Our greatest achievement was our first youth camp held last summer with 110 energetic young people. Many of them recommitted their lives to the Lord. Then in December, we held a Christmas dinner for our pastors and their spouses. In March, we will have a leadership conference for our pastors and their key leaders.



We give God thanks for Dr. Sillings and IFBC who have supported us faithfully over the years. We crave your prayers as we continue to labor faithfully in God's vineyard in Haiti. We are convinced: Christ is the only hope for Haiti!

## BEYOND OURSELVES...with *Vin and Ben*



On Sunday, July 9, 2017 eight people gathered together to worship the Lord in a living room in Connecticut. On that same morning Wesley Chapel was born. Our church plant is the beginning of a missions work to New England in the Wesleyan spirit. Leading Wesley Chapel is Vin Artese who serves as Lead Pastor and Ben

Leahey who serves as Associate Pastor. Since July of 2017 the Lord has incredibly blessed the work of Wesley Chapel. We are currently still meeting in the living room but now there are twenty of us (including children) who gather for Sunday morning worship. We also have a growing children's ministry, women's ministry, and men's ministry. Because of space restrictions and a desire to reach our community with the gospel we signed a lease for a building in January of 2019. Currently we are busy preparing to launch Wesley Chapel into the city of Shelton in early April. Our future church building is located in a growing community full of young professionals that are considered an unreached people group. New England is the "new American missional frontier." Polls show New England to be the least religious, least Bible-minded, and most post-Christian in the nation. And with one church for every 4,000-8,000 people, it's home to many of America's most churchless cities. According to Jared C. Wilson "If there is an unreached people group in the United States, it is New Englanders." In 2009 a Gallup poll placed the six states of New England in the top ten least religious states in the nation and while the Bible Belt may be approaching a completely un-churched generation, New England is already there. Even more surprising is that according to the NETS Institute for Church Planting, those in New England who attend evangelical churches hovers between 1 and 3% of the population.



and more of these buildings house theologically liberal, practically Unitarian congregations, if they house church gatherings at all. Among the churches of New England there are very few *evangelical* churches and among evangelical churches it is practically unheard of that there would be *Wesleyan-Arminian* church. Wesley Chapel is excited to be a part of the IFBC. We hope that in the years to come that the IFBC will focus more and more on church planting, particularly in difficult regions of the United States such as New England. We were encouraged immensely by the annual conference in July and with the vision that the IFBC has in moving forward in church planting. Our vision is to see the Lord pour out his spirit upon Shelton and that many people would come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. We hope to see people delivered from drug addiction, families restored, and marriages healed. But we pray that the work of the Lord would even extend beyond Shelton to the whole Housatonic River Valley, and then to Connecticut, and then to New England. We hope to see a revival of the work of the Lord so New England would “be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters



cover the sea” (Habakkuk 2:14, ESV). We also hope to see the rich Christian heritage of New England restored, even its rich *Wesleyan* heritage from what seems now to be a distant era. We pray that the Lord would raise up that which “is fallen and repair its breaches, and raise up its ruins and rebuild it as in the days of old” (Amos 9:11, ESV).

Please join us in praying for the work of the Lord in Connecticut and beyond.

***For more information about Wesley Chapel please visit [www.wesleychapelct.org](http://www.wesleychapelct.org). Vin and Ben also record and produce a Wesleyan-Arminian theology podcast called Remonstrance. If you are interested in listening to Remonstrance Podcast please visit [remonstrancepodcast.com](http://remonstrancepodcast.com) or find us on iTunes or Stitcher. You can also contact Vin ([artesevin@gmail.com](mailto:artesevin@gmail.com)) and Ben ([BrotherBenjamin@gmail.com](mailto:BrotherBenjamin@gmail.com)) directly through E-mail***

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