

Haitian man works to ease troubles in poor nation

By KASIA McDONOUGH
Post Staff

DALLAS The recent high temperatures can be uncomfortable, especially for those who cannot take refuge in the cool luxury of central air or beat the heat in a backyard pool.

But Milner Frege, who works with some of the world's poorest people in Haiti, would consider each of us fortunate. "Where I work the situation is very, very bad," he said.

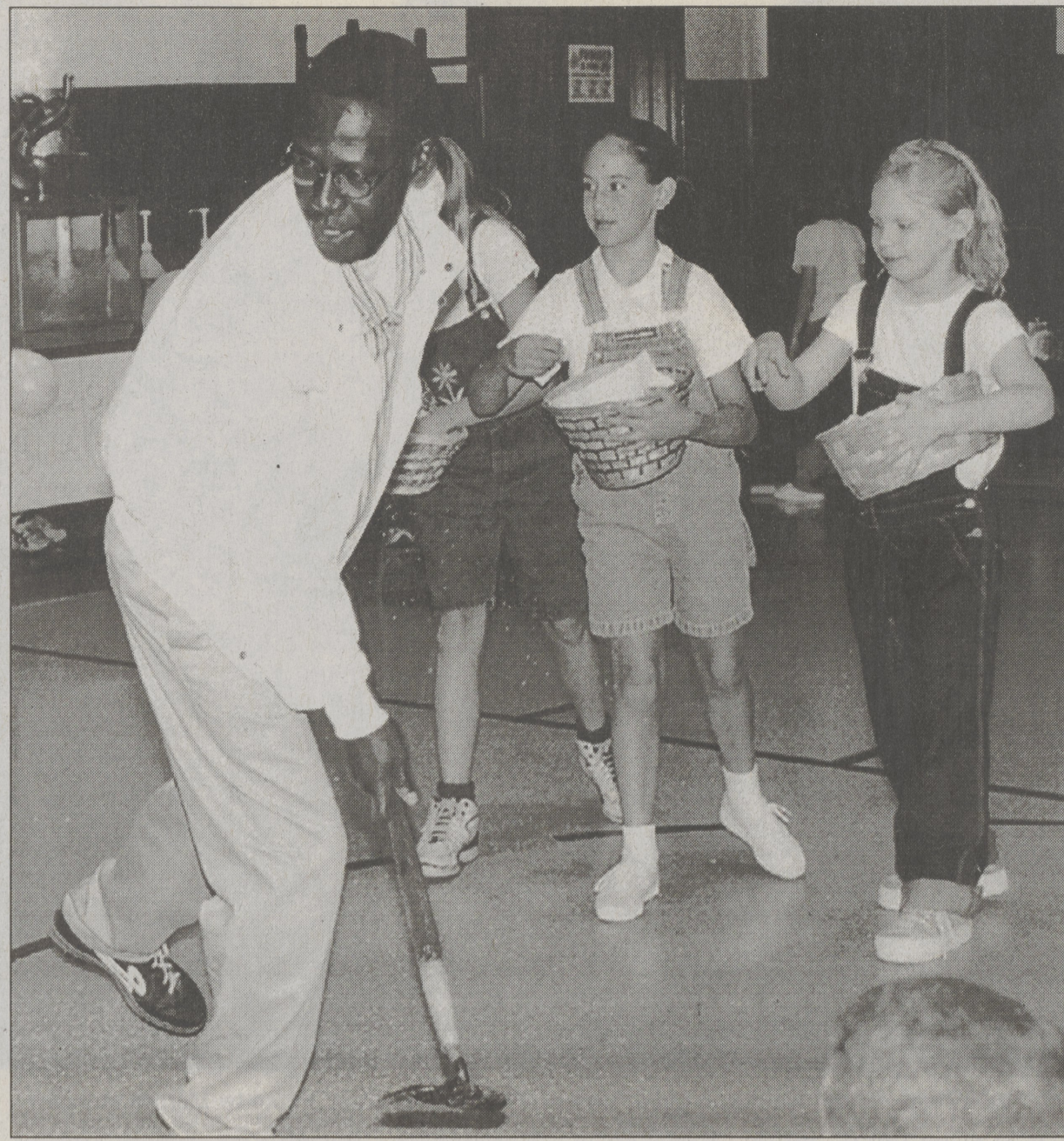
Frege, who is visiting the Gate of Heaven parish until the end of this week, is a part of Hands Together, a volunteer organization of lay people battling the effects of despair in a nation that is all too familiar with mother nature's wrath.

This Caribbean nation is often in the line of tropical storms and hurricanes which ravage poorly constructed shelters and wash out patches of vegetation. "There are so many troubles in Haiti, dirty water, malnutrition and people without homes," said Frege.

Hands Together aims to combat these problems by providing Haitians with the most basic human needs, including balanced meals, safe drinking water and medical attention. "We run a clinic, nothing big, just five rooms in the whole place," said Frege. "One room is for the doctors to live, another room is the pharmacy, and the living room is where the patients are examined."

The clinic, which is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, is often overwhelmed by the sheer number of people needing treatment. "Almost every day, we have 500 or more patients; most of them are just hungry," said Frege. "We give them food and we tell them, 'You need to eat more.' but I know there is no money."

The average annual income in Haiti is approximately \$300. That



POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Milner Frege led some Gate of Heaven children in a Haitian dance during the church's recent bazaar. After this week he will return to his native country where he works to ease the pain of life in the Western Hemisphere's poorest nation.

is not enough for even the basics, so anything beyond those life sustaining products is simply not considered. "The people cannot afford to pay tuition for school so children are not learning," said Frege. "We decided it is necessary to have a free school to make things better for the next generation."

Frege is the coordinator of one of the village schools funded by Hands Together. "My job is to take the students food because maybe at 9 a.m. they have not eaten since yesterday morning and they will cry in class from hunger," he said. "I check on the teacher, too. There are so many students, over 300 already in the first year; it is hard work."

The school represents hope for

"Almost every day, we have 500 or more patients; most of them are just hungry."

Milner Frege
"Hands Together" visitor to Back Mountain

better things to come and it is popular although many of those who attend class have to walk several miles to get there. "We teach reading, writing, and everything. The children learn to care for animals and love nature and the adults come to the school for literacy in the afternoons."

The school also offers academic scholarships to students who want to continue their education at a high school or university. "We have given many scholarships but we want those students to come back to the school to help the little ones," said Frege. "Many already help with the literacy program for adults, but it will be good to have some doctors or teachers return to the village, too."

That first generation of well educated villagers will not be ready to help for several years. In the interim, organizations such as Hands Together will continue to try to ease the suffering in Haiti. "I think that the volunteers are doing a good job, but there is still very much work to do."

School playground renovations complete

The Dallas Elementary School playground is now open to the public. Construction of the new play area has been completed and the new access road is from Conyngham Avenue.

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PSU announces new degree program begins this fall

Penn State Wilkes-Barre will introduce a new degree program, Information Sciences & Technology (IST) this fall. The degree program has been designed from the ground up with input from business, industry and the public. Graduates will be able to design, develop and administer information systems and will be eligible for careers including network administrator, systems analyst, telecommunications specialist and database analyst.

This new school is being initiated by the University at locations across the state. Associate degree options offered at Penn State Wilkes-Barre are software, networking, telecommunications, data/information and baccalaureate (to provide a smooth transition to the four year program being planned for fall 2001). An individualized option is also possible. Degrees may be pursued on a part-time or full-time basis. Businesses may also be interested

in on-site courses for employees.

A survey by the Information Technology Association of America predicts a shortage of at least one million computer scientists, systems designers and programmers in the year 2005 if the current growth rate in information technology fields continues. According to the U.S. Office of Employment Projections, Bureau of Labor Statistics, information science and technology jobs are and will continue to be in high demand.

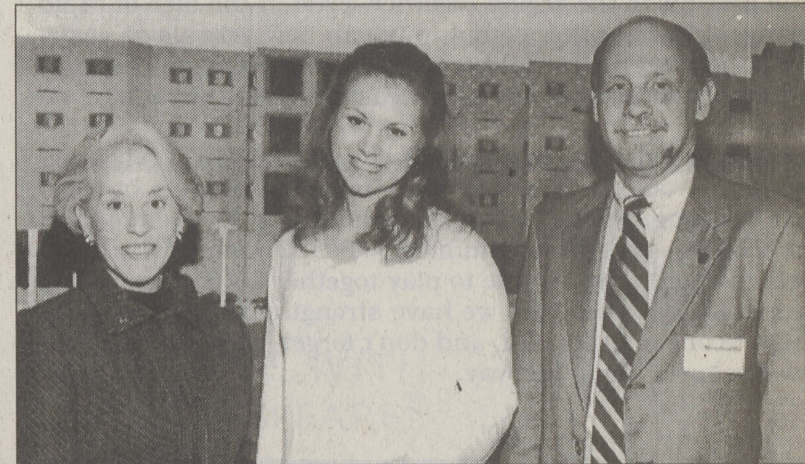
For more information about Information Sciences and Technology associate and baccalaureate degrees at Penn State Wilkes-Barre, call the Admissions office at (570) 675-9238 or Academic Affairs at (570) 67509252. For IST certificate programs, including on-site training and the new Webmaster Certificate, call the Continuing Education office at (570) 675-9219. More information can also be found on the IST web site at www.ist.psu.edu.

Hillbilly Bob to speak at Bible Crusade

Children ages 3-18 are invited to a unique Bible Crusade at the Emmanuel Assembly of God Church each evening 6:30-8 p.m. Monday-Friday, July 12-16. Ventriloquist "Hillbilly Bob" is the featured speaker.

Activities include a performance by Puppeteers with a 30' long cabin involving singing, prizes, stories and snacks.

Details and directions can be cleared by calling 639-5858. Transportation will be provided upon request.



Chimock earns Friedman scholarship

Katie Chimock, Dallas, a senior liberal studies major at College Misericordia, is the recipient of the Sidney and Pauline Friedman Scholarship.

Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Friedman are continuing benefactors to the College. Mrs. Friedman is also a long-standing member of the College's Ethics Institute.

Seen following the program are, from left, Mrs. Sidney Friedman; Katie Chimock, and Dr. Michael MacDowell, president, College Misericordia.

Dallas UMC holding vacation Bible school

The Dallas United Methodist Church will hold its annual Vacation Bible School on July 12-16. The program is entitled "Good News @ gospelrock" and will run from 9:30 a.m. until noon each day. Please register by calling the church office at 675-0122 on Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Hasay will meet with BMT residents July 8

Rep. George C. Hasay (R-Luzerne) will be going to visit residents of Franklin Township, Dallas Township (District North) and Harveys Lake Borough on July 8.

Constituents who have a question about the General Assembly or any state government issue are encouraged to schedule an appointment with Hasay in the comfort of their own home.

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