

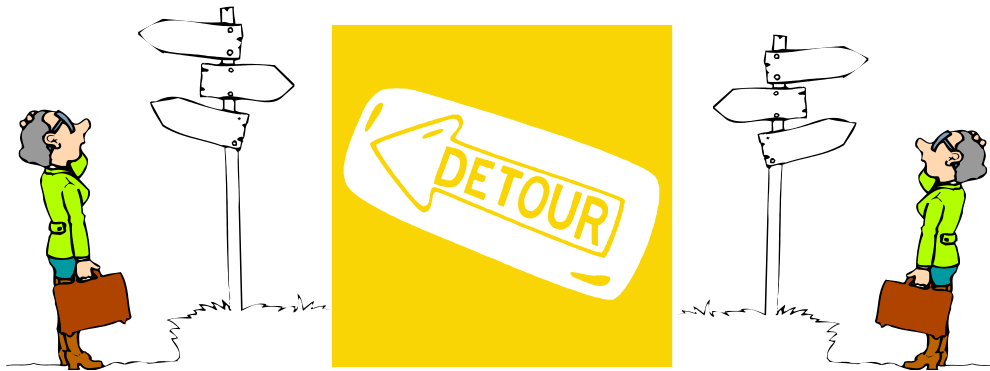
# PROJECT 12 CABARET

and

## THE “YELLOW Brick Wall”

by

Granny Bin, Director Kreyol for Parents



**Project 12 – Cabaret:** A dream Project to build 12 houses for families of adopted children whose homes and personal belongings were destroyed in the January 12, 2010, Haiti Earthquake. To date: Nothing physical has been done to accomplish this dream, i.e., nothing to house the families who continue to live in situations beyond what any man should have to.

I asked myself a thousand times why so many obstacles that keep me banging my head against the **Yellow Brick Wall**. The project began with hope beyond what anyone could dare imagine. Yet, contributions stopped coming in...the fired up world became somewhat shadowed when the pictures, news images, stopped being shown about Haiti. I realize that this is typical because disasters that continually hit the same place all the time simply become habitual in the eyes of many. But, I told myself...‘you’ll show them’....you’ll show them that things can be accomplished with persistence, hard work and dedication.

Well, I had to wake up and smell the roses BIG time.....because what I didn’t realize was that the joy and excitement of skipping down the **Yellow Brick Road** like little Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz, just couldn’t happen without the numerous obstacles, the unexpected obstacles that so often tear down the hopes of so many missionaries who feel that they have been destined to work in Haiti. So what do you do? You keep skipping down the Yellow Brick Road.... You try to get yourself together – not to mention your pride – to share with those who have helped you, the truth about why your project can’t be done as planned and this is not easy because to say that you may have failed...is just not something that the human mind can easily admit. Don’t get me wrong, I don’t consider myself as having failed because frankly the word “Fail” really doesn’t exist in my dictionary; and, I assure you that this writing is not about failure. What it is about, is sharing with you some realities about the Project 12 Cabaret housing, the planned undertaking to build houses for 12 families who children stayed with me during their adoption completion processes. Remember in my first newsletter (you can read it again at [www.grannybin-kfp.com](http://www.grannybin-kfp.com)), I said that this project would be, throughout its entirety and until

completion, be transparent. Well, I am being transparent about where I am to date, what has caused me to be where I am with this project; and, why after seemingly endless tired days and sleepless nights of thinking and praying, I am about to make a detour; because I am at the end of the **Yellow Brick Road** and in front of me is the **Yellow Brick Wall**, the wall that will always be there to prevent this project from being a success as originally planned.

I don't know if I would have had the fortitude and or determination yet to write this if it had not been for the words that a dear friend and supporter of mind sent to me in her email just two days ago. She wrote and I feel compelled to share this with you, the following excerpt, because I can tell you that I was truly praying for a confirmation about how I was feeling and what I needed to do. The word DETOUR popped in my mind on several occasions, it was not clear nor was it acceptable to me to tell my supporters of a possible detour change in plans. After all, my plans were set in concrete to be proven successful as they were. My friend said...

*".....Led to pray for you to not get overwhelmed with your workload & suffering you see around you. You know He supplies strength for you to complete the specific work for Him. He watches over & leads others to provide for those needs you were never meant to meet. It must be difficult when so much pain is around you. HOW GREAT THOU ART!....."*

So dear friends, supporters and readers, I have spent the past four weeks wallowing in my own self pity and being bombarded by the looks of the Haitian families who seem to have absolutely no hope for a better life. You feel burdened and don't know where to turn. Everything you try to do seems fruitless and it has seemed that all my efforts to make this project work just keep smacking me against the Yellow Brick Wall. Here are some facts that have caused so many bangs into the Yellow Brick Wall:

1. We thought that it would be good (suggestion from one of our volunteer committee members) to try and become a legal foundation so that people who wanted to donate would have more confidence and feel more assured that their funds would be properly used. Logical to me....so off I went skipping down the Yellow Brick Road....to get this done. Of course, I had told myself that I could get this done in a couple of weeks. WRONG! It was skip a block or two and hit a yellow brick wall and this went on and on and well as I write this the Yellow Wall continues to block our success. Who would really understand what I am trying to say. I think not many, but for sure the orphanages and the adopting parents who have had to relentlessly battle, never slackening but continuing always at the same intense demanding or punishing level with legal matters to get their children's adoption papers approved and completed. I think most of the mission organizations who try and get simple things done in Haiti will and call readily relate to the Yellow Brick Wall.

It is comforting to say that we have received approval for about three quarters of all the documentation that is required before we are legal. We are out of the Magistrate's office and have their letter of approval, i.e., we finally got this approval just last week. We are out of the Prime Minister's office. We are expected to be out of the Ministry of Interior's office this week and then we have one more approval from the Ministry of Finance. So, I am okay with this part of the project and I am happy that this mission of legalization is about to be finished and filed in the "DONE" files. A project which I don't hesitate to characterize as having been a horrible task to the point of exhaustion.

2. So okay...what's the other problem(s) that have kept me from accomplishing the building of these 12 homes? First of all and before I get into this, I will say that I have been feeling a lot better when I read that Haiti had only removed 2% of the earthquake rubble. OMG...2% after all this time? I suppose if I looked at this Project 12 in

terms of the percentage amount, we too would be no more than 2% to the finish line. The country comes against the same kinds of Yellow Brick Walls which I think are from a lack poor country management and the ability to know who is responsible for what. Where do you go to get things done? Well, after the earthquake, there really were no government buildings left standing so you have to consider the fact that months went by before the country was able to even think about functioning. Finally, tents, shipping containers where put up as temporary government facilities. Documents that were lost forever in the rumbles caused a long and difficult task. There was little or no functioning electricity in more than 85% of the country. Office furnishing and computers that housed the country's information had to be purchased and reinstalled, and on, and on down the Yellow Brick Road.... BAM....into the Yellow Brick Wall!!!...

3. As for our poor 12 families (actually 14), there are millions that are living in tents and make shift tents and were doing as well as could be expected until the winds and rains started to come. Just three days ago, we could hardly get out of our community for the rains that flooded the roads and to think I have 6 families in my community that I was able to get tents for and now the tents are drying out and if you blow hard, like the big bad wolf, you'll deteriorate the tempo dwellings into dust....sun blasted, sun cooked, finished. Rains up to more than 4 inches creeping into the tent homes of the people causing fever, colds, coughing, Where's the doctor? Bang, bang, bang on the gate of??? That's no doctor, that's granny bin. Granny bin you got some medicine? Granny bin my tent is finished..... Granny bin do you have any food? BANG...just hit the Yellow Brick Wall! And you just stepped out of your dry, water free house, in your car.... You dare look to the right or left to see the tent people looking at you. They aren't thinking anything bad. They are happy you are there to help but you...you feel like you just banged your head against the Yellow Brick Wall. You feel so helpless...Where are my 12 houses? Why can't they be built?



Just tell me some of the reasons as to why the 12 houses can't be built:

- They can't be built Granny Bin because you are caught up in a web where there are no results that happen fast enough for you to make success.
- You can't build because the cost estimates that you quoted in January have tripled in price.
- You can't build because the \$45,000 you quoted is now a WHOPPING increase to the tune of one and a half times the original cost.
- You can't build because the people don't own their own land (well one family does) and if you build a house on that land, it belongs to the owner...
- Okay what if you purchase a piece of land for each family....JOKE....the land owners now know the value of their land so they are selling at BIG outrageous prices and in American \$\$\$\$
- Okay, what if.....NOPE, don't even go there because although the idea of placing the people in another community seems feasible.....it is not because their entire roots are where they are, their families, their neighbors, their small farming land (sharecroppers), the schools that they can afford. Oh Good Grief Charlie Brown...give me a break.
- BANG.....against the Yellow Brick Wall.

4. At last.....you make the decision based upon all that has happened and all that has not happened and you decide to not hit the Yellow Brick Wall anymore on this issue. You got to make a change in plans, something that would benefit the homeless people NOW....now a few months from now but NOW. After all, it has been 9 months and 17 days since the great misery. And that does not include all the small disasters since the earthquake....aftershocks, strong winds knocking down the already leaning and wobbly houses that dare tried to resist the quake, winds that blew the tents completely apart only to be mended again with pieces of rag, wire, string and God Bless Duck Tape.
5. Okay, so what's the new plan? What's the DETOUR from the old plan? We are going to rent houses as we find them. Today, we paid for the rent for one of our families for two years. As soon as the families find houses that they can rent, we will pay for two years. In addition, we will purchase two pigs (pigs are like money in the bank for each family) and when the two years are up they will be able to sell them (if necessary) to pay for their rent. A full grown pig today can sell for as much as \$1,000 Haitian dollars. The people like the idea and well it is better than letting them suffer with no housing. Where there is the family that has land, we will build a home for them (1 room with a gallery) but no pigs for them as they are more stabled in their means than the others.
6. The money we collected will cover this DETOUR.... While it is not going to construct houses for the people, it is going to answer the need for housing. If there is any money left, we will put it in a fund to later fulfill the dream of building. By the end of the two years, the families will have saved some money and we will help them with a partial housing gift so that they can build a house for themselves....one brick at a time and you know what? That is okay because it is better than running into the Yellow Brick Wall with nowhere to go and nowhere to lay your head. It's better than no hope.
7. We will continue to raise funds for the housing project because I believe that there are no obstacles that can't be overcome. I believe that I should finish the race....be it now or later. After all, who am I to try and time the completion of anything because I have learned that everything works for the glory of God and in His own perfect time.

So, I'll just keep on skipping down the Yellow Brick Road, with my dreams and hopes and belief and faith because I know from experience that what seems like the END, what seems like failure is oftentimes just the beginning of dreams realized.

Do I want your donations to keep coming? Yes, I do. You can go to the website at [www.grannybin-kfp.com](http://www.grannybin-kfp.com) and click on the shipping and donation button on the right to send your donation through PayPal. I will be donating myself as the revenues from our newly opened guesthouse get off the ground. We are pretty much booked beginning October 21 through the end of January. Spread the word for friends that might need a place to stay. Check out the Granny Bin's guesthome presentation by clicking on the following link.

<http://smilebox.com/playBlog/4d5467774e546b304f44593d0d0a&blogview=true>.

I will take one day at a time. If you got to the end of this, I take the time now to thank for bearing with me and for your continued support and prayers. I specifically ask you for prayers for me ... prayers of wisdom and understanding and patience and endurance.

*Blessings, Granny Bin*

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS.. Since the DETOUR.** Here are three families, since Friday of last week, that are happily skipping down the Yellow Brick Road. We'll post pictures of their new living conditions in next month's Project 12 Update.

1. Marie Fedette Lolo (Nadege/Jean Valdes (Samuel), has rented a 2 room house.
2. Mario Saintlemy(Douby) has been given funds to repair his home. Mario's home will be finished in a week or two.
3. Masse Dieuhomme (Matchina/Luna) has rented a 1 room house (large).