

SMPC Mission Stories – Val Fleurisma
Transcript for the June 30, 2026 Interview



My name is Simon Valery Fleuresma. I am the last born of a family of four. Actionnel and Yolande are my parents. I have three sisters that live in the States. I currently reside in Haiti. Growing up, I lived in both Bayonnais and Gonaïves. We have our primary home in Gonaïves. In OFCB, we stayed at the guest house. My grandparents lived in Bayonnais as well. I was in school in Gonaïves, but we would travel every weekend.

They're very different in a good way. Gonaïves — most of my friends were there. Bayonnais was a different environment. I had friends there as well. But it was very humbling to grow up there. In Gonaïves, kids are fortunate. Bayonnais is different with kids that are less fortunate. In Bayonnais, when my mom would give me food, I would sneak the food out and give it to other kids that couldn't have food. In Gonaïves, I would go to a friend's house, we could share a meal. So, that's the difference between the two communities.

What led you to pursue higher education in the United States?

The US has the best schools in the world, so my family and myself, we wanted the best education. My dad was fortunate to go to CPCC and my three sisters went to school. So, I was following their footsteps and it was great. I needed it for the experience.

In 2018, when I left Gonaïves for Charlotte, exactly two days after we buried my grandma, it was a very sad time. The only thing that I had to transition from was missing everybody. But other than that, there wasn't a big culture shock because I was used to coming to Charlotte about every summer since I was nine.

I studied international business in college. I got a Bachelor of Science degree in international business at the University of North Carolina in Charlotte. I am pursuing a master's degree in global business as well.

For the first couple of years in the States, I lived with the Copes. They welcomed me to their home and treated me like one of their own. During COVID 2020, I moved to campus. That's when I transferred from CPCC to UNC Charlotte.

What inspired you to return to Haiti and invest your talents in Bayonnais and OFCB?

I love Haiti and Bayonnais has a special place in my heart. I have admired the work that my parents started there. I know people will be curious how a young fella was in the United

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States and decided to move back to Haiti where everything is going from bad to worse, but it is simply — I have faith. I am going on faith that things can get better.

How did your parents' values and leadership qualities influence you?

My parents go above and beyond for what they believe in, for what they work in, for the ministry, for the people of Bayonnais to live a better life. From what the school's done, it has been a great story. I think that story is a Hollywood worthy type of story.

Please give us an overview of OFCB.

We have a lot of different ministries, but the two major ones are the church and the school. I would put the school first. The school has grown significantly - twenty-five hundred students across four campuses. The church has grown. Other entities that we have are the clinic and the agronomy program. It's the clinic (that) we are doing our best to have people come, but sometimes you can't get them to come because of a myth that sickness is not due to science — it's something else. That is something we're progressively working on.

What role are you currently serving and what are your primary responsibilities?

I am the director of operations for OFCB. I work alongside the administrator and Kenold and my dad. Also, I work with Melissa in the United States to see how we can better manage the resources that we have and seek smoother, better operation of OFCB.

My vision for the next five years, I would love for the clinic in Bayonnais to be specialized in one thing where people from all the Artibonite state are coming to seek medical attention. I focus on the clinic because if we get good results, it will put Bayonnais on the map. Let's say for example, we are the best at delivering babies. People will just come to Bayonnais to deliver their babies safely. With that, all the other things will come — trade school and a bigger market and stuff like that.

What strengths do you see in the ICB schools right now and what hopes do you have for the future?

I mentioned earlier that we have twenty-five hundred kids. For those kids to have the education that they have, it is due to the sponsorship. For those mouths to be fed, it is from that. In the past, we've had people that came through the school. Now they're engineers, doctors, computer scientists, nurses. We've got some great people that went to the school that are doing great things. The progress that we are making is due to the sponsorship that came through the US.

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What specific prayer requests do you have for individuals and churches?

I hope everybody pray for us to keep having hope and to keep feeling inspired with everything that's going on. Hope is the one thing that drives us and once that is gone, there's not much you can do. Keep praying that we can continue to have hope, continue to have vision and dream that everything will be better.