



DAPHELINE GASTON
Degree Program: Nursing
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Dapheline Gaston is a friendly and lovable young woman from the village of Galette Chambon. She has five sisters and one older brother. Her parents died when she was about 10 years old, so she and her siblings have lived on their own most of her life. Her older brother got a job as a sharecropper after their parents died in order to provide for the family. Dapheline and her sisters all took care of the house and younger siblings throughout school. They helped provide income by finding odd jobs like cleaning houses for people and washing clothes. She learned from an early age how important it is to work hard and do your part to be able to eat and go to school. Soon after her parents died, she went to the administrator of the school and asked for a payment schedule so that she and her siblings could make installment payments to pay their tuition. She knew that as long as all of them were going to school, they were not only getting a good education, but they would get a hot meal every day, so this was how they would survive. The principal suggested that they all go apply for the BGM Sponsorship program, so they did that, and soon all of them were sponsored. She doesn't know how they would have survived over the years if they had not been in school.

Dapheline is proud to say that she is not only a 2021 graduate from BGM High School, but the first in her family to ever graduate high school and go on to college. She feels so proud to be one of the chosen fourteen! She absolutely loves to study and learn. She remembers the day, when in the BGM sponsorship interview, they asked her what she wanted to be when she grew up. She realized that she had never even thought about that question. Her dream each day was to just make it to the next day. When they asked the question, she remembered realizing that she could dream beyond the next day. They suggested possible careers to her, and when they said "nurse" she remembers that her heart skipped a beat. She remembers thinking, "Yes! I would love to be a nurse!" She had no idea how that was going to happen, but from that day forward, she dreamed of working in a clinic, taking care of the sick, and making a difference in her community. Dapheline has held onto that dream for years now and is finally seeing it come true. She is now in the nursing program at Providence University on BGM Scholarship. She has a laptop of her own and classmates and friends that all study together. She recently found out that the university is working on providing internships at local clinics and hospitals for the nursing students while they take their online classes. She is so excited about this!

Dapheline is also excited about moving into the house that BGM has rented for the university students. Although many people have left Galette Chambon due to gang violence, she and her siblings have remained in their house because it is in a remote part of the village. The main difficulty Dapheline has had staying in the village is finding enough signal on her phone to get internet access for her online classes. She can no longer venture to other parts of the village to find a good signal, so she has struggled to keep up her class work. She is hopeful now that when she moves into the rental house, she will have better access to internet and will be with her classmates and friends again. Living in Haiti is hard right now for everyone, but Dapheline is confident that God has a plan for Haiti and a plan for her life. She hangs onto that hope and takes each new day as a blessing while she continues to press on to realizing her dreams of becoming a nurse.