



HERLINE ALTIDOR  
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Herline Altidor is a 2021 graduate of BGM High School. She is a nursing major and is currently in her second year at Providence University of Haiti on a BGM Scholarship. She loves to study and learn, and she gets great satisfaction in her life from helping other people. It's no surprise that as a little girl she decided that she wanted to one day become a nurse. She wasn't sure how she was going to do it, but she was determined that she would work hard in school and make wise decisions so that she would never end up living the same difficult life that her mother lived.

Herline grew up in a small area outside the village of Galette Chambon called Catterine. Her mother was a single, uneducated woman trying to support five children. They lived in a one-room, mud shack that she helped her mother construct when she was only six years old. At that time, her grand parents were good people, but they had kicked her mother out of the house for becoming pregnant again out of wedlock. Herline didn't understand at the time that it was her mother's poor choices that had put them in the situation they were in. All she knew was that her mother loved her very much, and she did all that she possibly could to provide for her children. Herline remembers her mother working many different odd jobs all the time so that she could buy her children some food. She grew her own garden; she washed people's clothes; she cleaned people's houses; she chopped down wood to make charcoal to sell, and when Herline was a little older, her mother started buying boxes of snack foods and selling them in the town square and near the school. Her mother did pretty well at this job, but she was never happy. Herline still remembers some days when all her mother had to cook for dinner were leaves that she had pulled off the tree in their yard. She remembers seeing the leaves boiling in a small pot of murky water and wondering if she was going to be able to eat them without becoming sick. She didn't dare ask her mother why they were boiling leaves for dinner because she knew that would make her angry. Herline wanted her life to be better. Somehow she knew that getting an education would make a difference. When Herline was eight years old, she got up the courage to ask her grandparents if they would help her go to school. They agreed to pay her tuition, and she started going to a little local school. Then when she was thirteen, she asked if she could apply for a sponsorship at the new BGM school. Again, they agreed, and she started the 7<sup>th</sup> grade at BGM High School. As Herline grew older, she began to realize that there were other kids that seemed to live better lives than hers. They had houses made of concrete block; they went to church; their parents had jobs where they made enough money to buy rice and beans; and all their siblings were in school. It was at this time when she decided that she was not going to make the same choices that her mother had made. She would stay in school, go to church, and focus on her future and the plans God had for her life.

Throughout her life, Herline has been observant of her surroundings and made smart choices. She sees that God has given her a strong will, a smart brain, and wisdom beyond her years. She has big dreams that she knows she can accomplish. She is very thankful to her grandparents for helping her go to grade school, to her sponsor for helping her go to high school, and for BGM for helping her go to college. She doesn't know exactly what her future looks like, but one thing she knows for sure is that she will never, ever boil leaves for dinner.