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Dear Friends:

I wish you good health and much happiness throughout 2015.

It's been a year since we began to distribute the CD and DVD of *Lanbi Konen* (The conch shell has sounded), the anti-child slavery song, to schools in Haiti, resulting in hundreds of thousands of children who have learned the song, and are teaching it to their younger siblings and friends. It's a social revolution. Before the song was distributed to the schools, I asked 200 children at three different public schools if they would take in restaveks--child domestic slaves when they grow up. Nearly half had raised their hands. Then I paid a teacher to teach the song to these children and returned two weeks later. When I asked the same question as before, not a hand was raised. At that point, I knew that we had a powerful tool in the fight against child slavery.

The idea for the song had come to me in February 2010 when I realized that it would be an uphill battle to convince adults to give up the practice, no matter how many times I spoke on behalf of these children on Haitian television. I realized that I needed to imbed the idea of children's rights and equality into young, open minds. I remembered as a child watching children in my neighborhood in Port-au-Prince, in the 60s, singing *on the bridge of Avignon, we dance and we sing*, a very popular children's song originating in France. By the time I was trafficked into the United States in the 70's, the song had imbedded itself in my mind as if I was born knowing it. It was during my senior year at Spring Valley High School, in New York, that I learned Avignon was a city in France, and I dreamt of traveling there just to see the famous bridge. That opportunity came in the mid-80s, when I had two weeks of vacation from my job. I flew to Paris, rented a car and drove south to Avignon. Today Haitian children no longer sing *on the Bridge of Avignon* which I heard fifty years ago and which led me across two oceans. But now, by the thousands, they are singing *Lanbi Konen* which is building a bridge that children in



servitude will cross to find freedom in a modern Haiti.

Hosting a conference to distribute DVDs and copies of the lyrics to school principals in Haiti is a challenge: After the venue is found, invitations are sent via a private delivery system. Snacks, paper plates, napkins, water, soft drinks, chairs, tables, a generator to provide electricity and a sound system with a microphone are required. Incentives for the guests to come must be provided. We begin each conference with a prayer, followed by the pledge of allegiance. Then I speak about my journey from a restavek child without a nationality to becoming an American teacher and advocate for children in domestic slavery, followed by a children's choir performing *Lanbi Konen*. We always end each conference with a drawing of ten prizes, such as copies of *Restavec*, handbags, shoes, and a Dell computer provided by AXA Insurance Company, one of our supporters in France. Two weeks after the conference, I would receive dozens of calls from principals asking me to come see their students sing the song. It's a thrill for me to hear hundreds of children sing the song when I drive by an elementary school. So far, about 250,000 children have learned *Lanbi Konen*. Our goal is to reach one million children throughout Haiti.

Thank you so much for your continuing support.

Jean-Robert Cadet

