Bringing Light to Northern Haiti



Haitian Christian Ministries October Issue - 2019

Preaching and teaching the Word of God

Planting Churches

Meeting the Physical Needs of the People

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Joy through the hard times

We have mentioned several times, including last month, that Haiti is suffering through a very difficult time. The conversations we have with our brothers and sisters living there tell of a difficult time to get around, limited food, and some concerns of what will come next for their country. By some estimations, this is the worst political and resource situation in decades. There has been trial after trial as access to fuel has become extremely rare. Even if fuel can be found, it comes at a tremendous cost of up to \$16 US for a gallon of gasoline or diesel. For a country where the average wage is just under \$30 a month, the math simply does not add up. The country is paralyzed with no end in sight. Protests and roadblocks have become more common as desperate times invite desperate people to behave in ways they normally would not.

However, even in this difficult time, God keeps moving in a tremendous way. Here are a couple of highlights:

- We continue to work with two pastors of churches at Longues and Breda. Pastor Jacquesene continues to lead the small but growing congregation at Longes. Their small, rudimentary church building is a respite for the congregation as they come together weekly to praise a mighty and sovereign God. Breda meets under a blue



tarp in a forested piece of land. The area they are in is close to the dirty Voodoo pool were every Thursday there is a large Voodoo ceremony. People come from all over to be involved in animal sacrifice and worship to evil spirits. Pastor Walter is a recent graduate of Emmaus University, a young man who HCM helped to get his degree. He was encouraged to plant a church in a rural area where land is much less expensive. Pastor Walter decided that God was calling him to plant a church where he was surrounded by witchdoctors and those who practice evil. The church has 30 who attend. He is giving light and hope in a dark place.

- Pastor Geneus, who used to be the pharmacist in the clinic and now works as the Chaplin at Pillatre Christian School, has started a church at Rivere Sable after feeling a call to tell this community about Jesus. His first building was located right next to a witchdoctor's home. At first, the witchdoctor gave him much trouble but as the church grew and people came to know the Lord, the witchdoctor no longer wanted to be in the community and asked Geneus to buy his land. The new church will be located directly on top of the site where the witchdoctor used his magic to treat patients. What an amazing God story! Geneus and his wife started in this location because there were so many orphans in the community. They started by feeding them a meal every day out of their own money and started teaching them in a school. They asked the community to house them, provide shelter, and love for them. Each child sleeps in a different home at night. From providing care to the orphans, he felt the call to start a church. He has an amazing vision for the future. Please pray for him as he lives his life totally surrendered to the Lord. His church now has 275 people who attend and most of them are young people, teenagers, and young adults.
- Two of our board members were recently in Haiti to help with our medical care. At our clinic in Pillatre, we have added a hematology machine to make blood testing more reliable. And in Lory, we are looking into launching a medical clinic there to meet the physical needs of the people in that community. They met with Pastor Jacques to see what his vision was as well as meeting with other trusted, Haitian medical professionals.
- Welcome Home Haiti, just this month, completed their 100th house. 100 families now have a safe, dry, stable place to call their own. Not only do the houses impact families that live there, WHH has created a business that allows many additional men and women to have stable employment. They are earning a good wage and being discipled as part of their relationship with the Hari's. Hundreds of Haitian families have benefited from WHH.
- As we highlighted last month, with the Pillatre campus now on solar polar, we have lessened our dependency upon diesel fuel. God provided in his perfect timing the resource of power for our largest facility.
- Tender Mercies meals via Midwest Food Bank provides us with school lunches for our children. Instead of worrying and working to get the resources to make lunch, we have a sea container full of meals ready for our students. Again, God provides!

We don't want to downplay the tremendous hardships of our Haitian brothers and sisters, but we wanted to share that there is Hope, even when some may believe the situation is hopeless. We serve a mighty God that can and, we believe, will make change in Haiti. Can we encourage you to please continue to pray? Only God knows how to take a troubling time and bring healing. Only God can provide real and everlasting change. Only God can work miracles.

We would also encourage you to reach out to any Haitians you have met or connected with online. When going through a difficult time, it can be reassuring to know that fellow brothers and sisters are thinking about and praying for you. Let us offer encouragement during this time of uncertainty and difficulty.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you" declares the Lord. -- Jeremiah 29:11-14a NIV