



Mission Bon Berger

Haiti

February 2021

*"I will open rivers in desolate heights,
And fountains in the midst of the valleys;
I will make the wilderness a pool of water,
And the dry land springs of water.
That they may see and know,
And consider and understand together,
That the hand of the LORD has done this,
I will even make a road in the wilderness
And rivers in the desert."*

- Isaiah 41:18,20, 43:19 NKJV

The Miracle of 2020

2020 has been a year like no other year we have ever known. Yet, 2020 has been a year of unprecedented accomplishment for the Lord's work in Haiti. God has truly granted us *"rivers in the desert"*. We have considered and understood together that *"the hand of the Lord has done this"*. 2020 has been a miraculous year. We have seen that our Lord is not subject to the times of man. He is Lord over the times of man.

It is to His praise and honor that we recall His mighty works ...

A MIRACLE AT SAVANE CARREE: in March, a very narrow window opened but for a moment in the midst of the political upheaval in Haiti and COVID travel restrictions worldwide. But in that narrow moment, a marvelous group of God's servants slipped into Haiti and raised a beautiful new high school facility for our GSM children in Savane Carree. Today, as we compose this letter, our first class of new high school students is meeting in the new facility. Not only that, but we are putting the finishing touches on a new 5 station computer lab in that same facility. And everything is paid in full. Thanks be to God, working through His people, for providing *"rivers in the desert"*!

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT: due to many things, the enrollment in our schools continues to increase. Haitian parents want their children in the environment and quality of education that GSM offers. At present, enrollment in grades 1 - 12 is around 1700 students.

CHANGING THE CULTURE: the culture of our high schools is continuing to improve. Maxie Michel is a Haitian pastor, about 54 years old. He graduated in the 80's from our GSM school in Milot. Today he pastors a church with over 1000 in attendance in the village of Grand Riviere. He is also the chaplain to our high school students in Milot. Through his campus ministry, the students and faculty are reporting a distinctive and positive change in the spiritual climate at the Milot campus. Pray for the ministry of our chaplain, pastor Maxie Michele.

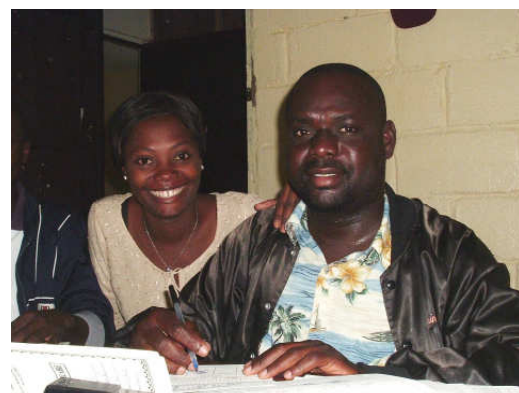


Pastor Maxie Michele

HEALED RELATIONSHIPS: we were having some difficulty in our relations with the church that meets on our campus at Biclair. And it has been a miraculous work of God that has brought peace and resolution to that situation. Among many other great wonders, God also used a Haitian judge who, in unprecedented manner, took of his own personal time and initiative to reason with the church leadership and champion the cause of GSM. The outcome of the whole matter was beyond anything anyone expected. Truly, *"the hand of the LORD has done this"*!

~~~ please continue reading on the reverse side ~~~

**ANNOUNCED PREACHING:** our Christmas ministry is always shared in the context of a worship experience and the preaching of the gospel. This year, Bill did something he has never done before. Gourneau Norceur is the administrator over all of our school activity. He is a layman. Yet Bill felt led of the Spirit to ask Gourneau to preach the gospel messages during the Christmas Ministry. The Spirit does not disappoint. Bill reports that the eyes of the students were open wide and fixed in amazement on Gourneau. The preaching was, to be frank about it, hellfire and brimstone. And Bill was astonished. It was certainly God's direction that put Gourneau in front of the student body in this new capacity! It is priceless that our student body now understands that their leader is a godly man of great passion for Jesus Christ.



Gourneau Norceur and his wife

**RESTRUCTURING OUR WORK AT BICLAIRE:** we were all a bit overwhelmed by what it would take to complete the restructuring at Biclair. We expected the process to take years and cost tens of thousands of dollars. But in another miracle of God, everything has been paid for already, and nearly everything has been finished ... in less than a year! Over 600 feet of security wall completed, a driveway finished, a steel entrance gate into the compound installed, the concrete pad for the new chapel facility completed. The pre-fabricated metal chapel building was shipped from the U.S. on the Christmas container and is at our compound. The raising of this building will be the last step. Pray that God will *"make a road in the wilderness"* such that our construction team can get in and get that done too.

**CHRISTMAS CONTAINER:** getting the Christmas container through customs and paying the taxes is perhaps the most difficult and daunting task Bill & Sandy undertake each year. Yet in spite of the, fiscal tampering, political chaos, and governmental paralysis in Haiti, this year was by far the easiest year we have ever experienced. Clearly, God answered your prayers.

**BLESSINGS OF EVERY KIND:** many other things of great import have been accomplished during 2020: our solar arrays have been expanded; nearly all of our facilities have received a fresh coat of paint; new bathroom facilities have been constructed for our clinic and teachers at Savane Carree; groundwork continues to be laid for the medical clinic at Savane Carree, with equipment and supplies in place and staff being secured. A spring opening is our target.

**CURRENCY CHALLENGES:** since the fall of 2020, the Haitian government has been artificially inflating the price of the Haitian dollar relative to other currencies. The activity is unsustainable and very damaging to the Haitian economy and people., but the government persists. The bottom line for us is that our costs in Haiti have nearly doubled. The U.S. dollar has only about half the buying power that it had in early 2020. The payroll costs for our 140 Haitian workers has doubled. Here is the miracle ... we have been able to meet all of our financial obligations in Haiti. None of our workers have missed a single pay check. AND, we were able to pay the annual bonus our workers receive. This is extraordinarily exceptional. Most Haitians have not been so blessed as our workers. Truly, God has granted us *"fountains in the midst of the valleys"*.

**GSM FINANCES:** finally, God has provided every need. GSM is debt free, and all of our bills are paid. We have no extra money at all. But, through the years, that seems to be God's will for us. It keeps us humble, frugal, and prayerful. We have lacked for nothing, and been granted every need. We are without complaint.

**THANKSGIVING:** we thank God, and we thank you, God's faithful people. God works through His people. You are faithful. And we pray that God would bless and honor you as you have blessed and honored Him.

## The Work of GSM

Your support is the means by which GSM is able to provide Christian Education to over 1700 children in grades 1-12, support our Haitian staff of over 140 workers, support our American missionaries, continue the medical care we provide for our staff and students, and continue sharing the Gospel in a multitude of ways. Pray for us. Contact us at any time ...

**Good Shepherd Ministries P.O. Box 2624 Clanton, AL 35046**

**telephone: 334-301-4764**

**email: [gsm1974@att.net](mailto:gsm1974@att.net)**

**[www.gsmi-haiti.org](http://www.gsmi-haiti.org)**