



Mission Bon Berger *Milot, de Haiti*

June 28, 2007

"Such a Time as This"

One of my favorite Old Testament books is the book of Esther. In Esther 4:14 there is a sentence where Mordecai is speaking to Esther and he is impressing on her the opportunity that God has brought to her in the position in which He had placed her. The people of Israel were facing a tremendous need, and she was in the right place at the right time to intercede for her people. Mordecai said to Esther, *"Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"* Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, you have such an opportunity even now! God has brought many of you into a relationship with this ministry for different reasons, but all of you have committed to pray for Good Shepherd Ministries. At this time we find ourselves facing two great needs, and we need your prayers.

The first need we are facing is to be able to give raises to all of our Haitian staff here in Haiti. It has been about three years since we have given any across the board raises to our workers. Prices here have continued to rise, but the support of the ministry has not risen proportionately with them. Consumer products are higher in Haiti than they are in the U.S. The price of gas is close to \$6.00 U.S. per gallon. The average pay for our employees is only a very small fraction of what they need to provide for their families. For example, we are only able to pay our school teachers \$4.75 U.S. per day (*we have over 50 teachers in our 3 schools, with nearly 2000 children*). The need is great. And it is a great burden Sandy and I carry as we see these people sacrifice daily for this ministry.

The second need we are facing is on the U.S. side of the operation. With Sandy and I living in Haiti full time, the work that needs to happen in the U.S. is either left undone or put on hold until we can get back there. We have been praying for help for two years now. We have been trying to cover things with volunteers, but full time help is needed. God has answered our prayers and called Pastor Lamar Lyon to work with us as Director of U.S. Operations. Lamar is 53 years old, has been a pastor for twenty years, and has a wonderful wife and three sons. He and his family have stepped out by faith to begin filling the great need we have there. It is a rare thing to see such faith displayed in the church today. Many would come only if there were guarantees. This family came with no guarantees given except the promise of a lot of hard work. Our prayer now is to raise the funds for Lamar to be able to support his family.

"Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" We covet your fervent prayers. We are asking God to work in the hearts of His people to increase their support of Good Shepherd Ministries so that we can do the work God has called us to do. We need consistent monthly supporters. Esther accepted the challenge knowing it could cost her her life. I know that what I am asking you to do is not going to come at such a high price, but I am asking you to pray like it was. The need is now. The time is now.

Thanking you in His service,

Bill Younger

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