



Mission Bon Berger

Milot, de Haiti

November 2019

The Continuing Political Crisis in Haiti

The impact of the current crisis in Haiti has been significant for GSM. In the past these things have been merely inconvenient. But things are different this time. Bill has never seen anything like this in his 23 years on the field in Haiti. There is a different spirit in the country. An evil spirit. And things are not just inconvenient, they are dangerous. Here are some ways we have been impacted ...

Our Schools ...

In September the Haitian government ordered that all schools throughout the country are to remain closed because it was too dangerous for the children to try and get to class. Recently, when children in Cap Haitien attempted to go to school, the resistance mobs threw rocks and bottles at them. Several children were injured. Our schools have not been fully open since the summer break.

Fuel Shortage ...

There is a severe fuel shortage. But it is made even worse because what little fuel there is gets delayed in delivery because the supply roads from Port-au-Prince are being blocked by the resistance. The small amounts that do get through are then commandeered by armed outlaws at the gas stations. The outlaws then sell the fuel on the streets to whom they choose ... for \$13 USD per gallon. To bypass the outlaws could mean the life of the station owners and the consumers.

Road Blockades ...

The goal of the resistance is to shut down the country and the government. The roads are open sporadically, but unreliably, and then unpredictably closed again. Government workers are especially targeted. If the resistance can keep them from work, the government is shut down. Government workers are afraid to go to work.

GSM Teams ...

We have had to cancel all of our teams for the foreseeable future. The Savane Carree high school was to go up the week of Oct 1, but the construction crew from First Baptist Church of Geraldine, AL was cancelled for the second time. Please pray for this situation. Our fall Medical Team was cancelled. Hopefully our spring medical team will be able to go as planned. Our Christmas Team was cancelled. We will delay our Christmas ministry until we can ship the container. Several general work teams have been cancelled as well. Until things are safe again, our teams have been put on hold. Pray that they can resume their work soon.

The Cause of the Crisis ...

Depending on who one talks to, one may get different answers as to the reason for this crisis. But Bill expresses it this way: There are several ruling families in Haiti that have historically controlled everything in the country. One might control the cement. Another might control the fuel. And so on. Elected presidents generally do okay as long as they satisfy the agendas of these controlling families. The ruling families expect a puppet. The current president has tried to wrestle power away from these families. But he lacks the money and backing to carry out a successful campaign. However, he remains resolute in his stance. The ruling families are the source of the resistance. They pay money to have the roads blocked, gasoline stations hijacked, and protests carried out. The Haitian people just want a return to normalcy. It may be the moral high ground to support their president, but on a practical level, their only interest is short term survival ... food and gas for today, in which case, they will support the resistance. It is impossible to say how this will turn out. Things could get much worse. Outlaws and gangs are exploiting the crisis for personal gain, putting the country on the brink of anarchy. The police are afraid. In the end, the only hope for Haiti, or any country, is a merciful move of God upon the land through our Lord and only Savior, Jesus Christ. Pray for the country of Haiti.

Bill & Sandy's Schedule

Because things have been somewhat paralyzed in Haiti, Bill and Sandy managed to get out and come to the U.S. a couple of weeks ago to accomplish some things here. They have been able to make some needed visits, and to take care of some personal needs. If all goes as planned they will be back in Haiti by the time you receive this newsletter. They are scheduled to fly back to Haiti on MFI on Tuesday November 5th. Keep them in your constant prayers.

The Hope of Christmas 2019

The “*Hope of Christmas*” project this year has been a great success to this point. The church support has been great. All the bags have been collected and are ready to load onto the shipping container.

However, because of the severe civil unrest in Haiti we have elected to delay the shipment of our Christmas container to Haiti until things stabilize. Government workers have a government tag on their cars, and because the protesters are working to shut down the government, they are a target for the protesters. Therefore the dock workers, customs officers, and duty tax officers are all absentee for the foreseeable future. All three of these departments must be fully functional if we are to have any chance of retrieving our container.

The good news is that Henry Williams, the president of our board of directors and peach farmer in Alabama, has a very large cooler in which we can store the bags for long as we need to. All of the Christmas bags are palletized and safely stored inside at a cool and dry 65 degrees. As soon as we see our way clear we will ship the container at a moment’s notice and have everything in Haiti in less than a week. Then, as planned, we will share the gifts and message of “*The Hope of Christmas*”.



getting the Christmas bags all boxed up



Christmas bags staged in the cooler and waiting to load

Deliverance

The great need for God’s protection and deliverance has become commonplace in Haiti. Again, God has answered prayers and been faithful in keeping Bill and Sandy safe.

Just a few weeks ago, Bill, Christian, and Gourneau (*our school administrator*) went to our Biclair campus to take care of some business there. The main roads were blocked, so they took the back roads. As it turns out, they were blocked too ... by outlaws. As Bill came to a slow stop at a blockade, several armed men appeared, brandishing weapons. One pointed a gun at Bill and demanded \$500.00 USD in order to pass. Bill eased out of the car. With the gun still pointed at him, Bill asked the man to please take his hand. At first the gunman refused, but then cautiously did so. Bill said, “*I am here to help your people. There is nothing between you and me. Let’s just forget about this and go home.*” Incredibly, the gunman said, “*Okay*”. Bill got back in the truck and continued his journey to Biclair, and then safely back home to Milot.

“He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in Him will I trust. Surely He shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler. Because He hath set His love upon me, therefore will I deliver him.” - Psalm 91: 1-3a, 14a

Please continue to lift Bill, Sandy, and our Haitian staff in prayer.

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 130 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

www.gsmi-haiti.org

