



### A Word from the Field

In our last newsletter, we wrote to you about the “fresh breezes of encouragement” we were experiencing concerning the future of GSM. This was primarily due to answered prayer concerning the need for new missionaries on the field. This has opened new doors for us to minister. And there are other things happening that have renewed a spirit of encouragement in us also.

Some of you may not know that the mission was spared any damage from the recent hurricanes. However a very powerful freak storm hit Milot a week or so after the hurricanes passed and did much damage. The torrent of water flooding our compound (*some reports indicated 18 inches fell in that one brief storm*) destroyed a total of 175 feet of security wall. Also, 2 of our gates were destroyed. The wall directly across from the house was damaged. 125 feet of wall was lost there. And behind the elementary school we lost another 50 feet. Some buildings were flooded and there was some damage to the grounds. When Sandy and I returned to Haiti after our bout with the hurricane at our home in Florida (*no damage, just some clean-up*) we were faced with a very serious situation created by the storm damage at Milot.

The first thing we were struck with is that the staff had already performed much of the cleanup and had things completely under control! Our Administrative Committee had already secured estimates for the repairs, and were just waiting for me to give the order to move forward. I contacted our Board of Directors and reported the damage and repair estimates. Within a few days the needed funds were miraculously provided by divinely timed gifts, and the repairs were begun. Because our dogs had to be confined, and we had construction crews working in the compound, Sandy and I stayed at our Savane Carree compound. In less than 2 weeks we were back in Milot. The new walls had been completed, the compound secured, and we were able to receive our medical team on October 7<sup>th</sup>. Less than 3 weeks after our return to Haiti on September 19<sup>th</sup>, we were once again receiving teams and moving forward in the work for our Lord.

Why is this so encouraging to us? In times past we would have faced this crisis with much discouragement, knowing it would probably be many months before we would recover. But miraculously, this recovery was less than 1 month from beginning to end. Our Haitian staff took up their responsibility, the US. administration responded promptly, and things moved forward without faltering in a timely fashion. We are often faced with difficult trials. They are the building blocks of missions, and Haiti has an ample supply. We are encouraged to know that GSM has matured in its abilities to navigate these trials in the grace and strength that God so abundantly provides.

Thanking you all for your prayers, support, and encouragement,

Bill & Sandy

### The Hope of Christmas ... our annual Christmas bag ministry to the people of Haiti.

The container was packed to the ceiling with gift bags, front to back. The semi pulls away headed for the Miami shipyards. And as I was preparing this newsletter, I received an email from our shipper saying that the ship was pulling into port in Haiti! The voyage is done. Now pray for Bill as he works to clear the container through customs. Then pray for our 2 teams Nov 18 and Dec 2 as they share “*The Hope of Christmas*” and your gifts with the people of Haiti. And a special thanks to Shelley Mitchell, first lady of Harbor City

Baptist Church, for overseeing the processing of all the gifts onto the container. And to Lifepoint Church (*Palm Bay*) and Harbor City Baptist Church (*Melbourne*) for the loading muscle. And to Harbor City for letting GSM use their facilities as our processing center.



**Finances** God graciously supplies our needs. And we are thankful for the faithful and generous support of churches and individuals who sacrificially participate with us in the Lord's work in Haiti. We are amazed at what has been accomplished. And we remain debt free! We still have the ongoing challenge of maintaining our core work of Christian Education for our 1600+ children, and of meeting our Haiti and U.S workers payroll (*120+ Haitian staff*). And remember that we have added Kyle Giddens and his family as full-time field staff in Haiti. Prayerfully consider your continued support of GSM.

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)

# Bill & Sandy's 20th Anniversary



As you know, Bill & Sandy are celebrating 20 years of service in Haiti. They are not retiring. And we hope they have 20 more years of service left. We wanted to honor them by paying off the mortgage on their house. And if giving exceeded the amount needed to do that, then we planned to split the surplus 50/50 between their retirement and a cash gift.

The news is that the giving was extraordinary. We had more than enough to pay the mortgage. It is done. And now we are going to present the surplus amount (*to be split between a cash gift and their retirement*) to them at our GSM banquet Saturday January 6th, 6:00pm, at Harbor City Baptist Church in Melbourne, FL. We hope you can all be there!

The picture at left was taken during our August banquet at Elkton Road Baptist Church in Athens, AL. Aaron Compton of White Hall Baptist Church in Richmond, KY is seen presenting a check to Bill and Sandy to pay the mortgage on their house.



## Pastor's School

Dr. Bill Morgan of Prattville, AL taught our October Pastor's School. He taught the book of I Samuel. Pictured at right is the class, holding their certificates of completion. Our new field missionary, Kyle Giddens is seen to the right in the picture.



## Seminary Efforts

You may remember that a few years ago we explored the possibility of establishing a seminary extension program that could offer master's level theological degrees for our Haitian pastors. We are renewing our efforts in that direction. During our recent Pastor's School, Dr. Eddie Idefonso accompanied Kyle to visit our facilities and explore the feasibility of our plans. He is the Executive Vice President of Covington Theological Seminary, and directs their International Seminary Extension program. Covington Seminary currently has seminary extension programs in several countries around the world. Pray for God's leading in these efforts.

## October Medical Clinic

As you know, we conduct our clinics twice a year for our schools and staff.

We are very grateful to the churches and people who are so faithful to make this ministry possible year after year. Our medical clinics are probably the most demanding ministry we do in Haiti. The workers are exhausted by the end of the week. Thank you for your service.

For this clinic 13 people from four churches in four states staffed our team: New Day Baptist, Santa Rosa, FL; Mulberry Baptist, Isabella, AL; Indiana Avenue Baptist, LaFollette, TN; and Grace Bible Church, Mena AR.

And thanks to pastor Mark Partin of TN for leading the evangelistic aspect of our clinic.

