

The Bower Family

December 2021

missionaries to

Haiti

www.bowerhaiti.com



Merry Christmas



"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." (Isa 9:6)

[Baby Jephthé Needs a Heart Operation.](#)

Pastor Vanier is the campus administrator and pastor for our ministry in Haiti. His son Jephthé was born with multiple congenital heart defects and desperately needs heart surgery. The funds needed for the surgery were raised last year, but the COVID situation has restricted travel to many countries that had been hosting humanitarian surgeries. A few weeks ago, a traveling surgical team was scheduled to be in the Dominican Republic for a short time. Vanier's wife and Jephthé traveled to the DR for the operation. But the initial consultation revealed that Jephthé had a respiratory infection, which delayed the surgery enough that they missed the window of opportunity with the traveling surgical team. Jephthé and Mme. Vanier have returned to Haiti and are continuing to wait for another opportunity to be presented. Please pray for Jephthé as his condition worsens, he needs the operation soon.

[Missionary Hostages Escaped.](#)

We praise the Lord that the 17 missionaries taken hostage in Haiti this past October are all safely back home. Five were released and 12 escaped from their captors after more than 2 months in captivity. Haiti has become a very dangerous place, it now has the highest per capita kidnapping rate in the world. Although the foreign missionaries that were kidnapped made international news headlines, there were over 150 Haitian nationals kidnapped that same week that never made the news. Some were murdered, some were released after ransom was paid, and some are still being held prisoner. Please continue to pray for Haiti as the situation there continues to degrade.

[Continuing Violence, Continuing Ministry in Haiti.](#)

Since the assassination of Haitian president Jovenel Moïse in July 2021, the situation in Haiti has continued to worsen. The FBI's involvement in the assassination investigation and subsequent failure to produce results has increased the anti-American sentiment. The Haitian government has fallen into disarray, corruption, and chaos. The national police are powerless as gangs like 400 Mawozo and Fantom 509 control the capital city of Port au Prince. Haiti has become a very dangerous place, where rapes, murders, thefts, armed attacks, and kidnappings continue to be committed daily without recourse.

Because of the escalation of violence in Haiti, the American and Canadian governments have asked their citizens to leave Haiti. We have been on an extended furlough for the past 18 months. If we were to return, our presence as foreigners would draw unwanted attention to the national pastors and put their lives and ministries at risk. Our continued absence is necessary to allow the ministries to function. Despite the political chaos and persistent violence, the churches and schools associated with our ministry are still fully functional and meeting regularly. While we are waiting for the situation in Haiti to stabilize, we keep in daily contact with the pastors and our staff. We continue to maintain our financial obligations there as if we were present, administrating from a distance.

[Ministry Opportunities.](#)

This is a very difficult time for our family, as our heart, home, and ministry are in Haiti, but we are not able to return for the time being. As we wait to see what will happen in Haiti, we continue to be involved in full time ministry where we are at. In September, we moved to New Brunswick, Canada, so that we could be a help to Pastor Matt Silver at Calvary Baptist Church in Fredericton. Tim has also been teaching at Emmanuel Baptist Bible Institute in Moncton, preaching Creole services for Haitian believers at Grace Baptist Church in Moncton, and providing pulpit supply in local churches as needed.

As we consider what God has in store for us in the future, we are also researching other ministry opportunities. Tim is scheduled to travel to India and Hungary in March to teach seminary classes and preach. We also have plans for a survey trip to the Bahamas and St. Lucia in April to determine the needs and potential for a seminary ministry there. Please continue to pray for us as we actively seek the Lord's direction for our future ministry.

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