

# The Bower Family

July 2022

missionaries to

# Haiti

www.bowerhaiti.com



## Baby Jephété has passed away

Death, tragedy, sorrow, pain: After waiting more than a year for open heart surgery, baby Jephété was flown to the Caiman Islands for surgery. The surgery went well, and Jephété was flown back to Haiti. In Haiti, the local doctors changed Jephété's medications. A chain reaction of problems followed suite, and baby Jephété died at the hospital in Milot. Please pray for Pastor Vanier, his wife, and their 5 children as they grieve the loss of their sweet baby boy.

## The deteriorating situation in Haiti

Since the outbreak of COVID over 2 years ago, Haiti has been in turmoil. The unresolved July 7th, 2021 assassination of President Jovenel Moise left Haiti without a functional government. The corruption and complicity of the executive and legislative branches in the kidnapping has left the country in anarchy and chaos. The resulting power vacuum has been filled by rivaling gangs which war in the streets, terrorizing and killing people. Travel within the country is dangerous, making transportation difficult. The cost of food and gas has skyrocketed, causing a massive increase in poverty and starvation. The economic degradation and downward spiral have been amplified by continual kidnappings; a source of income used by the gangs to fund their increasing control of the country. Politically, foreigners are seen as the cause. As a result, anyone associated with a foreign humanitarian or religious work in Haiti has become a potential target for attack or at the very least is in a more dangerous situation than those not affiliated with foreigners. Any foreign presence has a destabilizing effect on a ministry's day to day functioning.

## Potential ministry change

Because of the threats to our workers and the increasing violence in our area of Haiti, we took some time to report back to our supporting churches. In July 2021, at the end of our furlough, we were planning our return to Haiti when the Haitian president, Jovenel Moise, was assassinated. This threw Haiti into deeper turmoil. As the violence and kidnappings increased, our mission board thought it wise to wait a year to see if the political situation would improve. In August 2021, we moved to New Brunswick, Canada to help a struggling ministry through to April 2022. As the situation in Haiti has continued to worsen, we have been looking at multiple other mission fields where we could serve. Tim had 2 teaching trips to India and Turkey scheduled in March and April, but the Lord used COVID to close those doors. We travelled as a family to St. Lucia and then to French Guiana to survey these mission fields to try and discover where God will lead us next. We still have a final trip to the Bahamas at the end of August.

## Making a wise ministry decision

Even though we have not been in Haiti over this last year, we have maintained daily contact with the various ministries there. We also send money every month to financially support several of the churches and ministries that have continued to function in our absence.

**We are trying to make a wise ministry decision:** not leaving Haiti in haste, not abandoning our financial obligations in Haiti, and not waiting too long outside of Haiti as this situation unfolds. We are taking three survey trips to three potential mission fields we feel God might direct us to serve. As we consider changing mission fields, we plan to continue our financial support of the ministry in Haiti as long as we can maintain financial oversight and accountability.



**Helping missionary Ray Teachout with a Kid's Club program in the rural amazon village of Camopi, French Guiana, on the border of Brazil.**

## We need your prayer

Please pray for us, the first week of August (2022) we are scheduled to fly into Haiti to conduct a Bible seminar on the doctrine of salvation potentially with 300-350 church leaders and members. We will also be removing personal effects from our house and preparing to move out of Haiti. This will be an emotional and difficult time for us.

**Thank you for your prayers during this time of transition.** - Tim and RoseAnne Bower

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