

The Bower Family

July 2021

missionaries to

Haiti



www.bowerhaiti.com

[Haitian President Assassinated](#)

Jovnel Moise, president of Haiti, was assassinated last night (1am July 7th) at his private residence by a group of mercenaries. Jovnel died in his home, but his wife was rushed to the hospital with gunshot wounds. There are reports that she has died, but they cannot be confirmed. It is unclear who is responsible for the assassination, but videos show armed mercenaries that pretend to be DEA agents so that they can gain entrance to the president's compound.

[Martial Law Declared](#)

Martial law (etat de siege) has been declared in Haiti as chaos continues. The airport in Port au Prince has been closed. The US Embassy has been closed. The borders to the Dominican Republic have been closed. The political situation is bizarre. Because there have been no elections in 5 years, political leaders' (senators and deputies) terms have expired. The parliament is essentially disbanded for the time being. President Jovenel had been ruling by decree for a year and a half. The prime minister Joseph Jouthe resigned in April 2021 amid political violence and threats. Claude Joseph was appointed interim prime minister and has held the office since then. A new prime minister was to be sworn in today (July 7th), but with the death of the president, the present prime minister has taken control. The presidency should have gone to the president of the Haitian supreme court (Président de la Cour de Cassation, Me René Sylvestre), but he died from COVID 2 weeks ago and a replacement has not yet been chosen.

[Haiti in Chaos](#)

Haiti is now in complete chaos. With the assassination of the president, the death of the president of the supreme court, the disbanded parliament, the disputed presidency of the interim prime minister, and the military enforcement of martial law, what will become of this tiny island nation already drowning in poverty and plagued by human rights abuses? To make matters worse, the capital, Port au Prince has been dominated by escalating gang violence over the past year. Kidnappings, murder, theft, and violence are normal daily occurrences throughout the country. Roadblocks and bandits have limited travel and constricted commerce causing a rise in the price of basic food stuffs and limiting the supply of gasoline.

[Violence Reaches St. Raphael](#)

The violence has also spread to our rural area in the north. 2 Gang members from the 400 Mawozo gang in the capital were arrested in St. Raphael last week. Others gang members have also been seen in our area of St. Raphael. This morning our campus in St Raphael was attacked by local thugs. One of our watchmen was wounded in the attack. He was hit by a rock which almost broke his leg. Our campus, school activities, and radio are now closed as a result of the declaration of martial law. While many of our campus activities have been suspended, the churches can continue to meet and hold regular services.

Please pray for Haiti as it has plunged further into chaos. Pray for the safety of our pastors and church leaders as they struggle to serve the Lord during this very difficult and dangerous situation.

[Bower Family Travel Plans](#)

As for our family (the Bowers), we are still in the US. We are currently in Florida as we are preparing for a trip out west. We have meetings scheduled in Arizona and Utah during July and early August which will conclude our furlough. We are scheduled to return to Haiti at the end of August.

Thank you again for your prayers for us and the ministry in Haiti.

Tim and RoseAnne Bower

Please visit our website for an easy to print version at: <http://www.bowerhaiti.com/2021-updates.html>