

The Bower Family Journal

A missionary family's first term on the field of

Haiti

8/30/99

Dear Friends,

A 4 man work team went to Haiti to renovate the house. We smashed out walls, put up new ones, built doors, and cleaned up in preparation for the family to move in. We had made plans to eat the food that had been stored there several months before in a barrel. Unfortunately, a hurricane had filled the house with water destroying many things in the house, including the stored food and the refrigerator. We had no vehicle or means of transportation, so we were struggling to get enough food to eat as well as coping with the extreme heat and high humidity. It was hard without electricity or airconditioning, but when you can't even get a cold drink to cool yourself down, even a Haitian can get discouraged.

We decided to go to the market on Thursday to see what kind of food we could find, and bought some rice, beans, grapefruit, and some live chickens. We had taken a taptap into town but found no one to take us home. An hour walk with a sack of big grapefruits and some squacking chickens made for an interesting and sweaty trip home.

On Friday Tim had to leave for Port au Prince to buy a pick up, as this would be the last chance to purchase one before the family was to come in October. The men felt stranded and isolated as they battled tarantulas and rats in the heat and humidity as well as trying to cope with the voodoo drums that beat all night long. To make matters worse, they couldn't speak the language to ask anyone for help if the need would arise.

But God provided in the midst of hardship, the house was renovated in a short time and we were able to purchase a beautiful doublecab Toyota 4x4 pickup.

Thank the Lord.

9/23/99

- container arrives in Haiti, no customs charged

10/05/99

- 1st trip to PaP - armed thieves hijack the car ahead of us and Wilner smashes our truck into the hijacked car, saving everyone inside. We spend a week at the Hotel Montana at a cost of \$1000.

12/01/99

- 4 encounters with demon possessed men, one ends with a wrestling match (Bernard 2x, Jan, Mr. Crooked leg)

12/10/99

- 2nd trip to PaP - We make the trip in one day, leaving at midnight. Samantha falls from the truck (3 feet) on her head on the asphalt, but she is unhurt. Identity Cards made! We see road kill on the way home

1/00/00

- Our first Bible School seminar, major decision about future professors need to be made, Joshua bangs head, and we return to the States on 4th day of seminar.

2/13/00 - We've had a good couple of weeks here in Haiti. I went on a spider hunt in our garage and killed about 15-20 black widows, one of which was on the under side of a folding chair. Ouch that would have really hurt. I was a little disappointed because I only found 2 tarantulas that night. But just yesterday, my disappointment turned to surprise when little Lloyd yelled for me first thing in the morning, and there was a huge tarantula playing with his toys.

Seriously though, I have had the chance to preach the last two Sundays - in Creole! I felt a little like Jonathan Edwards, struggling to read a sermon that I had spent hours and hours putting together, only there wasn't the same kind of response he had! Oh well, I did my best and God's word never returns void - Praise the Lord.

A praise - Our truck damage was not as severe as we had thought. I have only had to buy a new battery. That's a small investment compared to a new crankshaft.

I am using the next few weeks, as we prepare for the next Bible school seminar, to write and translate a constitution, a catalogue, and a student handbook for the Bible school, as well as study the language. These preparational materials are just the start, as we work to open the Bible school this fall. It sure is exciting to see God's plan for the work here starting to unfold before our eyes.

Thanks for your prayers,
Tim, RoseAnne, Lloyd, Josh, Michael, and Samantha Bower

2/26/00

Dear Family and Friends,

What a week! It started off on Sunday morning when we went to a baptismal where two people who were going to be baptized became demon possessed. Their eyes rolled back in their head, they started flailing around, and fighting the Pastors who were going to dunk them under. For some reason, some of the people that are really involved with voodoo, after hearing about Christ they want to get saved. They say a prayer like a magic phrase. Because baptism is such a strong statement to their family and friends, sometimes the real decision doesn't take place until they are in the water. It took about 10 very long minutes before the demons released one of the fellows and the Pastors could baptize him. That same fellow came and sat next to Bekah in the church service following the baptismal {Bekah is the young lady that is helping us with our children} After the demons were gone the man was perfectly normal. What a transformation. Our Lord truly is awesome.

Sunday night Tim left for Port au Prince to get the title for our truck cleared and to get the license plates. Bekah and I held down the fort here at home. We felt it was safer for us to stay at home then to venture another trip to Port with the family. The Lord once again showed us how all things work together for good: on the trip Tim and Bouzy had a flat tire they had been on the road {four-wheeling} for four hours when they had a flat tire. They were not thrilled with the delay but soon found out the reason for it. After they fixed the tire and were driving again about 20 miles down the road they encountered what was the remainders of a road block some thieves had set up. Further on down the road was another road block where a mob put up a barricade of rocks, burning tires, and had stolen the keys from ten to fifteen big trucks. There were vehicles all over the road that had been stopped. By some miracle they were able to pick their way through the mess of trucks and cars and burning tires and get through. Had they gone through fifteen minutes earlier the thieves may have stolen the keys to our truck and robbed them too. God's protection is awesome!

Psalm 118:5,6 I called upon the LORD in distress: the LORD answered me, and set me in a large place. The LORD is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?
The Bowers in Haiti

3/5/00 - Just a quick note,

Pray for us and almost every missionary everywhere. Mardi Gras is Tuesday, and the Haitians will start partying tonight. Mardi Gras means fat Tuesday, the day before the Catholic period of Lent. People generally party a lot to make up for the supposed time of fasting to follow (like Christ's 40 days in the wilderness). There

will be lots of partying with masks and people drinking lots of liquor [moonshine and rum] . We will stay at home because it isn't safe to travel. They all party in the streets and that makes the roads unpassable. This is the most unsafe time of the year because outsiders can sneak around and be unnoticed because they are wearing masks.

We are having a three day "seminar" here at our house for the young people this gives them something else to do. Tim and a Haitian fella are speaking and then each evening they will have a church service.

The voodoo people begin their rara when Lent starts. The goal is to mock the time of Christ's temptation in the wilderness, up to the time of His execution on the cross. The ra-ra's are loudest and most violent just before Easter, a celebration of Christ's death. After Easter the ra-ra's stop! Jesus arose from the dead. Now we have the victory over Satan by the name of Jesus.

Thanks for your prayers

The Bowers in Haiti

3/12/00

This week has flown by with a flurry of activities. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday we had Creole classes in the morning and in the afternoon Tim was involved in youth meetings. These meetings were geared to give the teenagers an alternative to going to the Mardi Gras festivities. Tim was surprised to realize the amount of people in the church who believe in a works salvation even some of the adult leaders were taking notes and asking questions about salvation. Satan has them blinded and bound by the Roman Catholic Tradition to a works salvation. Tim found it frustrating and made him even more aware of all the work that needs to be done here. Breaking traditional thought with biblical truth is a very tough job and can only be done through the working of the Holy Spirit. Please pray for Tim that he will have wisdom in discipline these spiritually young believers and please pray for the believers that they will be open to the Truth of the Scriptures even when it goes against tradition.

Thank you all for praying for our safety. The Lord kept us safe with out any incidents. We did hear the loud parades and at times heard really strange eerie noises but we were not bothered by any strangers or by our voodoo neighbors How faithful the Lord is to us.

3/26/00

RoseAnne drove into town the other day with Bekah, while I stayed home and manned the fort. Everything went fine in town, but on the way home a farmer blocked the road with five big oxen and was demanding money. We saw him from a distance and we weren't quite sure what to do but we knew it wouldn't be safe to stop. We couldn't pass on the left there was no room and on the right there was a group of people so not wanting to stop we said a quick prayer laid on the horn and watched people and oxen jump out of the way. The only injury was to the rump of an oxen {in Haiti if you blow the horn it is up to the people and animals to get out of the way}. Another day in Haiti!

Things here are progressing well. We are continuing to study Creole, I am beginning to work on some French too. I have opportunities to preach in Creole every other week or so. That along with my weekly Bible (in Creole) study really helps to strengthen my language skills. The plans for the Bible school seminar from April 24-28 are coming together. Pray with us that God will use this time to impact the lives of the preachers here.

Thanks for your prayers, we appreciate them. The work here will grind to a halt without them.

In Christ,

Tim Bower

PS - What do you do when a voodoo man jumps on your truck then starts swinging at you with a knife? Does PRAY sound trite? Buddy it really works!

4/9/00

What's up? We miss you all a lot. When are you coming to see us? Maybe a quick visit to Haiti would be in order, you know, to check up on us and all. You know, it's voodoo season right now. The limit is 2 demon possessed guys per man. I've only tackled one so far, that leaves one for me. Come down, we can do some huntin'.

Seriously, a big rara parade passed by the other Wednesday. That's a voodoo parade where all the big voodoo guys dress up in their finest Satanic gear and dance in the street. Their whole goal is to mock the death of Christ, which they do by partying in the street until Easter. Anyway, there was a big one Wednesday. I heard all the noise and went down to the street to see all the hubbub. People were standing around all scared of the voodoo witch doctors. I took my camera and stood out in the middle of the street, all by myself. You see, they believe a picture captures their soul. They really don't like that. I was pretty miffed myself. Here I am living in a God forsaken country to tell people about Jesus, and these dudes in the street are swearing and cursing His name. So I took their picture. Their backs were to me, but their demons let them know quickly I had snapped a picture. All the witch doctors, about 6 to 8 men all dresses in red, ran in single file towards me swerving in a snakelike motion. Everybody cleared, but I stayed in the middle of the street. Those demon guys got nothing on the blood of my Jesus. When they got a few feet away, I stepped onto my driveway, where the first witch doctor turned around, dropped to the ground, and began to make a big show. I turned my back to him and stood there. After a few seconds I began to walk slowly up the driveway.

We still here the parades every couple of days, but they stay in the street. They will probably start putting curses on me now, but who cares. The same God that made the world lives in me! If God's for us (and He is), it doesn't matter who's against us.

I had an interesting week at the market me Beka and the twins (which we carried on backpacks) were checking out some clothes in this lean to "store" when some guy probable in his forties started talking to Michael. It didn't really bother me because I was facing the man and Michael was behind me. I was looking at dresses...I turned around sideways. Which was no big deal because Beka was behind me in front of Michael I quickly turned back around when I heard the man start yelling at someone Well that someone was my little Michael_as I was turning back around I saw the man reaching down to burn Michael's arm with his cigarette . well INSTINCTIVELY my hand shot up in the air and I shoved his hand and yelled really loud some Karate term like AAAYYYYYYAYYYYAYYYY My mind was racing for some Creole words and that's what came out.(No that's not a Creole word and it's not an English word its just what came out} The lady at the clothes store grabbed the fella's hand that I shoved up in the air and than that lady and others crowded in and started blasting on him in Creole and we took off (which was the right thing to do all the ladies around were telling us to mache--go-walk-) The store owner was a lady from our church and I knew she would take care of that fella! Although I would have felt better about the whole ordeal if I had of given him one good punch in the face.
well gotta go,
Love ya Rose Anne

4/15/00

Hello from Haiti,

Just a quick note to let you know, last Sunday morning I preached at the church in Creole. A lady came forward during the invitation to get saved! What an answer to prayer. We are excited to see that even though we can't speak the language perfectly yet, the gospel still has the power to change lives.

Please pray for our seminar starting the day after Easter. We are studying the book of John and the deity of Christ. Only five have enrolled so far. Thanks for your prayers, Miss you all.
Tim and RoseAnne Bower

5/7/2000

Dear Praying Family,

For the past week and a half, we held a Bible seminar on the book of John. About 25 people attended; half were pastors, the others, lay people. We had about six hours of classes per day. We served some Haitian

Delicacies for the meals, their favorite dish we saved for the last day at breakfast "Ragu" which translated into English is goat guts! What a treat, great food along with spiritual nourishment.

On the same days as the seminar we held outdoor revival services. They generally last about three hours per night. I was able to spend much of the time translating for the visiting pastors who taught and preached.

I drove to the airport three days before Easter and drove past a rara, a voodoo parade, without them harassing me at all. I stopped 100 yds past them and looked down at a pile of tracts in my truck. I busted a tear thinking that those fellas were soon to be screaming in hell. I backed up the truck, jumped out and ran over to about 10 witch doctors who were dancing in the street. I gave each a tract and jumped back in the truck. They in turn began to block my truck, and at that point the head voodoo witch doctor demanded money for sacrifices. I grabbed his arm (a polite gesture) and said that I wouldn't give him money, but that I had a gift for him worth more than gold! I gave him the gospel but his demon didn't appreciate that and his whole body began to jerk and convulse. After that I passed on through with the truck. Pray that these men keep the tracts, read them, and get saved.

Another witnessing chance was with a woman wearing a voodoo dress, which shows that she made a vow to her demon. I gave her a ride with a bunch of others. When I dropped her off, I said to her, "It's true the demons can give you some small things, but in the end they will take your hand and lead you straight to hell. Jesus loved you so much He died for you, He paid the price for your sins. There's a gift that's so precious waiting for you, eternal life, you just need to take it." Pray this voodoo lady gets saved.

We are excited to be able to use the Creole language that we have studied so hard to learn. We miss home and friends but are more than happy to be where God has placed us.

In the battle,
The Bowers

05/14/00

Dear Family,

This week we all are sick. We started with a flu and then double with amebic dysentery. Needless to say we're wiped out. We are on the mend, praise the Lord, and hope to be back on the job Monday.

Love,

Tim and RoseAnne Bower

5/21/2000

Dear Family,

Tim and I are really tired and still don't have all our energy back but we finished our medicine and we are on the mend. We all have/had Amebic Dysentery. We found out the hard way that our water filter was not doing its job. We have a catydyn filter which is the best filter you can buy and as an extra precaution we put a cup of bleach in our cistern. Well, apparently when you add bleach to your water, it causes the catydyn filter to not function properly. So our extra precaution of adding bleach to the water actually ruined our filter, thus our filtered water was actually unfiltered and we all got sick. This is one lesson we would rather have not learned the hard way. We are boiling all our water for 20 minutes and we have ordered extra filters and water parts to fix our filter. They should be here with in two weeks. Please pray that it will get here by Tuesday.

The political situation has been peaceful in our town. Today everybody is voting. The poles are not yet closed so we do not know who has won or if they will revoke the votes. They did have some problems with the voting cards but we haven't heard any details yet.

We have seen a lot of gruesome things lately. We were on our way to town on Friday we saw a huge crowd of people many people were crying we assumed it was a funeral but when we came closer we realized it was an accident a mother had jumped out in front of a taptap {big 18 ft truck} to save her child who was in the way of the oncoming vehicle. How sad her dead body just laid there on the road. One of the family members was there and asked if we could transport the body to Cap Haitian which we said of course. The man hoped on and put his arms out to hold her body but the policemen wouldn't let him take her body until he finished writing

out the report. So we took the man to town (without the body) so he could make the proper arrangements. This is just another reminder to us of how short life is and how much work there is to do.

On the lighter note Lloyd asked Jesus into his heart this past week. As parents we were ecstatic and nervous all at the same time. Lloyd asked us how he could be washed clean all over from the naughty things he's done and how he can get to heaven. After we explained, he started praying. Praise the Lord for simple childlike faith.

Our neighbor was murdered the other night. They dumped his body in the river after cutting off his private parts. No one knows why.

In Christ,
The Bower's in Haiti

6/1/00

Dear friends and family,

We have safely arrived in Florida. We have come back to the United States to renew our passports. Ironically it's cheaper and safer for us to come back to the States than to go to Port Au Prince, Haiti {where the embassy is} and have them renew our passports. We are planning to head back June 20th after our passport's are finished. While we are here we will still be checking our e-mail or you can call our Mission Board for our itinerary.

In Christ,
Tim and RoseAnne Bower

6/28/00

Hello from Haiti,

We arrived in Haiti safely. We are all feeling pretty healthy. We installed the water purifier so we don't have to boil it now. The political situation is unstable in the cities, but it's quiet where we are. An election is scheduled for Sunday, we'll see how it goes. Thanks for your prayers.

Tim and RoseAnne and schmengies

7/10/00

Dear Family and Friends,

We have been having a good time getting back into the swing of things.

Tim has been holding a Bible study on Thursday night. In the Bible Study he has challenged everyone to learn 18 Bible verses. All the verses have to do with salvation. It has taken sometime, but Tim recited them all to the crowd. They wouldn't allow him any mistakes. He has known these verses for a long time in English, but memorizing in a different language is difficult. The crowd all cheered and laughed. I'm so proud of him. God has really given Him the gift of teaching and the Haitians love Him.

The twins have ear infections and they had some kind of weird rash but they are doing fine now.

Next week on the eighteenth we are having a medical team from our home church come. It will be nice to speak to some ladies in English. My sister Shirley is coming, so I'm sure I'll have a good time. Please pray that people will get saved during the preaching and the showing of the Jesus film. Pray that the doctors will have wisdom in treating the patients and that Tim and Brother Wilner will be able to have a clear mind to translate well.

Thank you for all you prayers we wouldn't be able to succeed without them.

Love Rose Anne for all

7/17/00

Dear Supporters,

We are excited about the medical team (from our home church in Greenville, SC) which will be coming Tuesday, July 18th.

We will be holding preaching services and evangelizing with tracts and showing the Jesus film. These people will hear the gospel! Please pray that hearts will be open and that precious souls will be saved.

Tim is continuing preparations for the third Bible seminar which will be in August.

The reopening of the Bible school will be in October so far we have had 10 people enroll. Praise the Lord.

Tim has recently fallen ill with malaria please pray that he will be better soon. Malaria doesn't usually last more than a week when you take the medicine but he is having a reaction to the medicine and he is having killer migraines. Please pray for him and the rest of us.

Thank you for all your continued prayers and support.

Tim and Rose Anne Bower

Servants for an Awesome God!

7/27/00

Dear Family and Friends,

This last week we had a medical clinic. The two doctors saw over 450 people in 4 days. Each person seen by the doctors received a tract and heard the gospel! We saw a lot of malaria and amebic dysentery. Having spent the last two months battling with these, I was very sympathetic. It was a great chance to spread the gospel through a different medium.

In a week and a half we are planning another seminar for preachers. The subject is the doctrine of the Holy Spirit. We are expecting a bigger group of men to attend the 30 hours of intensive Bible study that week.

On Sept. 4th, the Bible school has it's official reopening. The unstable government announced all government schools will open the first week of Sept., a month early, so we are trying to follow their example. We are buying text books now, a total of 39 books. Each student will receive, Lord willing, The Bible Knowledge Commentary by Walvoord and Zuck and Lectures in Systematic Theology by Thiessen. Both are by conservative authors and translated in French.

Praise God for... for everything!

Tim Bower

8/6/00

Dear Friends and Family,

Everything here is busy and exciting. We have 33 students signed up for the seminar. We do have some prayer requests.

1. Please pray that the seminar will run smoothly and that the men would understand the doctrine of the Holy Spirit and that this would help the people in their churches.

2. Please pray for all the preparations for the upcoming school year which is starting in September.

3. Please pray for our little Samantha, she has a boil on her forehead and the infection has caused her right eye to swell shut. This is a very delicate area to have a staff infection. We would appreciate your immediate prayers for her. Thank you

In God's Hands,

Tim and Rose Anne Bower

8/9/00

Dear friends and family,

Thank you for your prayers for Samantha!!!! Her eye is no longer swollen and the boil is getting smaller. We know God performed a miracle and intervened on her behalf. This boil started as a small mosquito bite We recognized it right away and started her on an antibiotic but within 48hrs of noticing the "mosquito bite" her eye was swollen shut and she had a fever. The staff infection was taking over. We sent an email on Sunday and

asked you all to pray .The next day, Monday she could open her eye a little and by evening she could open it all the way.Today the only reminder of the boil is a huge hole on her forehead and around her eyes are still red and blue like she had her eyes punched.

We would like to praise our awesome God for once again showing us that he is alive, he hears us and he answers prayer.

Thank you once again for upholding us before the throne of grace.

From our hearts,

Tim and Rose Anne Bower.

8/11/00

3rd Bible seminar, on the doctrine of the Holy Spirit. More than 25 came.

8/28/00

Dear friends and family,

We are currently in the final preparation stages of the reopening of the Bible school.

The passed two weeks we have been doing alot of remodeling. We are all excited and very busy. Please keep praying for us.

Love,

Tim and Rose Anne

9/3/00

Dear friends and family,

We are having a great time getting ready for the new Bible School year. It is starting tomorrow September 4th. The classroom remodeling has been completed and it looks great. Praise the Lord!

Tomorrow our 14 students will arrive for there first day of class. Please pray for these students. Please pray for Tim, he is teaching as well as doing all the administrative work. Please continue to pray for Tim's Thursday night bible study. We are starting to see spiritual growth in these Christians. The people have such a thirst for the truth but they have never been taught the doctrinal truths in God's word.

On a lighter note we just purchased a small freezer last week and then we went to Antoin's the only store in the north that is recommended for buying meat. Tim went to this store and bought a box of turkeys (they only sell meat by the box). He was so excited this is the first time since we've been here that we've ever been able to buy turkey. The turkeys were frozen. When he arrived home from Cap Haitian (2 1/2 hrs away) they were still frozen and we stuck them in the freezer but put one in the fridge to thaw for a feast the next day. Well, the next day after the turkey had dethawed there was an unusual odor. This odor filled the whole room when you opened the refrigerator. It didn't take us to long to realize that our turkey was rotten. We gave the turkey to some of our workers who insisted it was good to eat as long as the skin and meat weren't falling of the bones. Yuck!!!! I told them we weren't as tough as them if we ate the turkey it would make us sick. They said after we are here for a while we will be able to eat things like this and not get sick. We all had a good laugh at us getting taken on the turkeys and then they went home and had a feast. Well, I guess we will just have to wait for a store to open that will sell good meat.

Thank you for your prayers and support,

The Bowers.

9/17/00

We went to the beach Saturday and found out there are wild hermit crabs here. Lloyd and Josh caught three. Wish you were here to play with them with us.

Hugs and Kisses,

8

Uncle Tim and Aunt RoseAnne

10/8/2000

Dear Friends and family,

Joshua's birthday party was a success. I would like to send a big thank you everyone who was praying. The boys were so excited that their friends came to visit them. There were six children ranging from age 3-7. It was fun to hear all the kids playing together. None of the family members stayed for the party so it was quite a challenge to understand the children. It is one thing to understand an adult in Creole and quite another to understand a child. One of the highlights for me during the party was when the girls all came running over when I turned the propane stove on to cook their dinner (rice & Creole sauce). The girls each took turns trying to blow the flames out. I had to repeatedly tell them it was hot and not to get too close to the flames. They were so wide eyed with curiosity I had to laugh (although I was careful not to leave the stove unattended). I learned the nickname that children give me here is Ma Tim. This is short for Madame Tim. Another interesting difference between us and the other Haitians is our indoor plumbing. The mothers of the children obviously warned them of the differences because every time one of them had to go they asked me to come with them to show them how everything was done. Not one of them did their "duty" out in the yard! That is quite impressive for Haitian children.

All in all the five hours during the party went by slowly but we enjoyed seeing the smiles on our children's faces. Haiti is starting to feel like home.

We love you all,

The Bowers

10/12/2000

Dear friends and family,

We are approaching our first year anniversary of being here in Haiti. It is amazing how common place driving on these roads and going through the river is to getting to be. We are constantly reminded of God's protection.

Yesterday we went to visit some missionary friends that are two hours away from us and we had to go thru the river which was wide but only about three feet deep. Later that night on our way back home the river had swollen about two more feet. Our truck took it, it was scary but we made it thru fine. Thank the Lord! Another missionary friend wasn't so fortunate. She came to the river edge twenty minutes after us and she had to sit and wait for the river to come down. When we arrived home we were very thankful that we were climbing into our own beds and not still sitting at the river's edge with all four children waiting for the river to come down.

Currently we are trying to start the next phase of the school which is a correspondence division. We are going to purchase a computer and hire a translator when funds become available. We are so excited about the possibilities of good college level correspondence courses in Creole. Do you happen to know of a good Bible correspondence course we could translate? Do you know where we could find a computer that already has Windows95 installed? Please pray with us about this new phase. It will add on a whole new set of responsibilities but we really feel there is a need for this here. Thank you for continuing to pray for us.

Love,

Tim and RoseAnne Bower & the four little Bowers

10/16/2000

Dear friends and family,

We are approaching our first year anniversary of being here in Haiti. It is amazing how common place driving on these roads and going through the river is to getting to be. We are constantly reminded of God's protection. Yesterday we went to visit some missionary friends that are two hours away from us and we had to go thru the river which was wide but only about three feet deep. Later that night on our way back home the river had swollen about two more feet. Our truck took it, it was scary but we made it thru fine. Thank the Lord!

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Love,

Tim and RoseAnne Bower & the four little Bowers

10/23/2000

Dear family and friends,

We regret to report that we are having problems with our computer and it will have to go back to the U.S.. We will not be able to communicate for at least six weeks. Please send us any mail to: Tim and Rose Anne Bower. Please don't forget us!

1/25/2001

Dear friends and family,

We are now back on email. After three months without it we are very happy are to be able to write to you. We did not receive our email while the computer was down so if you emailed us between October and December and we didn't respond, please resend it. We will catch you up on what's been happening in our Sunday update. I just wanted to get a quick note to everyone that we were back on line and still alive.

Your missionaries for Christ,

Tim and RoseAnne Bower

1/28/2001

Dear family and friends,

Since our December prayer letter we have been busy with a seminar on the doctrine of the church and the start of the second semester in Bible school.

Tim is challenging his Bible study class to memorize scripture. We started a contest to memorize 19 Bible verses and the plan of salvation in order to get a Bible. We've bought over 40 Bibles. Then we started a contest to memorize 100 Bible verses to get a flashlight. One fellow has finished and 5 others are in the running. We have been very encouraged by this. We hope this might even encourage some of you to memorize scripture.

We have been healthy all except for the regular stuff (boils, tonselitis, ect.) We have had a few interesting people come to ask for medical care. One was a man who cut his leg with a machete. He had walked about two miles to our place and wanted to know if we could help him. Well, Tim was in school teaching so I tried my best to stop the bleeding and I couldn't so I got Tim out of class and He came over and did what he could he assessed the man chopped into his main artery so his only option was if they could help him at a clinic a half hour away. So the poor man sat on the back of the truck and I drove him to San Raphael. to make a long story short they said they couldn't fix him and that he would have to go two hours away to a Haitian hospital so they could operate on him. I prayed and prayed as the man was getting worse. He was already in that fainting state because he lost so much blood. I didn't think he would make it another two hours. Because the hospital is very expensive, I went to change some money so we could pay for the bill. But when I got back to the clinic, the doctor there had changed his mind, given the man an IV, and was almost done sewing him up!!!! Praise the Lord. A week later that same fella came back to our house to have Tim remove his stitches (The clinic wasn't

opened). So, Tim removed his stitches and had a good chance to witness to him. Pray that the Lord will use this experience to draw this young man to salvation. Another fella came just this week and he had chopped the end of his finger off with a machete There wasn't much that could be done except for "bandaiding" it and giving him an antibiotic.

Lloyd our four year old had his own accident on Thursday his bookshelf fell over on him and the corner of the bookshelf hit him in the head, splitting his head open. Praise the Lord Tim was at home. Tim got his razor and shaved around the cut and we used plastic tape like sutures to hold it together Of course praying the whole entire time that they would hold. We were prepared to have to stitch it but we couldn't imagine having to sew up a four year olds head without any anesthetic.

We praise the Lord once again for his continued blessing and protection. Thank you for your prayers.
Your brother and sister in Christ,
Tim and Rose Anne Bower

Dear Pastor Shaffer,

We just got our email hooked up again and are able to communicate now. How is your family? How is Madanm Pastè Shaffer? That's what they will call Jean when she comes to visit. Tell everyone there we send our greetings.

Since you came in August, a lot has changed in the little church here. They wanted to declare their independence when you left, but they were not quite ready. In August they had decided to stay at the church three Sundays a month. Serge gave them a hard time but they stuck to their guns. By November they decided they were ready to stay in Lina every Sunday, but they lacked the resolve to go ahead with it. They talked to Serge about it and he started to call everyone names, accusing Moise and Da of treason and calling them Judas. At a second talk to stay in Lina for good, Serge went around to everyone on the committee and gave them each a name and title as to the part they played in the plot to get rid of him. I wasn't there, but they scheduled a meeting again and I went with them. Serge admitted he had called the names but tried to pass off like it was a joke. There was no apology. That set the minds of the committee, we saw that Serge was not being led by the Spirit. He was hindering the work of God. His pride was destroying his testimony in the area. We decided that we would no longer go to the church in St. Raphael.

In November, we had a baptismal service in Lina down at the river. In January, we gave out perseverance cards with the name Lina Bible Church, not New Testament Baptist. In January, we also had our first communion service in the church. We also had our first funeral in the church. There is a young couple that will be married next month. The service won't be in the church, but at their house in Lina (the girl is pregnant).

Moise is the pastor. The committee waited until December to announce what we had discussed in August. I didn't push them, I waited until they were ready, and then I made the committee itself stand and make the announcement. They all call Moise pastor now, which is a wonderful thing to hear. What he needs is to have a formal ordination service. Maybe we can get some men from the States to come down and question him and have an ordination service.

Last Sunday Serge sent Jonas to Lina to preach. We can only surmise his plans. The committee sent him a note and said, don't come. Serge has been in the Lina church two, maybe three times since the building was built years ago. He calls himself the pastor here. He came last Sunday, we had heard said that he would make a scene and talk to the people and force them to decide if they were for him or for the committee. Serge is still very afraid of Bouzy. Bouzy has never been to the church for a Sunday service, but the Lord stirred his heart on Sunday. He was troubled about where to go to church on Sunday, and put the names of several churches in a hat. His daughter picked one of the names and it was Lina. Anyway, Serge stiffened when Bouzy walked into the church. The service passed and Serge neither preached nor made a scene, but he did leave rather angry.

Serge has told us the church cannot use the building if we separate with him, but we have ignored him so far. But the tension wears on the church. The piece of land that is in your name is being divided in two sections. The top part will be put in my name personally, and the bottom part in the name of the church committee. That way the church will be completely free.

Serge has been using Dr. Anne's truck as if it was his own personal vehicle. I cannot say how often he uses it, but it is starting to look just like your Isuzu did. When Dr. Anne returns she will find her truck is in very poor condition just like your Isuzu was. We need to pray the Lord protects her from what happened to you. With God, all things are possible.

The work at the Bible school is proceeding normally. We are in the second semester. We are teaching Bible doctrine, Romans, NT intro, personal evangelism, English, homiletics, and computers.

The Lord has blessed abundantly, and is continuing to protect us. You are in our prayers. Pray for us during this Mardi Gras season, the raras are starting again. Pray for the political mess Haiti is in too. Our seminars that are coming up are April 16-22 and Aug 20-24. Your welcome to come anytime.

Your son in the faith,
Tim Bower

2/4/2001

Dear friends and family,

Lloyds head is healing just fine. It was so cute to hear him praying one night ... and thank you Lord that daddy didn't have to cut off ALL my hairs (referring to his father shaving part of his head bald so the bandage would hold)

Well I have a short story that I'm sure you'll get a laugh out of. I was talking to the school cook on Tuesday, something I like to do to practice my Creole, she said she was going to be going to choir practice. I asked how many people were in the group. She said "7" So far I thought to myself this conversation (in Creole) is going good I understand her and she understands me. Then I tried to express interest in hearing the group sing and I asked that the next time she goes to practice if she could let me know and maybe Tim would watch the kids and I could go down and listen to them singing. She smiled and (I though) was really pleased with the fact that I wanted to go down and listen to them sing. I was so proud of the way my little conversation went that I shared it with Tim. Later....Tim came to me laughing and said Samuel (our watchman) was here with the words to the song that the choir is learning I asked Tim why? He lovingly laughed his head off and informed me that in my conversation with the cook I had actually asked to be in the group!!!! I was mortified. I asked Tim to help me explain what I really meant and he said he wouldn't. He said they are all happy that I "asked" to be part of their group and that it would be insulting not to sing. So now I am in a Haitian singing group and I am working on learning a new tune. I'll let you know next week how to learn a song Haitian style. The name of the group is a "Chord from Heaven." I hope it still is even after I start singing.

The political situation is currently stable in our area but on Feb. 7th President elect (Aristide) is to take his position. We are not sure how this is going to be accepted. We have heard rumor that a provisional government is set to take Aristide's place but we are not sure what or if that will happen. We don't expect unrest in our area up in the mountains but we would appreciate your prayers.

Love, Tim and Rose Anne Bower

2/11/2001

Dear Friends and Family,

What an exciting week. Tim preached in the morning service and two people came forward during the invitation to get saved. Another lady came forward to get baptized and another wanted to join the church. Praise the Lord! This has been a real encouragement to us.

This week we have our brother in law and his boy Thomas (5yrs old) visiting us. Lloyd and Joshua are having the time of their lives playing and showing their cousin all the "neat" things to do in Haiti. i.e. Tarantula & toad hunting at night. They will be here until Thursday. Dale, Tim and some of the Bible school students have been hard at work making concrete stairs for the school kitchen and in general making the school beautiful.

Thank you for all your prayers the political situation was very peaceful (for Haiti). They blocked off the roads with cactus and in the city they burned tires; rocks were thrown at some of our neighbors houses and a few people were beat up but the Lord kept us safe and nobody bothered us.

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Have a great week,
The Bowers

2/18/2001

Dear Family,

We had great fun this week with our brother-in-law Dale and his son Thomas. We were sad to see them go on Thursday. We have all managed to catch colds at the same time and Tim decided to go all out and add a double ear infection with it:) We are all hanging in there.

Please pray for Joshua he fell out of the truck on Thursday and hit the pavement with his mouth. His teeth went thru his bottom lip. I guess he needed some stitches in there. The swelling has gone down but he has a flab of skin in there that was bit into and it is making him talk funny so we are praying that this will heal properly and it wont become a problem. We are very thankful that he didn't land on his head or neck. When he was getting out of the truck he got his leg caught in the seat belt and he flipped out.

On a lighter note the kids are all growing and very active. Samantha and Michael are learning new things everyday. They are finally starting to talk. They can now say doggy and ball suprising enough Michael is the one taking the lead in talking. He learns the words first then shortly thereafter you hear both of them running around the house saying the same word over and over.

We love you all and Thanks for your prayers.

Love,

Rose Anne for all 6

Joshua's' story. We went to Cap Haitian a town 2 1/2 hours away to take my brother-in-law to the airport. When we stopped at a gas station to get drinks and use the potty. I went into the bathroom first with Lloyd, Thomas(Shirleys son who is Lloyds age) and one of the twins. Tim had Joshua and Michael. When Joshua was getting out of the truck he got his ankle caught in the seatbelt that is for the front seat. He didn't realize it was caught and he jumped off the seat. It is unfortunate that our truck was so high of the ground because when the seatbelt caught his foot it flipped him and he hit the pavement with his mouth. His teeth went through his lower lip and there was blood everywhere. He scraped up his chin and somehow he bit into his upper lip. Tim saw him going down and had almost caught him when a bum jumped in front of him and asked him if he could have some money for shoes!! Tim shoved the man out of the way but it was to late. Without an emergency room to go to I gave him Motrin and put a cold coke can on it and used bandaids. For a week his lips were swollen and he drooled. The inside of his mouth needed stitches but that's something we couldn't do for him so we put guaze on it and taped it and put alcohol on it to keep it from getting infected. It has now healed, but he talked funny for two months. When it was healing the skin was hanging (on the inside of his mouth) causing him to have a lisp. we thought we might have to come to the States and have it removed but ... as I said God has healed it. Well that's the lo down on Joshua's mouth

Love ya,

Rose Anne

2/25/2001

Dear Family and Friends,

Thanks for you prayers. The work is going well. Bible school midterms are coming up next week. The students are doing well.

The little church in Lina continues to progress as it battles to stand on it's own two feet. There has been a tremendous number of visitors and new people lately. This Sunday we had around 100 people in a 25 x 15 building (375 square feet). That's pretty tight spacing even in Haiti. But that's exciting news for us. We are

making plans to build another building, Lord willing in May. Please pray that we will be able to get a clear title to the land and that we will have all the necessary paper work processed by the end of this March.

The voodoo season is in full force now. There are Mardi Gra parades (that is, voodoo parties in the street) almost everyday now. They are celebrating the death and suffering of our Christ. These parades get louder and more boisterous until Easter, then they quit altogether. They celebrate up until Christ's resurrection, that's when we have the victory. Everything we believe in is pinned on the resurrection. They know it too. But for now, demon possession becomes commonplace and spiritual harassment of all kinds increases. For that we need your prayers.

But through it all, God's work goes forward and we continue to work for His glory.

Your brother and sister in Jesus,
Tim and RoseAnne Bower

3/4/2001

Dear Family and Friends,

Thank you for you prayers and faithful support of the ministry here in Haiti. Everything has gone normally this week. That's unusual for Haiti. Please continue to pray that we will be able to get a clear deed for the new church building's land.

The language barrier is always a hindrance to us and a source of constant amusement. One of the Bible school students had a bad case of heart burn so he went to RoseAnne and asked her if she could give him a teaspoon of baking soda. She misunderstood and thought he said baking powder. She couldn't figure out why he would want a spoonful of baking powder, but gave it to him anyway. He put the spoonful of powder on his tongue and walked away. A little while later we figured out there was a small problem when he started to look a little green. Please pray for us as we continue to battle with the language.

For Christ,

Tim and RoseAnne Bower
(and Lloyd, Joshua, Michael, and Samantha)

3/12/2001

Dear family and friends,

It has been an unusual weekend. It has been interesting to see how Satan has been fighting and how God has been protecting us.

Saturday morning I woke up about 3AM with a migraine and took medicine but my migraine didn't subside until Saturday late afternoon. Right after I was able to get to my feet. Tim had a terrible headache and felt sick to his stomach. This all correlated with the day, Saturday, when I was supposed to meet with the ladies helping with my first Sunday school class. That same day, the church here was starting preparations for the new church building, something Tim needed to be a part of. Saturday came and went, then Sunday had its own excitement. The ladies that were supposed to help with the first day of SS didn't show up! This left me with about 35 Haitian children who weren't sure what to think. Tim jumped to my rescue and did some singing then one of the two ladies showed up and we went on from there. Then in the afternoon I was making coffee for Tim and I heard what I thought was a woman screaming but then all was quiet and I heard a huge crowd of people gathering and talking. About a half hour later two young men from our church came up and asked if we could take a fellow to the hospital. Tim was revising the conclusion to his Sunday night sermon so I immediately prepared to go to take the fellow to the Clinic in St. Raphael. When I was ready to get in the truck Tim said he had a funny feeling about this and that he'd better go. Off he went. When he got to where the young man was, the guy was gasping for breath and had apparently broken some ribs and had a lot of internal problems. As it turned out, the young fellow was unsaved, he had been disrupting the revival services at church the night before. That afternoon, he got in a fight over some broken sunglasses. Anyway, they drove 20 minutes to the hospital, where the doctors said he was in serious trouble. They said he needed to go to the big hospital 2 hours away. After arguing over who would pay the bill, the family got the guy back into the truck and drove to the big

hospital. While they were driving, Tim explained how he could be sure he was going to heaven if he died. Tim returned home in time to preach. The Lord used the opportunity as a good illustration, and three came forward to get saved.

We are doing great and are excited that the Lord is willing to use us to bring people to Him but we couldn't do this alone. Thank you for all your prayers and your faithful support.

In Christ,
The Bowers

3/19/2001

Dear friends and family,

Greetings from the warm tropics. We enjoy this time of year it's not too hot and we get to eat foods that remind us of home like carrots, beets and tomatoes. We also like the fact that the warmer weather causes the mice and rats to go back outside where they belong.

We were excited to meet an older man in church today that accepted Christ on Thursday night. He sent a note to the church requesting somebody to come and show him how to get saved. Tim didn't get to go because he was teaching his Bible study so some of the deacons went. It's so exciting to see people getting saved. This afternoon some of the men from our church are going to do some evangelizing.

Please continue to pray that we receive a clear title to the church land so we can start building soon.

Thank you for praying for Joshua's mouth he is talking normal again and the bump is slowly disappearing. God is so good to us.

Until next week,
The Bowers'

3/25/2001

Dear family and friends,

This past Sunday evening Tim preached and Likmon (the fellow that was beat up and we didn't think would live) came forward at the end of the church service to say what a scoundrel he was and how he needed to get saved. Amazing! Health wise Likmon is doing much better and now he is no longer under the bondage of sin. Praise the Lord.

Tim canceled school on Friday because he had Bronchitis/borderline pneumonia and just couldn't get out of bed. He is on a strong antibiotic and his fever is gone now but we would appreciate your prayers that God would strengthen him.

Please be praying that we will be able to finalize the deed for the church land this week.

As always thank you for your prayers and continual encouragement and support.

In Christ,
Tim and RoseAnne Bower.

4/1/2001

Dear Family and friends,

It's been a regular week for us here in Haiti. The Bible school has been operating normally, Praise the Lord. Tim has been out sick for 2-3 days with bronchitis/pneumonia.

A little funny story for you all about a sad situation.... On Thursday a neighbor lady died and left 5 children behind. RoseAnne sent some Similac and baby cereal over to the 3 month old baby, but the person who took it over accidentally grabbed the bag that had old moldy bread for the dog. She arrived at the house and knocked on the door. She started saying she had some milk and baby cereal for the baby, but when she opened the bag she noticed there was moldy bread inside. She took off running without saying anything she was so embarrassed. She returned later with the milk and cereal for the baby. It's nice to know that social mistakes are cross-cultural.

Please pray for Tim's health and for Michael, he is cutting his four eye teeth.

We love you all,

Tim and Rose Anne Bower

4/8/2001

Dear Family and friends,

Thank you for all your prayers. This week has flown by. Tim finished a 75 page booklet for the seminar that is coming up. The booklet is on the doctrine of Jesus Christ. He is so excited to be finally finished the writing stage of this project. Please continue to pray for his health he is still weak from the pneumonia, He finished his antibiotics Thurs. but he still has fatigue and nausea.

Please pray for the many projects that we have coming up:

Public seminar April 15-21

Block class April 22-28

Final school exams May 13-19

The church building project will take up the rest of May and June.

Co-Laborers to win Haitians to Christ,

Tim and Rose Anne Bower

4/16/2001

Dear friends and family,

We had a great Easter weekend. Our church had a special Friday night service then on Sunday we had a baptismal service down at the river. There were 6 people that were baptized. One lady Tim baptized became possessed as soon as she went under water. She had given a convincing testimony and had gone through a class on the meaning of baptism so we don't really understand what happened. That was never covered in the preacher boys class at Bible school. It's one of those culture shocks that is hard to prepare for. Anyway, after a few moments of prayer the demon left and she was fine. We had a lot of visitors for the Easter morning service and two people came forward to get saved. Praise the Lord!

We are having a public seminar this week on the doctrine of Jesus Christ. About 25 people are attending. Our house and the school is a flutter of activity.

Thank you for your prayers for Tim, he is getting his strength back, he continues to have nausea but he hasn't passed out this week. He is once again back to his full responsibilities.

We had an unusual thing happen to us this weekend. A lady in our community died and she had a husband and five girls. The youngest of the girls is 3 mo. old. We have been buying milk for the little baby. On Sunday afternoon some ladies came and brought the baby for a visit and after Tim had the baby in his hands they said that the baby was now ours. We talked for while and then, sadly, gave the baby back and told them to come back and visit us when the baby needed anything. This isn't the first time someone has offered us their baby, but no matter how many times it happens it is still shocking. We have had about eight people in our little area die in the past two weeks. The death wails were heard almost every night. How our heart aches for all these people that die without Jesus and also for the many children that are left without a mommy or daddy. To be left without parents here in Haiti is basically a death sentence.

Pray that the Lord will give us wisdom to deal with the spiritual and physical needs of these dear people.

Love, The Bowers

4/23/2001

Dear Family and Friends,

It's been a good week. We have a pastor and his wife visiting. Tim will be translating all this week for a block class on church finances. It should be a regular week. Tim is finally feeling better thank you so much for your prayers!!!!!!

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The seminar was great we had 30+ here last week. We killed a goat on Thursday to eat at the seminar and we had a "small" taste of goat brains for Breakfast Friday morning:) They weren't to bad if you could shut your mind down from telling you what you were eating.

We love you all. Thanks for being there for us.

Love,
Rose Anne

4/29/2001

Dear Family and Friends,

Praise the Lord, our public seminar on the doctrine of Jesus Christ went by well. 28 men and women from the area participated in the course. It was an intensive study, 6 hours a day for 5 days.

The very next week, we had a week long block course for the regular Bible school students (there are 8 men now) on the use of money in the church. We were proud to have a pastor who is a doctoral candidate, come from Canada to teach this class. I was interpreting (One could say interrupting) everyday. He also preached two Sundays and on Thursday evening. The men appreciated the teaching as well as the exposure to another teacher with fundamental ideas.

In the church, pastor Moise and some other leaders were involved in evangelization and led three people to the Lord. Wipip! (Creole for wow!) It's exciting to see God working in the lives of people.

Thank you for your continued prayer and support of God's work here.

Tim, RoseAnne, Lloyd, Joshua, Michael, and Samantha Bower

5/7/2001

Dear Family,

School is winding down. This is the last week of classes and then we give exams. The church building project and the summer translation project is underway. The land problems seem to be coming to a climax. We will let you know what's going on later after we have been in contact with our mission board.

Samantha has Giardia and has to take some really nasty medicine. Her stomach is huge but she has started to get her smile back and she is starting to be less clingy and play more. I'll try to bring you a better update next week.

We hope everyone is doing fine and we continue to pray and think of you often.

Love you all,
Rose Anne for all 6

5/9/2001

Dear family,

Tim had a blood test yesterday to get a bill of good health for our visa paperwork and we found out that he has malaria. We are very thankful we found out before he came down with the bad chills, fever and so forth that accompany Malaria. He will still get all that but at least he can start taking the meds right away. Please pray that he will recover quickly and that he wont have as severe a reaction to the Cloriquin like he did last time.

We also have a bit of bad news about the land situation our landlord is evicting us in two months. We are trying to work things out but we don't have alot of time. We are looking for God's perfect will in all of this.

Sorry I feel like we are always sending bad news. Don't worry to much we are learning to live with sickness and life goes on. The Lord never allows Tim and I to be sick and down at the same time. He is teaching us many things. The kids are troopers and don't seem to be affected by much. They are happy and growing up quick. As always we love you and thank you for the prayers.

Love,
Rose Anne for all six

5/12/2001

Dear family,

Thank you so much for your prayers. Tim is over the worst of the malaria.

Love,

Rose Anne

5/16/2001

Dear Family and Friends,

School is finished! This is exam week. We hash the grades out, give report cards, and listen to all the moans and groans this week. But the students are in good spirits just the same. We are going to end our first year of Bible School with a banquet for the staff and students, come join us for goat guts and rice! The students have made tremendous progress during the year. The Lord has a handful of good men here. These preacherboys by the power of God, can change the future of Haiti!

We are preparing for the church raising next week. We've bought concrete, rebar, tin, and wood. Now we are waiting on a couple groups from the States to come help put it together. We have a green light on the construction, we received the deed for the new land, it's in our hand. There is a lot of work to be done still, this is just the first phase of the construction, but it sure is exciting to see God working in the lives of His people. Some bad news always goes along with good news. We have received an eviction notice from our landlord. It's the same land dispute coming to the surface again. If the problem is not worked out, we could be forced to return Stateside for a few months while we build a house on another property. This should not have an impact on the church construction at all. It could, however, interfere with the school's fall semester schedule. The right road is not always the easy road, but it sure is the best one.

Thanks for your prayers,

Tim and RoseAnne Bower

5/21/2001

Dear Family and Friends,

We have a lot to be thankful for. Tim is over his malaria and my parents are coming to visit and oversee the church construction. We will be having two work crews from the States coming in. We are very excited about this building project and all the company that we will have. The Lord is taking care of the finances and we would ask you to pray for God's protection on everyone that will be coming and helping us.

A lot of you are concerned over our eviction. Tim has tried to get a hold of our landlord but he is in and out of town a lot and then Tim has had malaria. For some unknown reason God has been hindering Tim from having a meeting with our landlord. Tim has decided to wait until my Dad comes and can be a witness to the meeting. The meeting should take place next week, Lord willing. Please be in prayer over this, We want the Lord's perfect will.

Tim and I continue to be amazed at what the Lord is doing here in Lina. Tim and I are such a small part of this whole puzzle, we are confounded to see how the Lord is directing and using so many people to bring about His will for the Haitian people. Thank you for all your prayers and financial support. Most of all we would like to thank our Heavenly Father who is watching us from above and taking care of our every need.

Tim and RoseAnne Bower

5/28/2001

Dear Family and Friends,

We are in the middle of a construction project! The foundation is complete and the walls are going up. But there is a lot of work to be done. We are looking forward to meeting in a new building!

The family is healthy, except for a few nasty colds. But that is normal rainy season stuff. RoseAnne's Mom and Dad are here with us, and they're a great encouragement to us.

The land issue is still up in the air, while the date for our eviction approaches (June 30). That adds a lot of tension, but the Lord is good and will provide in his time.

Thanks for your prayers and support,
Tim and RoseAnne Bower

6/11/2001

Dear family and friends,

We have had an exciting week. We have verbally agreed to a lease for the Bible school property. We have been told since we verbally agreed to a lease that the eviction notice will be rescinded. It looks like we won't be forced to move!

We had 6 of our 11 visitors leave on Thursday. The rest of the crew is leaving on Tuesday. The visitors have accomplished a lot in the few weeks they have been here. The church building is in its final stages. The last of the trusses will be going up today and they have started putting the tin on the roof. The only thing left is to finish pouring the floor, paint everything, build the outhouse and put in the finishing touches. We are hoping to finish all of this in the next week and then go on a long overdue family vacation. We have to go over to the Dominican Republic to renew our visa's so we will spend a few extra days over there relaxing.

Thank you for all your prayers about the land situation we still have a ways to go before everything is settled but at least we won't be evicted and we have agreed on terms for a lease.

Love,

Tim and Rose Anne Bower

6/18/2001

Dear Family,

We have had a great time in the last 4 weeks. The church building is almost completed. Tim is starting to paint today and my dad is going to try to get the masons to finish most of the tedious masonry work. The only thing left will be to finish the concrete floor and add a second coat of paint. Wow! We are exhausted but we have had a great time visiting with my parents and all the other 11 Americans that came to visit. Everyone of them were a blessing and they all worked well together and pitched in and helped wherever they could.

During the last month Tim has had the pleasure of leading three people to the Lord. Two young women and one older, blind lady. Praise the Lord! Thank you for all your prayers.

We are planning on going over to the Dominican Republic and renewing our visa's probably at the end of this week. It's an adventure: (5-6hrs"four wheeling")to get there and quite a task to get across the border (another 3hrs to do paperwork and go from office to office) but once you cross the border you can get ice cream and then life gets better from there....When we get to the D.R. we will drive about three hours and get to the first real hotel and then crash for the night. From there we will probably go to the capital 7hrs drive (on wonderful paved roads) and treat the kids to McDonalds. We are looking forward to having a little rest not to mention playing with the kids at the pool.

Love,

Rose Anne for the clan

6/28/2001

Dear Family,

We are enjoying our time in the Dominican. We want you to know we are all doing great.

We are thinking about you all and love you.

Love,

Rose Anne

7/13/2001

Dear Friends and Family,

We just returned from the Dominican Republic. We renewed our visas, something we have to do every 3 months until we have permanent visas. We took a little vacation at the same time and were able to spend some time in air conditioning, eat at McDonald's, go to the department store and grocery store, enjoy hot water, etc. While in the Dominican we went to a church service in English. It was good to hear a good sermon and to sing in our own language. It really was a good break for us.

Now that we are back in Haiti, we are catching up on mail and other office work. We are refreshed and eager to get back to work. The church building is almost complete. The building frame and roof are already finished. All that remains is finish work. We are waiting on church benches and finishing the church floor. As soon as the benches arrive we can use the building.

The Bible school students are continuing the translation work on BJU's correspondence curriculum. We are continuing to write study booklets for the local churches. We have a seminar coming up next month for local preachers and laypeople. Bible school starts again in September. So, with all that we have our work cut out for us.

We thank you for your prayers concerning the eviction notice. We have not been evicted. We have come to a verbal rental agreement and we are waiting for the final paperwork to be completed. We could see the Lord's hand in keeping everyone under control so a reasonable agreement could be made.

Thank you for your prayers.

Tim and RoseAnne Bower

11/5/2001

Hey,

Just wanted you to know we are doing fine. All the kids have been sick with colds and fevers. Michael is the only one who had to have an antibiotic. He has the same cold with a double ear infection. He is doing better. The temperatures are cooling down here what is it like for you.

How is everyone in the family doing?

We love you all thanks for your prayers.

Love,

Rose Anne for all six

11/12/2001

Dear Family,

Just a short email to let everyone know that we are alive and doing fine.

Love,

Tim, Rose Anne and children

11/18/2001

Dear Family and friends,

What a wonderful week, the weather has been wonderful and we half reached the half way point in the semester. I think the professors are the only ones who rejoice when midterms are here. Bible school is going well even if the students are complaining about studying and lack of sleep!

Unfortunately our area is having a typhoid and malaria epidemic. Pastor Moise and his wife have been sick with malaria. Tim is just getting over malaria too. It seems that during the rainy season its not just the plants that are active.

American Thanksgiving is coming up this week. We get the best of three worlds down here. We celebrate Thanksgiving three times a year! The Canadian, American, and Haitian Thanksgiving are all celebrated on

different days! There are some other Americans in our area who have invited us over to their home to celebrate the American Thanksgiving. We are looking forward to some good turkey and stuffing.

The translation project is going well. We are working on translating a BJU correspondence course that covers the New Testament. The men have translated and typed into the computer about 500 pages. They are starting the editing process on those 500 pages now.

Homeschooling is going well for Lloyd. RoseAnne is working away at teaching Lloyd math, English, reading, and even some Creole! Joshua can't stand to be left out, so he stands by and gets a little here and there too.

Thank you for your faithful prayers for the work here in Haiti. Your prayers keep the hedge around us strong. Keep up the good work!

Tim and RoseAnne Bower

11/25/2001

Dear Family,

This week has gone by rather fast. Tim has not been feeling himself he was sick last weekend, then he was feeling better but today he didn't even make it sitting thru church. He had to come home to lay down. I think the biggest thing he needs is rest and he'll be fine. Please pray that he'll get his strength back.

As for the news in our area we have a new neighbor in our area that is trying to become a "boku" witchdoctor. Almost every night for the last two weeks he has been beating his drums. Please pray that are neighbor will get saved.

As always are hearts are with you all, thank you for being such a great family.

Love,

Rose Anne for all six

12/02/2001

Dear Family and friends,

We have had a quiet week what a blessing. School is going well, the students have been putting a lot of hours into the translation work. They have translated about 500 pages and now we are starting the editing process.

I have found out the name of the new boko (witchdoctor) in our village. His name is Ti Pay (little chaff) he is only in his late teens and we are praying for his salvation. Please pray with us that he will get saved.

Some events that are coming up:

Revival services Dec 14-23

Baptismal service Dec.23rd

Public seminar on the book of Romans Jan 2-5

We hope you all have a great Christmas season.

In Christ,

Tim and Rose Anne Bower

Missionaries in Lina, Haiti

12/9/2001

Dear family,

We love you and miss you all. Things are fine here, everyone is healthy and nothing unusual is happening.

We are rapping up the semester at the Bible school. Exams are in two weeks. Lloyd's homeschooling is going well.

The church is making plans for the revival services the week after next. Tim will be preaching. The week of services will end with a baptism and a Christmas play.

We help take care some little girls whose mama died. We gave them some fresh baked bread to take home, but a group of 6-7 year old boys beat the girls up and stole their bread. Life's not easy for them. It's just a little reminder of how thankful we can be for the bread we eat.

Love you all,
Tim and RoseAnne

12/17/2001

Dear Family and Friends,

This has been an exciting and exhausting week! The Lord has answered many prayers and we have been very blessed.

Tim has received his long awaited visa. We had a Haitian friend of ours go down and process the last of the paperwork and when he was there he was informed that somebody in the office had stolen our file!!!! This file held all of our documentation for everything they had asked us for in the last two years. Our friend came back and got Tim and the two of them went to the big wigs office (in Port Au Prince 12-15 hrs away) and there they hashed everything out and instead of having to go through the whole process again. At the end, he gave Tim the visa. Praise the Lord!

This week is final exam week, revival services start tonight, and we have a baptism on Sunday. Busy, busy, busy but we are alive and healthy. Thank you Lord!

We heard reports that the government was overthrown last night. The presidential palace was taken by a group of gunmen. We don't have a clue what's happening, but it's peaceful here in the boonies.

Have a great Week.

Love,

Rose Anne

12/24/2001

Dear Family and friends,

Merry Christmas! What a wonderful holiday to celebrate and have we been busy Tim preached in revival services this week. This morning we had a baptismal service and tomorrow night there will be a Christmas play. We wish we could be with you all. We love and miss you all bunches.

Love,

Tim, Rose Anne, Lloyd, Joshua, Michael and Samantha

12/31/2001

Dear family,

Have a great New Year.

This week starting Thursday we are holding a public seminar.

We love you all,

Tim and Rose Anne

1/5/2002

Dear Family,

The seminar is going great. We have about 20 students in attendance which is a high number for our January seminars. Tim has done an excellent job with the booklet on Romans.

Our chief cook for the seminars is Mrs. Achelot and she had to be taken to the hospital on the first day of the seminar. She is back at home again but she has typhoid fever, malaria and high blood pressure. We are praying for her full recovery. With Mrs. Achelot sick this gave me some extra work organizing the ladies to cook and buy the groceries for feeding 30 people for four days. All the groceries have been bought and now that I have figured out how much rice and corn thirty people will eat the last two days should go smoothly, although, we are serving goat on the last day of the seminar and I'm not exactly sure how to do that. I've never butchered anything myself.. I'll let you know next week how it all went.

We love you guys and we hope all is well.

Love,

RoseAnne for all 6

1/14/2002

Dear family and friends,

We are safe even though there has been rioting in St. Raphael. The fighting all seems to be directed at political parties. The fighting all started about a week ago when one person was killed by a mob of people. The person had been doused with gasoline and lit on fire. People said he was demon possessed and had admitted to killing over twenty people.

The Catholic priest in St. Raphael was outraged at the way the mayor allowed justice to be dictated by a mob. 2nd part to the story... On Friday a congressman born in St. Raphael and now working in the Capital in Port Au Prince stopped by our house to talk to us about getting our visa's and about getting the Bible School recognized....This same congressman, Pastor Joslen, two days later went with the catholic priest to talk over the situation about the killing (In St. Raphael). When they were trying to settle things with the mayor, the discussions got heated and the mayor pulled out a gun and shot twice at the priest. In defense the Congressman and his security guys shot and killed the mayor. Now there is fighting between the Congressman's family and political friends and the mayors family and political friends. Three people have died so far and all the Haitians are scared.

On Thursday (market day... the only day to shop for food during the week) there was a huge crowd of people in St. Raphael buying food. Supporters of the now dead mayor started looting and dumping vendors produce in the mud and they burned a building. The people at the market panicked and tried to get away from the madness. Many people were trampled and injured. Someone alerted officials in Port Au Prince and they sent in a helicopter full of armed men to stop the destruction. Everything has remained closed since Thursday and even today they are burning tires in St. Raphael. They say things won't quiet down until they have a trial for the mayors murder. The deputy (congressman) Pastor Joslin is in hiding and nowhere to be found. We are not sure when things will return to normal around here we have been told that the belated mayors followers are calling themselves the Bin LadensWe are hoping all this will just blow over but for now we are very uncertain about things.

Providentially on Wednesday we went to Cap Haitian for a day at the beach, a little break before school started again. Unbeknown to us the rioting started right after we left and we were not able to return until the blockades were removed and the roads were cleared on Friday afternoon. The Lord is so good to us in all of this he took us out of the heat of the fight for two days and allowed us to enjoy ourselves at the beach. The tension could be felt in the air as we left the beach. As we headed towards home we stopped in the city to get some supplies. Tim went to buy some eggs and the children and I stayed in the truck (It is safer in the truck). While Tim was gone we witnessed an angry mob chasing a man. They turned the corner by our truck and people were yelling and hollering they were saying that the man they were chasing was evil and wicked and he would die... thankfully the mob kept going and nobody seemed to notice me and the children in the truck. When Tim returned we went home. I don't know what the man did but I know what that mob did if they caught him.

There is unrest in our area for now. We don't know how long it will last. We covet your prayers and we rest in the fact that over and over God has kept us safe and we know we are doing what he has called us to do.

The spring semester of the Bible school has started today. Please pray that we will not be closed down because of the political problems.

Love,

Tim and Rose Anne Bower

St. Raphael,Haiti

1/17/2002

Dear Family,

Things are quieting down here. They stopped burning tires for the time being. I think they have set a date to bury the murdered mayor. They say they will have the funeral Feb. 6th. Everything should go back to normal after that. We have started school and have not received any flack. All the other schools remain closed. They are having market today so that is a good sign that things will return to normal. We are thankful that we can at least buy food this week.

Thanks for your prayers

Love,

Tim and Rose Anne

1/19/2002

Things are quieting down around here. There is talk that they may even start the public schools tomorrow. The people in our village have stop policing the street at night. Haiti is not really a quiet place it is riots one day and peace the next. Thanks for your prayers.

I'm sorry that you didn't receive my email about our house keeper. She decided not to leave. She wanted to go, but her mother told her she wouldn't get baptized if she left. Our housekeeper is in her thirties and her mom is in her late sixties. They live together and Klenis looks out for her mom. I think she was half joking, half not about not getting baptized if Klenis moved.

Homeschool is going. I'm about 20 days behind in Lloyds English lessons but we are getting through it. He likes school and does well as long as he doesn't get distracted

I'm afraid, though, it doesn't take to much to distract him:) He seems to be the typical 5 year old. Are you still homeschooling or are you fortunate to have a good Christian school nearby?

We remember you all fondly and hope all is well for you.

In Christ,

Rose Anne Bower

1/21/2002

Dear Family and friends,

The political problems have seem to quiet down for the time being. They say school may even start tomorrow but I think they will wait until after the mayors funeral, Feb 6th.

Thanks for all your prayers. I hope I didn't alarm anyone by sending out this email late. Klenis and Madame Achelot are both sick and neither worked last week so I had to do a lot of juggling and consequently not everything has been done on time. Once again thanks for all your prayers.

Love,

Rose Anne for the Bower Clan

1/28/2002

Dear Family,

They finally had the mayor's funeral. Things are back to normal.

We are all doing fine.

To give you a little update on the things the kids are doing and saying. Lloyd (5) told me yesterday that he wanted to be a tow truck driver so he could drive a cool truck and go around and help people. Lloyd is doing well in Kindergarten. He is learing phonics and he can put some sounds together to form a few words. Joshua is enjoying his new purple bike that he got for Christmas. Yesterday he asked me if I could make the church service not be so long... Michael is laid back and jumps the minute he sees Lloyd and Joshua taking off out the door. He keeps up pretty good with the boys except when they climb trees. Samantha is already starting to make eyes at her father to get what she wants. We are trying to break her habit of sucking her finger. We even tried hot tabasco sauce. We warned her it was spicy hot and would burn her mouth. She took a lick of her finger said

ooh and then excused herself to the other room. Tim and I being curious peeked in her bedroom and watched her sit down and suck her finger. She didn't care if it burnt her mouth she wanted to suck her finger. We have all been sharing some kind of viral or bacterial infection, swollen neck glands, pain in the throat, neck and ears, open sores on our arms and legs.... We will be glad when doctor Anne gets back. Being mom and doctor is scary. Our healing regiment has been fluids, tylenol, blue coat-for the sores- and amoxicillin. I'm sure your all kringing at our plight but really this is nothing more than the normal thing that is going around. When we go back to the States we will probably get sick from the common cold:)

Love,

Rose Anne for all six.

2/4/2002

Dear family,

This week has flown by. Politically things have been quiet. We did have an army helicopter circle our house and then land close by. They were the police from Port Au Prince looking for the place where the shooting took place. Obviously they were in the wrong place but it did add some excitement to are weekend. Joshua thought that my parents had arrived for a visit. He was jumping up and down waving. He was disappointed that Tim came back without them but he took it in stride.

On Sunday we had a baptismal service. Five people were baptized. The kids enjoyed getting to go down to the river. My singing group sang and I learned an interesting fact about the heat. If you stand closely behind someone it is actually cooler (if you are in the full sun) because they actually provide you with some shade. I tested it out. I put Samantha in between me and another lady and she (Samantha) was shaded. Of course it was still hot but it was cooler.

Tim preached in the morning service He had a perfect three point sermon all picked out and prepared and the Holy Spirit tugged at him to change his sermon at the last minute. This can be a nerve racking thing but the Lord gave Tim what he wanted him to say and two people came forward at the end of the sermon. One came forward to get saved and the other person was visible shaken over some are in his life that the Lord was working in. It is rare to see Haitians cry and this man was crying. How exciting it is to see the Holy Spirit working in lives.

We are looking forward to all that is in store for us this coming week.

Some of the kids are still on antibiotics but everyone is tired but over the strange virus. Thanks for you prayers.

Keep up the good work.

Love,

Rose Anne for all six

2/11/2002

Dear family,

This week has gone by fast. We are all fine. Special prayer requests for this week:

1) Mardi Gras is this week, Tuesday- There will be a lot of drunkenness and lewd dancing in the streets and wild drum playing. We will be staying home and we don't expect problems but one of the things that keeps us safe in this area is when visitors come from other areas people from the area watch them to see what they are doing (kind of like neighborhood watch) but when most of your neighbors are drunk and there are a lot of people that come from other areas and they celebrate wearing masks You lose the extra protection. Plus there is a lot of demonic activity that follows between Mardi Gras up until Easter.

2) We are having troubles with agreeing on the proper legal language for the rental agreement. Please pray for wisdom for Tim. We need God to give us clear direction on whether we should buy land in this area or move to a different one.

3) Tim has a lot of projects he is working day and night on. Please pray for him to be able to handle all the stress and that he will be able to find the time to get everything done.

On a lighter note:

Joshua "trimmed" his hair (more like hacked) with the scissors and had to have a no. 1 buzzcut. It took a while to convince him that it needed to be "fixed up " a little.

We are praying for you all. Thank you for praying for us

Love,

Rose Anne

2/18/2002

Dear family,

All is well. We are thinking of you.

Love,

Rose Anne

2/24/2002

Dear Family and Friends,

All is well in Haiti, praise the Lord! We are healthy and the Bible school is running fine. Tim preached the other day and a lady came forward for salvation, and an older gentleman came forward to make a decision. We are excited, that's the reason we are in Haiti, to see lost souls come to Jesus Christ! It's exciting to see the progress of the Bible school students. The students are beginning to preach expositional sermons. It's exciting to see these men beginning to understand the authority of the Bible and explaining a passage in it's context. This may not seem like much to those in the States, but these men are saved out of voodoo. When they're sick, they're used to going to the witchdoctor, trusting in magical potions, tying a handkerchief that has the local demons blessing on them, placing food for the demons on special trees, etc. It really is exciting to see someone completely trust Jesus instead of these things. And not only that, but to start using the Bible as a foundation for solid preaching! Wow. We are happy with their progress.

Mardi Gras is over and the rara parades have started. Raras are parades where the local witchdoctors dance in the street celebrating the Jesus' suffering during His mock trials and His crucifixion. It's a time of fear for the people. Even the weak Christians hide from the presence of these evil witchdoctors. It's no wonder they are afraid, during this time of year it's said the witchdoctors kill a lot of people to give their demons "food." Pray with us as we put out a stronger effort to evangelize our neighbors.

One recent example of what we are up against each day. Our neighbor who claims he has been saved a short time said he was attacked by some demons. After a few scares with some flying machetes and rocks, he said a demon bashed him on the head with a huge rock (50lb). I went to his house and saw the rock covered with his blood, he's lucky he's alive. He's been living with his girlfriend for some time and hasn't gotten baptized yet. I guess backsliding here in Haiti can be hazardous to your health! To make matters worse, across the street from him is a big witchdoctor. The witchdoctor has built his home over a well with a demon in it, supposedly. Rumors are his specialty is teletransport to the States and back for a sizable fee. He makes trips to the big cave across the river from his house to sacrifice to some of his other demons. He made a big impression on the community the other day when he caught a huge fish in the river, said it was the devil, and then ate the whole thing raw, just as it was, in front of a crowd. As it turns out, the big witchdoctor has said one of his female demons wants to marry the guy being attacked, and that he is being attacked because he is resisting the marriage. They called me to go visit with him and help him resolve the situation. I gave the guy a clear presentation of the gospel and he said he is saved. After that I talked to him about his life, but he wasn't telling all. Whether he is really saved or not only God knows. Pray with us for Jackson, he is one of the masons that helped build the new church building.

Tim was excited this week to be able to get to witness to a witchdoctor. We decided we would go to the river Saturday, to let the kids have a little fun down by the water. On our way there, we saw a witchdoctor called Wobesy. It was such an unusual place for us to meet him. We knew that only God could have put that opportunity in our path. Tim was able to give a clear gospel presentation and he was very interested. Tim has witnessed to him before but he has always changed the subject or found an excuse to leave. Yesterday when

Tim was talking, it was the witchdoctor who brought the conversation around to spiritual things. Pray that he will see the difference between "religion" and see his need for a relationship with Christ. Pray Wobesyo will get saved.

Pray with us as we fight the devil during his party time.

Tim and RoseAnne Bower

3/5/2002

Dear Family and friends,

We hope your week has gone well. We have had a normal week. Nothing big has happened. Michael had the flu. He didn't eat for three days and I was very worried but it turns out he just had the flu and now he is fine again. Praise the Lord for his protection.

Tim has been working hard to get a booklet finished for his upcoming seminar on prophecy.

He is also going to the States for a Missionary Conference in Wis. in April. He has been asked to do some workshops, show slides and preach at a Bible College. It is a lot of preparation for him but we think it will be good exposure for the Bible school here. We are hoping to be able to recruit some people to come and help us in the work.

We love you all and thank you so much for your encouragement and interest in the work here.

Love,

Rose Anne

3/5/2002

Dear Family and Friends,

All is well in Haiti, praise the Lord! We are healthy and the Bible school is running fine. Tim preached the other day and a lady came forward for salvation, and an older gentleman came forward to make a decision. We are excited, that's the reason we are in Haiti, to see lost souls come to Jesus Christ! It's exciting to see the progress of the Bible school students. The students are beginning to preach expositional sermons. It's exciting to see these men beginning to understand the authority of the Bible and explaining a passage in it's context. This may not seem like much to those in the States, but these men are saved out of voodoo. When they're sick, they're used to going to the witchdoctor, trusting in magical potions, tying a handkerchief that has the local demons blessing on them, placing food for the demons on special trees, etc. It really is exciting to see someone completely trust Jesus instead of these things. And not only that, but to start using the Bible as a foundation for solid preaching! Wow. We are happy with their progress.

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Pray with us as we fight the devil during his party time.

Tim and RoseAnne Bower

Mon 3/25/2002

Dear Friends and family,

We have had a great week end. We finished the preparations for the public seminar. This seminar is on prophecy. We already have 45 students here. We are looking forward to a good week and please be praying that souls will get saved through this outreach. Most of the people who come are saved but there are still some that aren't.

Thank you for your prayers,

Tim and Rose Anne Bower

Lloyd,Joshua,Michael and Samantha

Mon 4/1/2002

Dear Family,

Happy Easter!!!!

We are doing fine. We are tired from the seminar but it was a great seminar. We had a great turn out sixty people came! Thank you all for your prayers. The big turn out was a good encouragement to Tim. He works so hard to prepare for them.

Tim will be going to a missions conference in Dunbar,WI. on Thursday.Please pray that he will be a blessing and encouragement to all the people and that God will use him to get the people all fired up about missions.Tim is looking forward to the conference but he is not so sure about the change in temperature. Right now it is six o'clock in the morning it's 80 degrees and it feels cool to us. In Wis.. it's still in the 0-20 degrees.

We hope you all had a very Happy Easter! Isn't it amazing what Jesus did for us on the cross! Christ the Lord is risen today....If you haven't given Him your whole life do it now.

We love you all,

Tim& Rose Anne, Lloyd, Joshua, Michael and Samantha

Wed 4/3/2002

Tim has been asked to speak at a missions conference at a college and they are paying his way to go to it. Me and the kids were going to stay here and my mom and dad were going to come visit with us but to make along story short they couldn't come but they are paying for us to come visit them..so we will be in the States for the next two weeks. We will call you sometime this weekend.

Don't worry about the computer thing only one of my sisters and Peter has figured it out. We will just keep trying it until its working right. It will be fun to talk to you. Until then...

hugs and kisses to everyone

Love,

28

Rose Anne

Hey,

I was out back behind my house and found a five foot boa up in a tree. Check it out.

Tim



Wed 4/3/2002

Likendya is doing great. She is now walking and seems healthy. Her sisters are doing well also. All the girls come over on Sunday for a big feast. You should how much they eat. I've seen Likendya eat two bowls of rice. When they leave here there bellies are stretched as much as they're skin will allow, but they always make sure they save room for there dessert.

We really appreciate that you have been buying the similac for Likendia. She is now 1yr and 4 months old. We have stopped her similac because she is now eating and drinking regular food. We would like to have continued giving her milk but the family that she stays with were using the milk for other purposes, i.e. selling it. We stopped giving her milk at the end of February. I haven't received our financial report for March yet but when I get it I will refund your money.

May God richly bless you providing milk for this little girl.

I've enclosed a photo of Likendya. I hope you like it

In Christ,

Rose Anne Bower



Wed 4/24/2002

Dear family,

We have arrived safely back in Haiti. We had a good trip. Our friend that was picking us up, Bouzy, arrived late and we though we might have to ride on a tap tap but then bouzy pulled in to the parking lot and we happily jumped on board. I think the boys would have preferred to ride on a big taptap. We are looking forward to our friends coming tommorrow.

as always we love you,
Tim and Rose Anne and family

Mon 5/6/2002

Dear family,

We have had any exciting week last week . We had three of our college friends come and visit us, Chuck and Rhonda with their two kids and Cindy . We were sad to see them go. If anyone else wants to come and visit us come along. Tim is finishing up his school year. He is giving exams this week. We are continuing the translation work this summer and I will be finishing up kindergarden for Lloyd and working with a tutor to help me learn Creole better.

Tim once again has malaria. He is over the worst of it. He has recently stopped taking the Lariam which protects him from malaria. He doesn't like the side affects. If he takes the Lariam he gets headaches and breaks out in hives. He has had two different kind of medications to keep him from getting malaria but after prolonged use he developes an allergy to them. He said he would rather have malaria twice a year (which is what he is averaging). then to have hives and headaches all year round.

We love you all

Rose Anne for all six Bowers

Tue 5/7/2002

An opportunity has arised for us today to purchase a twenty five thousand dollar vehicle for \$12,000. It's a 96 toyota landcruiser (not like what's sold in the states- it's a heavy duty model) with 4wheel drive and a 3L diesel engine. It's got 50,000KM on it, 30k was put on in Germany, 20K here in Haiti.

The truck we have now, we purchased three years ago, for \$16,000. We figured the truck would last five years with a deprecation of about 3500 each year and with maintenance costs going up each year.

Our truck now has a great engine, but the body is made of cheap steel. We are starting to have major problems with the truck body now. We have already welded the frame once because it cracked. The body we have welded countless times to repair minor cracks in the steel. Because the steel is soft, some places cannot be welded. We need to do some extensive welding now on the cab because it's shaking apart. I think you remember the road conditions here. Also the cost of repairs will increase over the next two years, because the truck is literally falling apart. For example, we just spent over 1000us on shocks, tierods, bushings, airconditioning repair, power steering, springs; but we have yet to buy bearings, brake lines, and do some extensive welding. We will still need to do upkeep on the new vehicle but the cost of repairs will be considerable lower for the next three years. The "new" truck has the same diesel engine as ours, but the body is like a tank. The steel in the body is almost twice as strong as our current truck.

Our thoughts are: if we can sell our current vehicle for 6 to 7000us and put that toward the "new" truck, we would be getting a great deal. Then we would need to take 5-6000us from our vehicle fund to complete the purchase. That would help us avoid the high repair costs coming up on our current truck. After two more years our truck will be a total write off.

The problem is: the man selling the truck wants to sell it fast, to go back to Germany with his family. His family has had enough of Haiti, and they want out quick. That's why the price is so low. We have to decide by tomorrow (Wed) whether we want it or not. Thurs. he plans on taking the truck to Port au Prince to sell it to a dealer. The truck is worth over 25K - it's a great deal. The title is clear and everything is legitimate, we are sure of that.

If we find a buyer for our truck, can we go through with the purchase? Could you talk it over today and email us this evening? We need a response quickly or the deal will fall through.

We are trying to be wise and intelligent with the funds God has given us to oversee. It seems like a good purchase but we will wait on God to work out the details.

Prayerfully,

Tim Bower

Wed 5/8/2002

We have made arrangements to sell our truck for \$6500 and buy the other for \$12000. We sold our truck to Ludovic Louis, one of Shaffer's students years ago. He has \$5000 cash on hand the rest he will pay at the end of July. To complete the deal, we need \$7000 deposited in our account. When Ludovic pays back the \$1500 in July we can put that back into our vehicle fund. I am going to Cap Haitian on Friday morning to arrange to pay the seller in US funds. Could the deposit to our bank account be made today or Thurs?

We appreciate all your help in this matter and we thank the Lord for this opportunity.

Tim Bower



Tue 6/18/2002

We are first term missionaries to the northern mountains of Haiti. We are located 27 miles south of Cap Haitian. We have a Bible school to train pastors. We accept men who have finished secondary school, even if they haven't passed the rheto or first baccalaureate test. We are independent Baptist in doctrine and practice. Our curriculum is a three year Bible curriculum. Each semester the students take two Bible courses(dealing with specific books), a Bible doctrine class, an interpretation class, a preacher boys class, a Bible history/information class, a language class, and a vocational class. The students reside in the area (we don't have dorms or housing yet). We teach in the Creole language.

There are other Bible schools in Haiti. The two largest and most well known are in Port-au-Prince in the south and Limbe in the north. The Port-au-Prince seminary is an area called Bolus. It is more ecumenical that I like but it has several BJU graduates that teach there. The Limbe seminary is quite liberal.

Because of our rural location, there is no electricity, city water, or city conveniences. So it is almost unheard of for a city man to go into the country to be trained. We would be happy to train anyone, but life in the boonies is more difficult than life in the city.

For men who cannot come to our full time school we offer three week long seminars during the year. After 10 seminars, a certificate of achievement is given. We are also in the process of translating BJU's IBE curriculum into Creole to use as a correspondence course for those who cannot come to our school full time. Many potential candidates for training, have sought training hoping to get a foreign support or income. We make it

clear that we are here to train and teach, and we will not support or employ the men after they graduate. Their ministry calling and support has to come from God.

You are welcome to come visit our work here. Feel free to write if you have any more questions. We are also looking for pastors in the States to come to our school to teach week long block classes. Of course, any interested pastor must be of like faith and practice. We are also praying for another missionary to join us in the Bible school work here in Haiti.

For the cause of Christ,
Tim Bower

Wed 6/19/2002

We will be arriving in Greenville sometime on Monday, July 8 - Lord willing. We will be there in Greenville through the end of the month. I will be in classes at BJU from the 15th to the 26th. I will bring as much information as possible, but land is hard to find in Haiti. Not much is available to purchase. Let me know when it would be convenient for me to meet with you all.

Tim Bower

Fri 9/6/2002

Dear family,

We have arrived safely. Everything was in the same shape we left it. We are getting a jump on things today. A school inspector was suppose to come today to check out the facilities so we can start the long process of getting the school recognized. She never came but at least the school is clean and all set for classes to start on Monday. We love you all. Have a great weekend

Love.

Roseanne and Tim

Mon 11/4/2002

Dear Family,

This week has been an average run of the mill week with a few exceptions. We did have one crazy person wake us up at four in the morning he was hanging around the house and our dogs started barking. The fella got close to the house and with a loud voice went BOOOOM! He then went to all the other neighbors houses and did the same thing:)

Our little dog Goliath is becoming a fine Haitian dog. He has bitten his first person. The Haitians are proud of him. I on the other hand was embarrassed but we do have a dog so he will keep prowlers away and what better way to deter people then to have your dog bite people:) Our other dog Patches has eaten a couple of piglets that came on the property and has bitten several kids that have tormented him. I guess Goliath is learning from the best!

We are having a pastor come from the States for a while he will be doing a block class on counseling for the Bible School students. It will be fun having someone new to talk to in English.

There isn't much more to write We love you all

love,

Rose Anne for all six

Wed 11/13/2002

Dear family ,

Another week has passed and the Haitian Bower saga continues. I hesitate to write the stuff I write most of the time, because it's like all this couldn't happen to one little family.

RoseAnne has had walking pneumonia this past week. She was coughing blood and green mucus - not a good sign. She is on the mend, but hasn't taken any time off to rest. She keeps walking with her walking pneumonia. I guess that Gordon blood is pretty tough stuff.

I went to town Saturday, to buy some margarine. A poor guy asked me for 5 gourdes (Haitian money) because he was sick. I saw a red handkerchief on his waist, which means he worships Satan. I asked him; "If you're sick, why don't you ask the spirits to help you?" He didn't say anything but kept motioning for some money. I told him, "If you trust in God instead of the spirits, God would take care of you. The spirits will trick you into paying the witchdoctor everything you have, then leave you sick, hungry, without anything, and then lead you right to hell." He ignored me but kept motioning for the money, so I held out 5 gourdes and said I would give it to him if he gave me the witchdoctors handkerchief. He grabbed the kerchief and stuffed it in his pocket, but I motioned for it still. Then gave me the kerchief and I gave the 5 gourdes. I went home and had a little bonfire and prayed.

How often do we trust in little kerchiefs instead of God?

Tim Bower

Sat 9/14/2002

We are located in St. Raphael, 27 miles south of Cap Haitian. We are separated from Cap Haitian by a range of mountains and a very poor road. It takes 2 to 3 hours to travel there one way. We run a Bible school that trains students who have completed secondary school classes, even if they have not passed the Rheto exam (kind of like a GED). We are translating a BJU correspondence course at about the same education level, but that is not complete so the courses cannot be used yet.

Our ministry is geared to the rural people of the plateau, not necessarily the cities on the coast. We would welcome a student from the city if they were willing to live in St. Raphael.

We hold week long seminars, three times a year cover the major Bible doctrines (the first week of Jan, Easter vacation week, and the third week of Aug). A person attending 10 seminars receives a certificate. Anyone can come to these seminars. We could handle 30-60 men for a seminar with no trouble. But, it is rare to see a man willing to leave the city to go to the country for training. Most likely these men will say it is impossible (because the country is considered a place for illiterate people and life is much harder here). We are willing to work with you provided there is a compatibility of doctrine. We are independent Baptist by doctrine and practice. I would like to communicate further with you on that matter if you are interested in making a trip to Haiti.

There is a Bible school in Port au Prince that is fundamental in doctrine. They are more ecumenical than I, and that provides me with some discomfort. But they are solid in doctrine otherwise. We use some of their written material for the classes we teach in our school. The school's name is BOLUS or Seminaire Theologique Evangelique du Port au Prince (STEP). They offer a four year curriculum as well as a correspondence course that is quite extensive. There are several BJU grads that work at the school. Hans Bernard, who does translation work for Baptist Mid Missions, was a professor at BOLUS. Both of these Haitian pastors should know this school.

I consider Separation an essential doctrine, but Haiti has so many problems with pastors who are still into voodoo(satanism), stealing (triggered by their poverty), murder (poisoning enemies), and fornication (several wives), that is shadowed by these more massive problems. How can the people hope to straighten out when their leaders are into so much garbage? For this reason, I didn't want to set up in Cap Haitian and compete with BOLUS. Instead we went to the rural areas where the need is greater. I hope this information will help. Feel free to write back.

In Christ,
Tim Bower

Sat 9/14/2002

I called you Ron at the Penningers, am I in trouble now? Glad to hear school has opened without troubles and things are going well. Praise the Lord for the new equipment. We are praying for you there in Puerto Rico. School has opened a week late, as a result of riots in the cities. There was a jail break in Gonaives, and 170 prisoners broke free. None have been recaptured (they haven't tried). Last week the government opened a new cooperative organization that promised 10-12% interest per month for money invested. People sold land, cows, and their future to get cash to put in. Less than a week later the government closed everything down and has refused to return the money. For people who average a \$175US per year, that is a major problem which marks many children for starvation and a certain death. Needless to say, rioting has broken out again.

We have begun the process to purchase new land to be freed from the land problem here. We have put out the money and are waiting for the required paper to be sent to us. That may take up to 2 months. Pray that God will protect the investment.

As for our needs and wants, I'll try and get RoseAnne to send a note with that. I'm too shy to put anything down. Thanks for your prayers. We love you and appreciate your work there. Say hi to the family for us.

Your neighbor,

Tim Bower

Sat 9/14/2002

Thank you for your email about my extension for the assignments. I arrived in Haiti, Sept 3. When I arrived we had no potable water, the refrigerator had stopped working in our absence, the hot water heater had broken, the freezer was broken, and the generator would not start. (The generator is powering the email system I am using now) I spent the first six days in survival mode to keep the family alive. Once we arrive in Haiti, the commitment has been made and we cannot get out easily. So we made the best of it. But I was unable to do any work on my assignment those days. Could I squeak another week out to complete the paper and turn it in on the 24th? If not, I will send the paper as is on Tues. the 17th.

Another thorny problem is our mail service. We mail out on Tuesdays only on a DC3 cargo plane, then it takes from two weeks to several months for mail to arrive. I can email my paper as an attached file, a Word document, on the due date and send the paper copy on the same day. But Word document may lose some of its formatting and the paper copy will arrive several weeks late.

Sorry about the trouble I am causing.

For the cause of Jesus,

Tim Bower

Wed 9/25/2002

Dear Friends and Family,

The Bible school is back in session after the summer break. The Bible school is running smoothly and the seven students are looking forward to their graduation in the spring. They have already passed through two years of an intensive Bible curriculum (21 credit hours each semester). This semester they are studying the minor prophets, church history, counseling, plumbing, French, Bible doctrine, the pastoral epistles, and hermeneutics. The students also continue to work on the translation project, 2 hours each day on the computers. RoseAnne is continuing with the homeschooling. Lloyd is in first grade and Josh is in kindergarten. Between taking care of me, the kids, baking bread, canning, and homeschooling - she stays pretty busy. We enjoy working hard and try to stay busy. We want to make the Boss happy with our work!

We have just purchased 3 1/4 acres of land to build a new Bible school. Pray with us that the paperwork for the deed will go through smoothly. We have been forced into this step because the land problems we inherited when we arrived, are irresolvable. The new location will give the Bible school the stability it needs to continue. Haiti is about as unstable as ever. Yesterday riots broke out all over the country, again. Several organizations with seeming government backing, promised to give investors 10% each month on cash invested. Poor people all over the country sold cows and land to invest money. After one week the organizations folded and refused to return any money. Now people are rioting hoping to get their money back again.

Please pray for our safety and that we can continue the work despite the instability.

Tim and RoseAnne Bower

Phil 1:20

Wed 9/25/2002

We purchased the land last week, but we are waiting on the deed to go through the necessary offices before it's changed over. The corruption here delays everything. We are praying everything will go through. We will keep you updated as soon as we get new information. The next step is a land survey. We have been blocked by a greedy surveyor and a irritable judge who has to give authorization. What we need is prayer.

Tim Bower

Sun 10/13/2002

Please relay the message to Carol Jean that our Satellite phone is not working. I tried to call her yesterday and I tried to call mom and dad's house and for some reason all I get is a reading that says "Unsuccessful call attempt." The phone has never done this before but the satellite signal must be scrambled or jammed. I'm sorry we won't be able to get that call from church. I don't know if Carol Jean remembered but even if our phone worked, to call us it costs a whopping 10 dollars a minute and at the same time we get charged three dollars a minute. No wonder nobody ever call!

We love you all I hope everything went fine at the market.

Our kids are enjoying the games(cd's) that you sent us. Joshua's favorite is the Play Doh factory.

Love you all,

Rose Anne and the gang

Thu 10/17/2002

We are excited about your possible visit to Haiti. You are welcome to stay with us if you haven't made other arrangements yet. Anyway if works out, we'll be glad to see you all. The Shaffer Serge issue hasn't been an issue for quite some time here, and hopefully it will stay that way. Your visit won't cause any hard feelings on our part, and I seriously doubt it will give Pastor Serge any problems either. All the problems have been hashed out and God has presented the solution with the new land.

Our schools (the Bible school and the home schooling) keeps us very busy. Have you made any concrete plans as far as dates? I can let you know what my schedule is, if you give me some approximate dates. We are looking forward to hearing more as soon as your plans firm up.

For Jesus,

Tim Bower

Thu 10/17/2002

Dear Granmma,

We just got the box you sent us this week. It was sent to Cap Haitian on a day there was rioting in the streets. A policeman was shot and he laid in the street for two days. Dogs had started to eat the body before they came and removed it. Needless to say, we stayed home that day.

The box you had sent was put in a depot at the airport, and we just found out about it this week. But, thank the Lord, we got it and nothing seemed to be missing. Thanks for the ties, expensive shirt and pants, and the Oreos.

The kids went crazy when they opened the toys, of course. Josh says he loves granma Bill and granpop.

RoseAnne, Lloyd, Mike, and Samantha all send hugs and kisses. I love you and miss you too of course.

Boy4

...Nenpòt kisa n'ap fè, fè l' pou sa sèvi yon lwanj pou Bondye. 1 Korent
10:31 (1Corinthians)

Mon 10/21/2002

I have responded to the questions you mailed me: When did you accept Christ as your Savior? I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Savior at the age of 6

What prompted your interest in missions? My interest in mission began as a child, when visiting missionaries came to our church and ate with us in our home.

How did you come to Haiti? My actual calling to missions came after I had dedicated my life to serve God in whatever capacity He would have me to serve. That was at the age of 21. As I sought out God's will for me personally, God gradually pushed me towards missions. In 1991, God worked out the details for a trip to Haiti which solidified His call in my life.

What was your most difficult decision concerning this mission? The most difficult decision was to subject my children to the sacrifices and dangers of a primitive mission field. God called my wife in much the same way, but He called her as well.

What was your concern for your family? We face death on a consistent basis. Tropical disease, voodoo and political violence are normal in Haiti. Just last week, as I was fixing the fence on our new property, I found a hole in a tree that was being used for demon worship. I filled it with concrete, which upset many of my neighbors. They said I would die, which means the witch doctor will try to poison me or curse me.

What has been your biggest difficulties to date? The biggest difficulty a missionary faces, sadly to say, is problems with colleagues on the field.

What do you consider God's greatest miracles to date? That is a funny question, as there are so many great miracles God has done for us and continues to do on a regular basis like; shielding us from political violence during riots, protecting us from thieves with uzzies, making the witchdoctors incantations ineffective, miraculous provision in times of urgent need, and healing when a tropical disease has wasted our bodies, causing a truck to continue running when it should have broken down, getting us through an impassable road (our tires floated over 4 foot deep mud pits) to get home after dark.

What would you like to impart to my class about what God has done in your life, your family and in Haiti? Life is short, glorify God with your body because it's His anyway.

Do you have any special requests for the class?

Please pray for us.

James 5:16, "Lè yon moun ap viv dwat devan Bondye, lapriyè moun sa a gen anpil pouvwa."

For the cause of Jesus,

Tim Bower

Mon 10/28/2002

Dear Friends and Family,

Hello from Haiti. We miss our family in the fall season as the holidays approach, and so we send our love.

We are making progress with the new land. We have had the land surveyed and the deed is being processed.

The notary and surveyor have told us that our official deed cannot be hindered, it's just a matter of weeks before we receive it.

We went to the new land to do some clean up and found a hole in a huge mango tree that was used for demon worship. We filled it with concrete. The devil won't get in that hole anymore! As I was filling it, a few neighbors were displeased to say the least. I asked them why Satan can't come and hurt me just like he hurts other people. They didn't know. I asked if it was the color of my skin that gives me power, they said no it can't be that. I proceeded to explain that what protects me is the Creator himself that lives in me. Satan cannot harm me because the God who made heaven and the earth watches over me. I continued to ask them if it was smart to pray to Satan for protection (they pay off the devil for his protection much the same way store owners pay off the mafia). If Satan can't do anything to me, shouldn't you try and find out what I have for protection? I was

then able to talk to them about God's love and what Jesus has done to pardon their sin and make a way for them to go to heaven.

Thanks for praying for RoseAnne and her home schooling. Things seem to be working into a rhythm and she has a schedule worked out. Now she's trying to work in Creole studies on top of everything else!

We have been praying for you all Stateside. We don't hear much news, but what we do hear makes us concerned about you all. If things get worse there, you can always come to Haiti. Our door is always open (just bring some chocolate)!

For the cause of Christ,
Tim and RoseAnne Bower

Wed 10/30/2002

How are things in New Brunswick? I imagine the leaves have all turned color and its cold. Have you had your first snow?

We are doing well. We all had the regular bouts of the Haitian flu. Thankfully we had it in stages. We were having plumbing problems so it was nice to just have one sick at a time.

We will hopefully have the deed registered to the new land by the end of the month.

Politically things in Haiti are still the same and always will be. The Lord continues to protect us and we haven't had any trouble lately. Thank you for all your prayers.

One of our Bible School students was in a hit and run accident. Unfortunately he was on a bike and the other vehicle involved was a truck. He was hit on Monday stitched up and sent home. The whole left side of his body was swollen three times it's normal size. He had stitches in his head and leg. He couldn't speak coherently. We were very scared that he wouldn't make it but today he went and had x-rays and he doesn't have any broken bones! His bike was destroyed and the bike tires were folded in half. The ladies on the scene started wailing because they were sure he was dead or would die. Praise the Lord, though, he is alive. Everyone including the voodoo neighbors are declaring that it was God's protection that kept him alive. I'm very sorry he was hurt but it is so exciting to hear God get the glory.

I wish the kids weren't sick when we were visiting you all in Canada. I feel like we were kind of a disappointment. We were all kind of a little stressed. Of course I don't regret that we came I was so homesick to see everyone. You are all so thoughtful and kind. We hope to be able to have a better visit this coming year during furlough. Thank you for always being so faithful and loving. The Lord has really used you to be a blessing to me over the years.

Love,
RoseAnne and the Bower Clan

Wed 11/13/2002

Dear Pop,

Yes, we did get the presents and we sent a thank you note by email last month. That wasn't a snobby remark, I just don't want you to think we don't appreciate the presents. The kids always look forward to Tuesdays, because I go to the airport and they always think there's a chance gramma Bill has sent a present.

Our first laptop has fried again. It is doing the same thing, typing all by itself. You can't use it for anything now. I figured out the cause though. It overheats and cooks the hard drive. Sometimes it gets hot and the fan / cooling system isn't running. I checked the cooling program, and it's set on maximum cooling. The other laptop overheats too, but it stops typing on the left side of the keyboard when it gets too hot (that only takes five minutes). As soon as that happens, we put it up on two books so air can circulate under it. That usually fixes the good laptop. The original laptop though, is dead. Is the warranty still good or should I do the Haitian thing and try to doctor it myself?

A little ducktape will fix 'er.

Love you,
Boy4

Thu 3/7/2002

We went to the beach and found where a bunch of wild hermit crabs live. Come help us catch them!

Lloyd



Fri 11/22/2002

I just got your email this morning (thurs). We are glad you made it home in good shape. I trust everything is well with your family.

This is too late I know, but here it is any way. You remember the statue of the pig in the square of downtown Port au prince? That is the commemoration of a sacrifice made in the 1700's. A hougan (voodoo priest) named Boukman organized a plot to overthrow the French. He organized a meeting of all the slave leaders which included Jen-Jacques Dessalines, Toussaint Louverture, and Henry Christophe. At the meeting, Boukman sacrificed a pig, cursed the God of the whites, and called on the god (papa lwa or dambala) of the black man to help them. The place of the sacrifice was Bwa Kayman (alligator woods) in Plen Di Nò, close to Cap Haitian. (see p30-32 in Black Majesty by John Vandercook and p14 in Haiti by Elizabeth Abbott; both secular authors) The sacrifice was Aug14, 1791. They attacked Cap Haitian eight days later on the 22nd. This began a 13 war for independence, which was concluded in 1804 (at the battle of Vertiers-I think?). During the final two years of the revolution, the whites were plagued with yellow fever, which the blacks did not suffer from. The yellow fever was attributed to the African spirits (p77, Black Majesty). As for the 200 year contract with the evil spirits, I cannot find any reliable information. I have heard some Haitian pastors talk about it as if it were true. ?
Tim Bower

Mon 11/25/2002

Dear Family and Friends,

We have been very busy this week with all the plans for the new Bible School. We are in the last stages of the long process for the deed. We have been working with Mr.and Mrs. Gordon (Rose Anne's parents) to do a take-off(estimate) on the new school. We are excited that we have outgrown our facilities and we look forward to the new school, but we are unsure about the great under taking of raising funds and actually doing all the building. But as apostle Paul said, when we are at our weakest, then God is glorified the most.

Thank you for your constant prayers for our family. RoseAnne is feeling much better. The pain in her chest is gone and she's back to her old self. It has been really nice for her to have her family here for a week. Last week Nov. 10-18th, Dave Coats (Dean of Men for Northland Bible College) came and taught our students a block class on counseling. He was very good, and the students understanding of how to handle problems biblically was a tough subject for them to grasp. We were encouraged to hear one of our students, Bernadine Dicerne, preach on Sunday and use one of Pastor Coats' examples.

A second treat we received when Mr. Coats was here, is he put together our yaggi antenna for our short wave radio. This was difficult to do since a rat had chewed through the instructions and he had to rely mostly on his ingenuity. He taught all day and then worked all afternoon and into the evening on the ham radio system. In

case you're wondering what on earth this radio "stuff" is for. We can now call to the States via a radio phone patch and this will also enable us to hear the morning radio broadcasts in Haiti that warns us when there is political uproar and when travel is not recommended.

Overall we had a great week with Pastor Coats and Our children who adored him and followed him everywhere are looking forward to his promise that they could come and visit his farm in Wisc. any time they wanted. All he had to tell them is that they had snow there and they could go sliding...for kids who haven't seen snow this has been like an invitation to go to Disneyland.

The Bowers

Wed 11/27/2002

Sorry I haven't written sooner. We are doing fine in the clothing department. We could use some children vitamins(the kind with iron) and some cookie sheets and pizza pans. That would be great!!! If you are stilling looking for something else we could use some construction paper for school.

Could you send us a family snapshot. The kids talk about you all and it would be nice to have a picture for their wall.. As far as presents you really don't have to get us anything!!!

Is there anything you guys would like from Haiti?

Tim ran over our dog Goliath. He died within 5 minutes of the accident. Joshua and Samantha saw the whole thing. Joshua had a hard time with it. He asked Jesus to ring Goliath back to life. I don't know who cried more them or me. I didn't care for the dog, but it was hard of see he kids so heart broken.

Not much else new around here.

Love,

Rose Anne

Fri 11/29/2002

Hey what's new.

How is everything going on the home front? Today has been a rough day for me. It's raining everyone seems to be having troubles and the kids aren't being very good. and the lady that is my house help gave Michael and Samantha markers:) to play with!! and all she has accomplished in 5hrs of work is to clean my vegetables from the market. 1 head of cabbage, 8 sweet potatoes. and some greens like beet greens!!! Some days you just get tired of everybody and you wish they could all disappear and in their place would be a dishwasher and washing machine. and a Walmart:)

Enough of the complaining we have received our Christmas presents for the kids. We got the big boys each a gameboy I can't wait to see their faces. Tim has been playing with them after the boys are in bed. Doesn't that sound like him:)

We'll I'd better run and get to work. I love you all very much. Hugs and kisses to everyone. How is the house coming?

love,

Rose Anne

Mon 12/2/2002

I don't know about when I'll come yet. I'll try to figure it out this weekend. Politically things here are kind of crazy. The roads haven't been cut in our area and the public school is still continuing so we have it quiet where it counts even if the rest of the country is in an uproar. We heard Cap Haitian is open again that is a good sign that it is quieting down.

Mon 12/9/2002

Dear Family,

We have had a good week and we are constantly thankful for the Lord's protection. Things here last week were, as the Haitians say "hot". Tim had to go to the city to get some needed supplies. Everything seemed calm. When he went into one of the little stores he heard commotion outside, knowing that usually means trouble he took off out of the store quick and jumped in the car to make a get away. He had no troubles getting out to the airport. When he reached the airport he met a missionary friend that was stranded without gas. Tim quickly got him in the car and they took off to get gas. After they got gas and were on their way back they saw people setting up a rode block of burning tires. Tim "prayerfully" buzzed around them and made it back to the airport. After all the missionaries gathered their mail and boxes they all caravanned out of town. Nobody had their vehicles damaged by rocks or bottles. On days like this you don't even care that you didn't get all your supplies you're just glad you made it home alive.

How thankful we are for our family and friends that continually lift us up before the Lord in Prayer.

On a lighter note a "funny" from the kids. Do you know that song, "Neglect your Bible forget to pray...and you will shrink, shrink, shrink? I put the children to bed last week and was attempting to let them settle down a little before I came in and read them their Bible story when I heard a little voice that said softly, mom, Are we going to shrink? I came in to find out what they were talking about and I met four very concerned children who were discussing how awful it would be if mom didn't read a Bible story to them and they shrunk overnight. I promptly read them their Bible story and told them they didn't have to worry about it because mommy or daddy would always read them a Bible story every night.

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." :)

We love you all,

Rose Anne for all 6 of the Bower Clan

Mon 12/16/2002

The kids love the teepee and indian chief hat. We always give the kids an early Christmas present, and they were really excited. They stayed in the teepee for half the day, fighting over who got to lay down inside. Move over, let me lay down now, I want my turn, stop, mom, dad, he won't let me lay down, no it's my turn. All that to say they really enjoy it. The funniest thing was the Haitians. When they saw the chief's hat, they didn't know what it was. When we explained that was the Indian president's hat, they all started fighting over putting it on, running around pretending to be the boss. I'm not sure who had more fun, the Haitians or the kids!

Anyway, thanks so much, and Bòn Fèt Noël.

Love,

Tue 12/17/2002

Dear family,

We've had a good week. Tim went over to Port au Prince for a couple of days and the kids and I stayed here.

Thankfully all was well.

When Tim was in Port Au Prince he attempted to renew his Haitian visa. The Minister of the Interior (The one who signs the visa) has fled the country so Tim couldn't get the visa signed. He left the visa with a recommended company that handles visa's for foreigners. When someone one replaces the minister, than they will sign it and Tim will pick it up hopefully in Jan.

I am starting Creole lessons again. Please pray for me and my teacher. I so desperately want to be fluent in this language, but trying to find time and getting someone to teach me that will come consistently three times a week is difficult.

Tim is giving exams this week. Please pray that all the students will do well. Tim has no mercy either they know the stuff or they don't :)

The church is doing a Christmas eve service this year please pray that many unsaved will come and that they will hear the gospel and want it for themselves.

We are having a baptismal service this month. There are 5 candidates for baptism. This is a big step for the believers and they receive a lot of harassment from friends and family and evil spirits before they make this final identification with Christ.

We are thinking a lot of all of you during this Christmas season. This will be our fourth Christmas here. Our first two years here, the church didn't even celebrate Jesus birth. We are glad to see that in the last two years they have.

Thank you for all your prayers and notes.

RoseAnne

Wed 12/18/2002

Josh was burned badly this morning by boiling water. You can see by the photos attached it's a nasty burn (I'm sending the photos as a separate email - my system keeps conking out). We put him in cold water immediately for about 15 minutes. We dried him off and his temperature dropped a few degrees, so we wrapped him up till it came back up. We have some silver sulfadiazine we are putting on it now. We are worried about his thigh and private parts though.

He screamed and cried for about an hour. We gave him Tylenol, ibuprofen, and benadryl which put him to sleep for about an hour. It's been 4 hours and he's stopped complaining about the pain.

We have amoxicillin, should we use that to inhibit infection?

Should we use a higher dose for the first few days?

How long should we give it?

What do we need to do to keep it clean, it's right where he goes pee?

Dr. Anne just left yesterday, so we have no real doctors here now.

Do we need to come to the States for this?

What advice can you give us Doctor?

Tim

Tue 12/31/2002

Thank you for your prayers and thoughtfulness. The box you sent hasn't arrived yet, but that is normal for us. We should probably get it next week, or the second week of January. I will let you know when it arrives. The kid's all say thank you in advance, I'm sure they will love it.

Tim and RoseAnne

Tue 12/31/02

Bon Fèt Noël e you Bon Ane tou!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Thank you so much for your prayers and your support. We are proud to work for the most High, and so happy to celebrate His birth during this season. As we look forward to the upcoming year 2003, we know there's a lot of work that need to be done. But, when there's a lot of work, a lot can be accomplished!

Pray with us that we will work hard at doing what the Lord wants us to.

Our goals for the upcoming year are:

1. Preach the Word and seek lost souls for Christ.
2. Graduate our seven Bible school students.
3. Construction of a new Bible school and church complex.
4. Bible seminars for the church laypeople.
5. Completion of the correspondence course translation.
6. Continued language studies.

Ke Bondye beni nou nan ane kap vini an,

May the Lord bless you in the year to come,

Tim and RoseAnne Bower

Fri 1/3/2003

Chè Fanmi ak Zanmi nou yo,

Nou salye ou nan bèl non Jezikri, Sovè nou an.

Greetings in the beautiful name of Jesus Christ!

I stopped at a pastor's house who was burned quite badly. After praying and reading some Bible verses together, we encouraged each other. The talk turned to the eternal fires of hell and how a burn that hurts with such terrible pain is nothing compared to an eternal torment in fire. An older gentleman was listening, and we both had a chance to tag team the gospel message. What fun!

Pray with us that this man will get saved!

Tim Bower

Wed 1/8/2003

I am looking forward to seeing you all. I am kind of anxious about leaving the boys and Tim but Samantha does need her teeth fixed!! It will be fun. I am planning on coming on Lynx's into Ft. Lauderdale on Sat. and returning in one week if possible. I will email you when I know the exact time on Saturday.

I haven't flown on Lynx's yet but it should be interesting. Tim has flown and had no problems.

Is there anything you guys would like from Haiti?

Love ya,

Rose Anne

Mon 1/20/2003

Yes, our email is having some problems again. We are grateful that it does work sometime - Thank the Lord!

We appreciate your little notes, they are an encouragement. Be sure you all are in our prayers too.

The pastor I wrote to you about that was burned, is a pastor that comes to all of our seminars. I don't think you had met him, his name is Ulrick Day. He runs a store in town too, I cash checks there often.

As for our construction, we have to start from scratch. We need a home first, that way we can't be pressured out of the country. Then a school building which can double for a church. Then a dormitory and a second school building. We have approximately 30 students who have expressed an interest in coming to the school. Most of those are out of town students needing housing. All of our other ministries are growing too (translation, library, bookstore, seminars), which necessitates a larger building.

We are excited about the work ahead. May the Lord bless.

Tim Bower

Mon 1/20/2003

Email here in Haiti doesn't necessarily mean fast! We have eternal problems with our server, but we are thankful that it works sometimes!

Our greatest needs are:

1. Prayer. Uphold us in prayer daily. Not many will do this today.

2. Manpower. The work is too large, the time is too short, and few are willing to give their lives for Christ. We need a Bible school teacher, a translator, a secretary, a maintenance supervisor, an elementary teacher, and a doctor or a nurse.

Thank you for your ministry,

A soldier for the King,

Tim Bower

Mon 1/27/2003

Thanks again for your prayers and encouragement. We are planning a lot of construction for this summer and fall, to get the bible school on it's feet for the school year Aug 2004. Most of the work is concrete work, as that is what is available here. There will be some finishing work to be done with wood in the later stages, along with some plumbing and electrical. Of course, anyone interested in coming to help us would be more than welcome. Tell the folks there we love them all and miss them.

Tim Bower

Mon 1/27/2003

Here's a try at sending a family picture.

Tim Bower

missionary to Haiti



Sun 2/23/2003

Aug 10th sounds great. Lord willing we will be there on the 9th, and we can stay until Wed the 13th. We look forward to visiting with you all.

Tim Bower

Oh by the way, the devil's tree hasn't been cut down yet. The previous owner had a colorful reputation. He was big into voodoo, he was a tonton makout (Duvaliers secret police), and he killed at least one person there on the property (shot him out of a tree for stealing mangos). He planted the Kalbas tree to use in his personal services to the devil. Needless to say, everyone in the area is afraid of the tree. We are hoping to use it as an evangelistic tool and get a little video of it falling. If the video works, we'll send you a copy.

Sun 2/23/2003

Dear Family and Friends,

Hello from Haiti! The work here is going well.

Our seven Bible school students are looking forward to graduation in May.

Our children are enjoying their homeschooling, well school is going well anyway and RoseAnne is busy.

I stay busy on the side with preaching at church, the Bible study, and the translation project.

The construction has started at Walondri, the new land. There is a big Calbas tree on the property that is used for demon worship. We will be cutting it down this week. We will hold a little service to spread the gospel to our neighbors at the same time. More than likely, there will be a big crowd. Pray that folks will hear, understand, and accept the gospel. After all, that's the reason we are here. We hope to take a little digital video of the action. We will see if that works out.

Our empty shipping container was moved there on Friday. Now we have a place to store construction materials. We are excited about the opportunities God has put in front of us.

Tim and RoseAnne Bower

with the little Bowers; Mike, Samantha, Lloyd, and Josh.



Sun 2/23/2003

We had been planning to start construction on the new property for about 6 months, and in January we checked our funds and saw we were red lined with no money in the account (remember the 3 month delay). We decided to start construction just the same and step out in faith, trusting God to provide. 2 weeks after we had started, we got our latest ODBM account summary - an answer to prayer to say the least!

We are building a block fence around the property to start. That's a security as well as a crowd control issue. Our biggest problem is trying to keep people off our roof at night and to keep them from standing outside the windows and looking in. You could say it's an effective form of birth control. The fence will keep most people out. Our next step is our house. We can be forced off our current land at any time. So we need a place to live so we can't get pushed out of the country. The timing of the construction is critical. But, as we've just seen, God's got everything timed just right.

We'll keep you updated on the construction progress.

Tim

Proverbs 3:5-6

Mete tout konfyans ou nan Seyè a. Pa gade sou sa ou konnen. Toujou chonje Seyè a nan tou sa w'ap fè. Li menm, l'a moutre ou chemen pou ou pran.

Wed 2/19/2003

Greetings from Haiti! How are things at Morningside? We hope all is well with your family. We are continuing in prayer for you and your wife.

Work has started at the new property. We are enlarging and straightening the road at the front of the property and digging a toilet. We have bought wood to make concrete forms, have bought sand for blocks and rocks for the fence foundation. We are excited at the prospect of having stability!

Our seven students are graduating Saturday, May 31 2003. They have been through a three year Bible curriculum and we will be presenting them with diplomas. We are planning to have a reception in Cap Haitian Fri. evening, May 30 and the ceremony Sat. morning, May 31. You are invited to attend, of course, and if you are able and available we would love to have you speak and participate in the ceremony then.

Lord willing we will have the construction at the new property well underway by then. It's an exciting time for us here. A new phase in ministry for us as well as the students. Thanks for your prayers and continual help.

In Christ,

Tim Bower



Mon 2/10/2003

Dear family and friends,

Thank you for your prayers for Samantha. She had her teeth worked on and she is healing up well. She is three year's old and had three pulpotomies with crowns, an abscessed tooth that was pulled and replaced with a spacer, and several fillings. She went through the procedures like a trooper. The dentist was a good man; he was patient and continued to do the work even when Samantha was being very difficult.

We are starting construction on the new land. we are starting with a retaining wall and a latrine. We are planning to cut down a calabash (gourd) tree where Satan supposedly lives. Satan's inability to hurt us really confuses them. Pray with us that we will have a good opportunity to tell them of Christ's victory that was won on the cross. We are planning on doing some door to door evangelism and street preaching near the new land. Pray that the unsaved people will hear, understand, and accept the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We are struggling with a lack of workers now. We need both missionaries and national workers to help us, but not many are willing. Pray the Lord will "send more laborers into his harvest."

The Bible School is functioning normally with classes Mon-Fri. The students are growing in the Lord. Pray that they will trust God's leading and step out in faith to do as God is calling them. They are going through a hard time of testing as they look toward an uncertain future. Thank you for your prayers for Bernard when he was run over by a truck. The Lord protected and saved him physically. He is healthy again.

Tim's sister in law, Lura Bower, has cancer. Pray for her physically and spiritually as she, her husband, and two small children go through a very difficult time.

For Christ,

Tim and RoseAnne Bower

Sat 2/8/2003

Bonjour, mwen salye ou nan non Jezikri.

Hello, I greet you in the name of Jesus Christ.

Here is the updated price list based on Lloyd Gordons takeoff. He came personally and looked over the project.

Told us how to plan it, where to start, and what to buy.

I'm trying to send the picture again. Hopefully it will go through.

Our construction phases are as follows - Lord willing!

1. Well, Feb 2003, \$5000US
2. Protective Fence, March 2003, \$20,520
3. House, June 2003, \$25,000
4. 1st School Building (dining hall, kitchen, and a classroom), Nov 2003, \$16,000
5. Dormitory May 2004, \$16,000
6. 2nd School Building (library, office, and a classroom), May 2004, \$16,000
7. Church, Feb 2004, \$25,000

In Christ,

Tim Bower



Sat 2/8/2003

It's been quite a while since we corresponded with you all regularly. You may or may not remember my Mom and Dad, Norm and Ruth Bower.

I was a member at Calvary some years back, while I was a student at Illinois State. I was seriously searching for God's will while at Calvary. The Lord lead myself and a missionary to Haiti that had presented his slides during a Wed. night service. I ended going to visit him in Haiti for 7 months. Wow, that was quite a trip. It was there in Haiti that the Lord shook me and directed me to missions. I returned to the States determined to go to Bible school but resolved to never return to Haiti.

Pastor Wingate suggested I visit Maranatha Baptist Bible School, which I did.

I knew at once, that was where God was leading me. While in the graduate program, I met my wife RoseAnne. We graduated together in '94 and moved to Greenville, SC to be near our mission board, Open Door Baptist Mission. While in Greenville, the Lord led us back to Haiti.

Haiti is a third world country, and we live in very primitive circumstances. Paved roads, electricity, running water, toilets, and air conditioning generally do not exist. The main religion is voodoo, so you can imagine we have our work cut out for us.

We have been in Haiti for almost 4 years now and are preparing for furlough starting this summer. Our ministry is a Bible school, but we also are involved in the local church, in a translation project, correspondence Bible courses, Bible seminars, soul winning, literature distribution, a Bible memory program, community projects, medical helps, etc. We have seven Bible school students that are preparing to graduate this May, and we have written a series of 9 books in the Creole language to help with the discipleship of the local believers. As you know, a missionary has to do a variety of jobs to accomplish the spreading of the gospel !

I will send a separate email that has a copy of our newest prayer card. It's so new it hasn't been printed yet. :)

We are preparing to publish it for our furlough travels. Thank you for your prayers and your support of our ministry. We look forward to visiting with you all during this next year.

Tim and RoseAnne Bower

Sat 2/8/2003

Thank you so much for thinking of us with all the Christmas presents. I'm sorry it has been so long since I've written. We received the Christmas presents late into January. With all the political problems and the rioting we weren't able to get to Cap Haitian to get our packages. Don't worry about the desserts that you sent they were gobbled up with great delight by the children. I think I'll steal your idea of the snowman's soup for this coming Christmas. It was a special treat for us all to share. The most favored present was the little flashlights. We are going to be in the States this coming year How far are you from Lexington, Kentucky? It would be nice to get to drop by and visit with you sometime if we pass through your way. Tim has a brother in Lexington and I know we will be visiting him and his family.

I have a special prayer request. Please pray for my sister in law Lura. She just turned 40 and has a 7 month old boy and she has found out that after her lumpectomy they found most of her lymph nodes were cancerous. This puts her in stage three(out of four) cancer. She will be starting chemotherapy soon. We aren't sure if her and her husband John are saved. Please pray for them during this time.

Have a good time in Church on Sunday.

Thank you again for the package of goodies!