

The Bower Family in Haiti

August 2019 Update

Dear Praying Friends,

We traditionally host three Bible seminars every year, the first week in January, the week before Easter, and the last week in August. Our Bible seminar this August was on discipleship, and was our biggest seminar so far. We had over 300 students attend. We fed more than 350 people every day, breakfast and lunch. About 90% of those attending were young people under 25 years old. We praise God for their desire to study God's Word even in tough economic times.

The political situation in Haiti has been tense since last March, with sporadic rioting. Gasoline has been scarce, making transportation difficult and expensive. The cost of rice and food stuffs has jumped as well, making hunger and starvation the number one problem in our community. It didn't rain much during the summer, so the local gardens are not doing well, compounding the food situation. The cost of rice has increased 25% in the last 3 months. We have bought several extra sacks of rice



and have given a lot away to help those in need. RoseAnne's Dorcas Ladies group is faithfully meeting each week, then going house to house visiting and praying with the sick. RoseAnne had given several of the church ladies a bulb of garlic, just as a gesture of appreciation. Three of the ladies came to her after church just to thank her for giving them 1 bulb of garlic. It's heart breaking to see the effect of a broken economy and the struggle with hunger our church members deal with every day.

We have 3 kids clubs functioning in 3 different locations, each with over 80 children. They meet every Saturday, memorize verses, and have a Bible lesson. Pastor Daniel in Mathador, Pastor Eliphene in Garde Biassou, and Sr. Franceline in Roche are the leaders who have organized the clubs.

We have had a "Sakristen," like a deacon, from the catholic church in St Raphael who got saved recently. The priest visited him multiple times to convince him to return, but he has refused. He has been faithfully attending our church and is an encouragement to us.

Please pray for Haiti. There is a lot of civil unrest right now, and it is building. School and businesses are all shut down. No gas, no diesel, no propane. We have had a lot of sleepless nights, every night we hear gun fire. Sometimes it's close and sometimes it's far away. The roads everywhere are littered with broken bottles and rocks that the protestors and bandits have thrown. We don't know where this will lead, but we are trusting in the Lord for his protection.