

The Bower Family in Haiti

December 2019 Update

Thank you for your prayers and support of the ministry in Haiti,

(2019 December) Increased Violence Affecting The Ministry.

To give a recap on the political situation here in Haiti: In February, massive riots broke out nationwide because of a general dissatisfaction with the president. Inflation, the high cost of food, and a lack of electricity pushed people to take to the streets. But the rioting and violence continued through to October blocking schools and business from functioning. This, of course, caused even higher inflation and severe economic problems nationwide. In September, the Haitian parliament joined the chaos, and government officials started fighting and rioting inside the parliament buildings themselves. Multiple government officials have been implicated in corruption, drug trafficking, and trafficking of military grade weapons. These weapons have been given to local bandits to create chaos in order to manipulate the political scene and oust the president. Since November, several massacres have been filmed and put on YouTube to instill fear in the population and manipulate the political scene even more. While the Haitian police have been making concerted efforts to arrest bandits and confiscate these weapons, large numbers of weapons are still at large, even in our area of the country. Since December (this month), the rioting in the streets and numbers of roadblocks have diminished, allowing people to travel, buy and sell, and start to carry on a semblance of normality to some point. However, the criminal element has switched tactics and turned to kidnapping as a means to make large amounts of American money quickly. To reduce the danger of kidnapping, we have continued to confine ourselves to our campus and travel only short distances for food and major provisions.

(2019 November) Motorcycles Purchased For Pastors

The central purpose of our ministry is church planting. All of our ministries exist to support this objective. But, one major obstacle in planting a church is transportation. Limited transportation produces limited results. If a pastor can't get to a village, he cannot minister there, it's as simple as that. The benefit of a pastor having a motorcycle, is that he can get back and forth to church, and he has an opportunity to find work to support his family. Providing a pastor with a motorcycle is a step toward helping these pastors and churches to become self-supporting and indigenous. This month someone sacrificially gave enough money to purchase 4 motorcycles. Pastor Vanier of Maranatha Baptist Church in Wallondry, Pastor Odisson of Golgotha Baptist Church in Brostage, Pastor Frito of Shekinah Baptist Church in Bassin Caiman, and Pastor Bruno of Philadelphia Baptist Church in LeRoy, Ranquitte have all expressed their deep gratitude for God's abundant blessing and provision for the ministry.



After months of violence, the rioting and street violence has begun to settle down, allowing us to reopen the Elementary and Jr. High schools as well as the seminary. We are pleased to have our ministry fully functioning again, even if we do not know for how long. We are operating with a day to day schedule, hoping that the Lord will protect us and keep us safe. These past 9 months of violence, however, have caused the local currency to devalue. The cost of food has jumped 33% in the last 12 months. Haiti is already the poorest nation in the western hemisphere (the average teacher in our area makes less than \$60US per month). All these changes have caused people to lose hope.