

The Bower Family

June 2020

missionaries to

Haiti



www.bowerhaiti.com

Thank you for your continued prayers

(2020 June) An Embassy Approved Flight Out of Haiti

Praise the Lord. On June 16th we arrived in Florida. We were able to get on an embassy approved flight out of Haiti. With all the escalating racial tension in our area we decided that it would be best for our church and community if we left for a while. Being a foreigner during this time of the Corona virus brought a lot of unwarranted attention and blame. The people in our own community were blaming us for bringing in the virus and causing the escalating economic hardships. Our presence in our community was becoming a hindrance to the gospel and to the church being able to function properly. I know the logic sounds backwards that missionaries could be a hindrance to the gospel but being a foreigner in a country doesn't give you the same rights as the citizens. The authorities came and told Tim and Pastor Vanier (the national pastor) that they couldn't have church services, or they would put them in jail, and they would have to pay a large fine. All the other churches in the area were starting to have services again in May, 2 months after quarantine began. But, because our foreigner status brought unwanted attention to the campus, our campus church remained closed. We did continue broadcasting our sermons on the radio and the deacons organized house services. It was at this point Tim, me, and the girls tried to leave Haiti so that the church could start functioning normally without us. Unfortunately, because of the corona virus sanctions, all flights had been halted indefinitely. We put our names on the list for an embassy evacuation flight, packed our bags and started waiting. We were told that if a flight became available, we would be notified and would have less than 24 hrs. to leave. While we waited for a flight, the situation on campus became more strenuous. The construction for the bridge began on the road on the front side of campus. With this brought a whole new set of issues. With the church land being annexed for the new bridge access. The company decided they were going to take more than twice the land than what the government paperwork had stipulated. As an intimidation tactic during the next three weeks, we started having people jump our wall at night, attack our dogs, and cut our internet lines. We were constantly on alert. We were so thankful for all those who prayed for us during this time! The Lord miraculously provided some security measures that we were able to put into place, including security cameras. When the front wall on campus was torn down by the b company, we immediately put up a temporary wall. The very next day however, the Company working on the bridge threatened to tear down the temporary wall too. Thankfully, as a special favor to us, the Judge and Police Commissioner came and talked to the chief engineer, resolving the dispute to some extent putting a limit to how much land the engineer could take. That same afternoon at 4pm we received an email confirming that there was an embassy approved flight, and we would be flying out the next day. We were only allowed to take one suitcase each. We each packed as much as we could for our year-long furlough in a suitcase and left that same night to stay with friends near the airport. We are thankful that the Lord kept us safe and in the country until the temporary wall and church property was secured. As we left Haiti however, our hearts were heavy.

(2020 June) Campus Ministries Resume

Within one week after our departure, the campus church resumed its normal schedule of meetings and was functioning normally. Because of our presence as foreigners, the local government had been placing more restrictions on the ministry. But as soon as we (as foreigners) left, the pressure was off, and things were able to return to normal.