

The Bower Family

Jan. - March 2019

missionaries to

Haiti

www.bowerhaiti.com



(2018-March) A Three Month Furlough

As we are stateside for a few months, we are wanting to take advantage of the time to visit some of our supporting churches and report back on how the ministry is growing. Our last furlough was 5 years ago in 2014, so we are anxious to let family and friends know how the ministry is functioning and the progress that has been made in evangelism, planting new churches, and church growth and maturity.

(2019-February) Church Construction in Dubout, Limonade

We have been planning a church construction project in Dubout, Limonade for over a year. Colonial Hills Baptist Church in Indianapolis, IN has helped us with several other church construction projects in Cap Haitian, Ouanaminthe, and Mathador. This year they sent another team to help with the church in Dubout. We rented a house a few hundred yards from a UN military encampment in Quartier Morin, a town between Cap Haitian and Dubout, large enough to house over 30 people. We moved a staff of our people along with our family to Quartier Morin to prepare for the construction. The team flew in and we went to work for a few days on the church, putting up walls and columns to support the roof. Riots broke out, however, and demonstrators began burning tires, stopping vehicles with automatic weapons, and using the stolen and looted vehicles to block the roads. We felt safe in the house the Lord had provided for us, but the riots that surrounded us on each side kept us from leaving the house and getting to the job site. Because the political situation was escalating, we felt it wiser to evacuate and leave the country. We were in a tough situation with about \$10,000 of construction materials still on the ground and in danger of being stolen and looted. But, the Lord allowed the roads to be open three more days, which miraculously allowed us to get to the jobsite, put the roof on the church, install the doors, use up the materials on the ground, and get far enough along to where the church can be used until we can return to add the final touches to the building. We couldn't abandon our Haitian staff and leave all of our construction equipment, so we waited until we felt we could get back up the mountain to St Raphael. However, as we traveled with multiple vehicles up the mountain there were dozens of road blocks and burning tires. At the fourth road block, a group of armed bandits demanded \$400US worth of Haitian currency to pass. As we were putting together the money we had, the bandits poured gasoline on one of the vehicles threatening to burn it and took two of our Haitian friends and stood them on the side of the road to assassinate them. But, when we gave what we had, about \$350US in Haitian money, they allowed us to pass. Knowing that there were many more road blocks ahead, we didn't know how we would be able to get through without money, but at the same time we could not go back because of the thieves. The Lord had timed everything exactly though, as we pulled away from the bandits, because at each of the successive dozen or more roadblocks, the tires they had lit earlier in the morning had just finished burning out at the moment we arrived at each roadblock, so the demonstrators had left to go look for more tires to burn. We passed through each roadblock without issue. As we pulled into our campus in St Raphael, we unloaded the truck, bus, and vehicle with the construction equipment, thanking and praising the Lord for his protection and miraculous intervention in allowing us to reach home unharmed.



(2019-January) Seminary Graduation

Friday, the last day of our week long Bible seminar on 1&2 Peter and Jude, we held a seminary graduation. We had 6 men who graduated from the 4 year full time seminary curriculum to receive a Diploma in Theology. There were 10 men who graduated from the Saturday Bible Extension program, a program that can take 4-6 years to complete. There were 18 graduates as well from the seminar program that meets for a week, three times a year who received a Bible Certificate to commemorate their achievement. The graduation was an exciting time to rehearse the importance of studying the Bible and to applaud those who have been faithful in doing so.

