

The Bower Family in Haiti

November 2019 Update

Dear Praying Friends,

It is the last week of November and our elementary, jr high, adult, and deaf schools have not been able to open because of the violence. Haiti, the poorest nation in the western hemisphere, has a government steeped in corruption. The current government has been working to remove corruption, but the corruption has deep roots. As different factions within the government vie for power and money, the country sits on the brink of civil war. We have been mostly confined to our seminary campus, with occasional visits to St Raphael, a small town 1 mile away, to buy food supplies. Our lives are openly threatened every time we leave campus. As soon as we step out of the front gate, our lives are in danger. One of our watchman was late in coming to work Sunday evening, so Tim stood inside, near the front gate for a few minutes during the church service to help. Even though he was only there a few minutes, it was long enough for a passing truck to notice a foreigner, stop, and threaten his life.



Hannah's horse



Helping the farmers

Despite the rioting and violence, our churches have been meeting regularly. Our full time seminary has opened along with the Saturday Bible extension classes. Tim has already started teaching classes on hermeneutics, greek, and plumbing.

We have formed a group, made up of faithful men in the church, that we call "Friends of Jesus." These men are subsistence farmers who have been struggling to feed their families out of their small gardens. The agricultural branch of the government has been selling bad seed to them for the past several years, and loan sharks have been giving credit for upwards of 20% per month to buy the seed. Several of our men have lost their homes to this exploitation. Starvation, poverty, and hopelessness has pushed our church members to the edge. Our group, "Friends of Jesus," have consecrated themselves to step away from the corruption and live for Christ. We meet every Wednesday at 4:00am for a time of prayer, asking God to bless our gardens and give us strength to do what right in these trying times. Our theme is, "Holiness is the best fertilizer for the garden." By organizing together as a group, we are able to purchase seed, fertilizer, and pesticide in bulk, helping to guarantee better quality seed at the lowest price. For those of you in the States willing to join our prayer service in spirit, set your alarm for 4:00am on Wednesday morning and join us by your bed in prayer as we ask for God's blessing and strength to live for him.

RoseAnne's ministry with the Dorcas ladies has been continuing during this dark time as well. They regularly visit the sick, praying with them. Recently, they cleaned the house and washed the clothes of a widower who has 6 children to care for. The past several Saturdays, RoseAnne's Dorcas ladies made food for the men of the church, while they worked together to rebuild a widow's house that had fallen down. Despite the violent times, we are able to do the work of the ministry in a practical way. The church is pulling together to help one another, despite the political chaos in the community.

"The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light." (Is 9:2)



Voodoo fetich outside our wall