

The Bower Family in Haiti

October 2019 Update

Dear Praying Friends,

We are thankful for the Lord's protection. Over the past two months, the country has been turbulent politically. While gasoline has been selling for \$16US per gallon when it is available, it has dropped in price to \$6.50 this week, but it is rarely available.

Our schools were able to open for two days, Oct 14-15th after months of rioting and chaos. Unfortunately, on the third day of school, we had to close because the rioting started again. We opened Monday the 21st, but had to close immediately because of the danger to the children coming to school. There were reports in Cap Haitian, of girl in her school uniform trying walk around a burning tire to get to school, but the protesters threw her onto the burning tires and burned her alive.

We have a gang of criminals that has been terrorizing our neighborhood over the past several weeks. The head of the gang reportedly decapitated and cannibalized the father of one of our deaf students in a garden behind our campus this past spring. This same man mugged two of our church members who were coming to church for choir practice at 5am the week of Oct 7th. He has publicly threatened to rape our Jr/High school principal on three separate occasions. He and his gang have been blocking the road and robbing local residents for the past two weeks just a couple hundred meters from our campus. Tim was able to get a picture of the gang boss and give it to the police. The weekend of Oct 12th, the gang stopped a vehicle and began to savagely beat the driver and an older passenger. The man's wife began to plead for her husband and the gang leader hit her repeatedly with a shovel. The woman died the next day. The husband swore out a warrant for the gang members arrest. Since then, the police have been back and forth through our small community firing weapons, and they have succeeded in arresting 3 members of the gang. The gang leader has fled our area for the time being, and we have had peace for the past few days.

There are a new series of riots breaking out that are hard core violent in an area called Latibonit. Latibonit is about 30 miles or 3 hours drive from us. Pastor Baker, our co-worker, has a church plant near there. There are a lot of you tube videos posted showing the brutal massacre that is going on. I can't (haven't, won't) watch them, as they filmed the killings, chopping up the bodies with machetes. The content is graphic, I didn't think that was allowed on You Tube. These videos have had a huge impact throughout the country. They filmed the killings for greater impact, to spread fear and chaos. There have also been notices posted all throughout St Raphael threatening to send 50 men to lead more rioting, insinuating that school children could be killed if school were to remain open. So, all area schools have closed until further notice because of the terrorism. Even though we are confined to our campus, our church ministries are running strong. We have stepped into a lot of humanitarian projects because of the urgent need. Because of the riots, transportation is minimum, and commerce has all but stopped. The economic impact is causing hunger and starvation everywhere. Please remember the Haitian believers in your prayers.

