

Brian and Janice Hampton ~ Haiti
Fellowship in The Gospel Ministries
Annual Ministry Update
December 18, 2024

Hello Friends and Ministry Partners,

We certainly hope this update finds you all doing well in heart and in spirit as you prepare to celebrate, once again, the wonderful birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Besides wishing you all a very blessed and merry Christmas, Janice and I are glad to have this opportunity to provide you with an update on what is going on within the country of Haiti, along with news on our ministry partners who serve both there and beyond those borders. We will conclude with a final word or two about ourselves. *(We apologize for the length, here....Some readers ask for more info.)*

The Situation on The Ground

As you have probably gathered from either our correspondence or the news, the situation in Haiti has continued to deteriorate, although that may seem impossible. While Janice and I were optimistic about the situation when the Kenyan forces arrived back in the summer months, for whatever reason they have been VERY ineffective when it comes to either establishing peace in the country or restoring any degree of law and order. In fact, the gangs only seem to have grown in size, number, and range throughout the country since the Kenyans' arrival. In 2024 alone, an estimated 600,000 people have been displaced from their homes, with indescribable, ongoing violence of all kinds forcing people to flee to other areas for safety. The Capital City Port-au-Prince (PAP) is where one finds the main concentration of gang control, but it has also spread to other cities and regions throughout the country, as time has passed.

Early this month, there was a massacre resulting in the brutal slaughter of almost 200 elderly people. A gang leader in PAP was convinced that these older folks used witchcraft to cause the illness of his son. During the month of November, commercial airliners came under gunfire as they arrived and departed the main international airport in PAP. This caused the FAA to first temporarily suspend all flights to the capital, and later declared that restriction indefinite. After a pause, permission was once again granted for planes to fly in and out of the city of Cap-Haitien on the north coast. However, although you can perhaps get in and out of the airport there, travel to and from the airport for any distance to the south where the people/pastors live, would be very risky and potentially life threatening, since gangs bar the roads and plunder (or worse) those using them. Access to the country by such flights, therefore, does not help that much.

The Pastors

Those still serving in Haiti at the present are the following (Last names in CAPS):

Lucien JEAN MARIE and his wife Louisa serve Beracha Baptist church, a small church attached to his home in Bon Repos on the northern edge of Port-au-Prince. Aging brother Lucien, one of only two men left from our original group of FITGM Pastors from 2001 (2nd - Fritz Voltaire), is a faithful and gifted servant that has endured so many hardships, including the loss of his first wife Estelle, along with muggings, and thefts. A dear old friend - Lucien is a farmer at heart, with a large garden and a few small "barnyard animals". Like all the men, his people come to him for support and aid, rather than meeting the daily needs that he and his wife have. A perfect reason for our ***Haiti Relief Fund***. The only support that comes to Lucien, apart from that, is \$25/month.

Leon JOSEPH is the lead pastor of a group of men serving in Saint Marc, a coastal city half-way between the capital PAP and Cap-Haitien in the north. You might remember that Leon is the National President of those churches connected with The Baptist Haiti Mission. Currently, he is visiting his wife Roseline and 3 daughters who left Haiti to join family in New Jersey several years ago. While directing and advising the network of churches remotely, for reasons explained above, Leon is currently unable to return to Haiti. He is hoping to do so in January, but the situation on the ground will determine that. If things stay the

same, we would not want him to even risk the trip south to St. Marc from the airport in the north. **Reminder:** Leon oversees a large church and school with many youth. Fortunately, he has a large group of capable leaders and a school director to run things in his absence, as well as several pastors to preach for him.

Jean Faude AURELIEN and his wife Clercine also live in St. Marc. Pastor Faude's ministry lies in a valley to the north of St. Marc, where he grew up. However, again due to the gangs, it is very difficult for him to travel there to serve. You might remember that Pastor Faude's brother-in-law was brutally murdered (on video) by a gang up in that area. This causes his wife Clercine great anxiety for him to travel out to that region, and an abiding sense of fear. In a recent prayer letter Pastor Faude wrote the following: *(Best to hear from one who lives there – Hard to imagine)*

Because of the acts of violence by armed gangs that have spread more and more in the Artibonite Valley, where my church is in Danache, I am forced to stay at home in Saint-Marc. Please pray that God provides a way for my family to leave the country as soon as possible. Because of the insecurity problem, we do not feel that we can continue to serve God here in Haiti. After much time of prayer, the situation has become more complicated, as the gangs become more powerful than the government. So, we feel that it would be best for us to get ourselves and our children to safety. Right now, our family is in great danger. In fact, for two years now we have been living in fear because of the gangs in the cities and villages around us. The whole family is really traumatized. The gangs have attacked police stations, prisons, hospitals, public offices, banks, public markets, private homes, and even schools. They have massacred hundreds of people, raped many women, and have kidnapped many people at anytime and anywhere. There are people who have been kidnapped from their homes in the middle of the night! For some cases of kidnapping, despite the ransoms given by the victim's family, they killed the kidnapped people. They have blocked the roads that connect the big cities of the country. The transportation of food supplies is often impossible. There are many shops and factories that have had to close their doors, and their owners are leaving the country. And this is increasing the economic crisis of the country. The unemployment and inflation rate is increasing more and more. For my family, it is difficult to survive – we first tried to find a job with no success. We then tried to create several small businesses. But, for different reasons, they did not work out, either. Therefore, after all efforts, prayer, and consideration, we have concluded that, if God wills, it would be best for us to seek to leave Haiti. Please pray that God opens the doors for my family.

In the meantime, Pastor Faude has been one of the main men teaching and preaching for Leon, while he has been here in the U.S., along with other churches in St. Marc. Like Leon, he remotely directs and encourages the struggling deacons and school director out at his rural church.

Note: Pastor Faude and his family had applied under [The Biden Humanitarian Parole Program](#) last year. With a sponsor family in Virginia ready to receive them, they had hoped to be gone from Haiti before the end of this year. But, for whatever reason, The Lord did not open any doors for them. Approximately 180,000 Haitians DID make it to the U.S. under that program, but despite a special case worker looking into their situation, specifically, they were never accepted into the program, nor sent a visa waiver, allowing them to fly to the U.S. from Haiti. No reason for this lack of acceptance was ever given.

Pastors serving in Haiti Unofficially Supported through FITGM:

Eddy ROMEUS (Saint Marc), while the lead pastor of his own church, Eddy also works closely with Pastor Leon. If the situation had permitted, Eddy would have been the next pastor that we would have brought to The States in order to promote him and his ministry for partnering. He is a fine young servant of The Lord...Another sound and faithful man of God.

Alexandre LECLERC (Serves south of Saint Marc at a village church) We have known Alexandre for years. He is the saved son of the village voodoo mamba (female priestess). Both Eddy and Alexandre attended our Leadership Training in the country, and not only served Janice and me, but also our teams,

over the years. We welcome any monthly support for either of these men, as the only funds that we can send to them come each month from our ***Haiti Relief Fund***.

Pastors Currently Living and Serving Outside of Haiti:

Jean Garry AUGUSTE (*Dominican Republic*) After helping Garry to get his family to the relative safety of the neighboring Dominican Republic several years ago, he and his wife Lucette (Pastor Lucien's daughter) and boys continue to live and serve there. He keeps in touch with his main church and Bible Institute in Haiti outside of Port-Au-Prince (In one major gang "Hot Zone"). He also assists a daughter church to that main church in the northwestern part of the country. Garry currently assists a Haitian pastor with a Haitian church in the northern Dominican city of Santiago. The two of them also run a Bible Institute there, where many leaders come for training.

On October 2, The Dominican Government announced a campaign to expel 10,000 Haitian immigrants per week! This aggressive deportation program has been run in such a way that in many cases the arrested people have not been allowed the opportunity to return home, or to provide paperwork, or even prove legal status. They are simply loaded onto the back of a truck like cattle and taken to the border with Haiti for release. Garry has, therefore, been tirelessly working to find a country which will accept him and his family, either in South or Central America. But, so far, all attempts have met a dead end. There are some issues with his wife's and children's travel documents being incomplete.

PLEASE NOTE: These people are all dealing with several issues. **1.** They are "Haitians" and are therefore sadly unwelcome in most countries. **2.** If trying to come to the U.S., The U.S. Embassy and The Consular Office are closed in Haiti, due to unrest, and therefore one cannot obtain the necessary visa to travel to the U.S. One, therefore, needs to get permission to travel and enter the U.S. through some special program. Those programs are both involved and complicated (*The Humanitarian Parole Program* and *The Welcome Corps*), and neither have guarantees, as Faude experienced. **3.** There is the cost of travel, which is more than most can pay. **4.** Travel to the airport in Haiti, for evacuation, is extremely dangerous along the roads.

Jean Gaunick LOUIS (*Quebec, Canada*) After Gaunick succeeded in making his way to and across the Canadian border after a stay in Boston, his wife Manougka (Muh-NOON-Kuh) and 2 children joined him there. A couple of months ago, even their adopted Haitian daughter Julie (18 yrs. old) coming through Mexico into Texas, and then to Boston, was able to somehow cross over into Canada. I have to say, when it comes to Tech, Garry's the "Go-To Guy"! But, when it comes to "International Stealth and Mobility" in spite of all of the legal hassles and red tape, Pastor Gaunick is King! We have no idea how he does it, when others seem to be "stuck in Haiti" indefinitely. Let's just say, God has blessed that family in a unique way and provided for them!

Finally, while working a full-time job, Gaunick, along with a team of two other Haitian pastors, has planted a small church there in a school building. We think of them with the Canadian winter now coming upon these dear Haitians, so far from their Homeland and native climate! *BRRRR!*

Fritz VOLTAIRE (*New Jersey*) Pastor Fritz and his wife Francoise initially came to NJ to simply visit family while applying for dual citizenship several years ago. However, the U.S. Immigration Department required him to stay in The U.S. for a prolonged period as part of that process. He was literally not allowed to travel to Haiti, despite his repeated protests that he needed to return to his church, school, and orphan ministry. We felt these strict requirements were bizarre, especially when so many illegal immigrants were being allowed all kinds of privileges, movement, and latitude! During that time, however, the security situation in Haiti deteriorated to such a point that his friends and co-workers there encouraged him to stay in the U.S. They truly believed, as did we, that if Fritz were to return, his life would be in grave danger. He would be a prime kidnapping target with his generally known connections in the U.S.

Therefore, like so many others, Fritz continues to run his ministry by advising, encouraging, directing, and funding his ministry remotely. He looks forward to returning as soon as possible.

Brian and Janice

With no relief to the situation in Haiti, Janice and I have likewise been left to continue to do all that we can on a remote basis. That can certainly be significant, but it is obviously not what we would want or prefer to do, Lord knows. Currently, our work is primarily limited to three areas:

1. Raising funds and supporting the various ministries of our partners, as you saw mentioned in our August Prayer Letter. **The Haiti Relief Fund** continues to meet so many very real basic needs and seems to require continual appeals and reminders. We literally “beg on their behalf”, knowing that so many of those to whom we are writing here in The U.S. have their own struggles and needs. So, we have to just commit it ALL to the Lord!
2. Organizing and sending out monthly wire transfers of support sent to us for the partners to their various countries and locations, along with the occasional urgent needs that come up and require attention.
3. Helping to facilitate the two-way flow of communication between the ministry partners here in the U.S. (churches and individuals) and those serving in Haiti and elsewhere.

While we “march in place” and wait on The Lord, please be reminded that we have made numerous trips to the more "user-friendly" Dominican Republic next door over the years, to seek any ministry opportunities among either the Haitian Community living there or the Dominican people. But after 4 attempts, The Lord has not opened any doors there for us or FITGM.

Finally, in the past year I was approached by the newly appointed International Director of a mission agency to consider the possibility of coming onboard with that organization and help by serving as their West African Field Coordinator. This has to do with my ability in French, a similar ministry focus and doctrinal stand, along with my life experience in that region of Africa. While I was originally approached with the idea of serving in this liaison position, which we are still praying about, we felt that it might be wise for me to first start out with a position on the agency’s board. This would offer us all the opportunity to get to know one another before committing to a larger role right “out of the box”. I was approved as a board member at their November meeting. Please understand, that regardless of any role the Lord may lead me to there, or elsewhere, Janice and I would continue to serve our Haitian brothers and sisters through FITGM. We see that as our primary call.

We hope this update helps you to better understand the current situation with Haiti, the men we serve with their families, and their ministries, so that you can more intelligently pray for them all.

We cannot thank you enough for your faithful support and love over the years, in spite of the difficulties, frustrations, and hardships....On both sides of our ***Fellowship in The Gospel***.

God bless you all.....and, again, have a Blessed Christmas Season celebrating the Birth of our King!

By His Grace,

Brian and Janice Hampton

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For donations: Please make checks payable to “Central Missionary Clearinghouse” and send to the address above. If it is a personal check, and not sent from a church, make sure to leave the Memo Line blank, but also include a note to CMC directing your gift to “**The Hamptons**”, along with any designation, if you have one: i.e. “Haiti Relief Fund”, “*Pastor’s Name*”, “Youth Ministries”, etc. Thank you so much!